

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Executive Committee Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

TO:	D I S T R I B U T I O N	<p>Mary Bethel, President Marty Lamb, Secretary Allen Winstead, Treasurer Kay Castillo, Vice-President Margaret Toman, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care Carla Obiol, SHIIP Teresa Johnson Troup, NC Adult Day Services Association Richard Rogers, NCRGEA Eric Kivisto, NCHCFA Julie Wiggins N.C Association of AAAs Heather Burkhardt, DAAS Jo Paul, SHIIP Carol Meyer, The Carolinas Center Polly Williams, N.C. Justice Center Kayla Lawson, Volunteer DAAS Melinda Munden, SHIPP Lisa Jester, NASW-NC Sara Doughty, Healthy IDEAS Linda Shaw, N.C. PACE Association Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh Dee Hatch, OWL Janice Tyler, NCAOA Melinda Munden, SHIIP Audrey Edmisten, DAAS Ryan Hampton, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care Olene Ogles, AARP NC Gail Hall, Healthy IDEAS Hannah Rossi, NAMI NC Amanda Borer, Charles House Association Catherine Goldman, Wake County Human Services Rose Hoban, N.C. Health News Cara Townsend, Governor's Office</p> <p>On phone: Bill Lamb, Past President Dave Cottengim, Resources for Seniors Heather Altman, Carol Woods Karen Brewer, N.C. Assisted Living Association Scott Herrick, Alzheimer's Association</p>
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OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : Updates, hear plans for Day at the Legislature, presentations by Rose Hoban with NC Health News and Sarah Doughty with Healthy IDEAS, etc.

******PROGRESS AND DECISIONS******

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Introductions	New organizations in attendance included Les Geller from Raleigh SAGE. Each person in the room introduced themselves.
Minutes review	One correction was made to the minutes from the previous meeting: add the name of Dave Cottengim as being in attendance by phone at our last meeting.
Treasurer report	Current balance is \$9,951.83.
Updates	An Update was sent out to membership yesterday by Mary. Mary sent legislative agenda to chairs of Health and Human Services JOC. The Committees recommendations will come out on April 12. The Alzheimer's plan was submitted to the JOC on March 8. Mary has gone to several JOC committee meetings. Mary attended meeting convened by County DSS Directors' Association which was attended by most health and human service advocacy groups where they shared legislative agendas for the short session. There are a lot of commonalities in organizational requests. The NCAOA aging conference was held, and Mary attended one day of it.
Banner	Mary introduced the Coalition's new banner which is not what we had ordered because it does not have a gray background. We'll have to decide whether to keep or have a new one done. The Executive Committee will meet about this.
Healthy IDEAS Presentation	<p>Sarah Doughty shared about Healthy Ideas of N.C. and passed out brochures about the program. Identifying depression in older adults and intervening with small interventions is what the program is about. To implement, they find organizations who work with older adults and their representatives are trained on how to screen for depression. They work to decrease stigma about depression. They have linkage to primary care or mental health practitioner or both. Olene Ogles pointed out that doctors need to know about this as well. They work on behavioral activation, such as organizing a room. The older adult is who sets the goals. There is reassessment after 90 days, and based on score at rescreening, influences what happens next. They are funded through Kate B. Reynolds grant. They have trained 14 agencies and are in 14 counties. This is considered a pilot. The hope is that they can be funded for 3 more years. They work with national Healthy Ideas team. Training and technical assistance are now provided through their program. Mary asked if LME's are involved. Senior Centers, DSS's, and area agencies on aging are primary agencies with whom Healthy Ideas work. Sarah said they (LME's) might work as referral source or as coach. Mary asked about following persons and results. Clients are tracked for progress. If screening is done, then agency does not drop them. It's sustainable program. One barrier, however, is staff turnover. They do retrain when there are at least 10 persons who need training. Melinda said this is exciting, and Medicare covers screening for providers. Staff working day to day with adults have the skills from the training to screen for depression. Amanda Borer from Charles House in Chapel Hill asked about working with persons with cognitive impairment. She said it could work with persons with mild cognitive impairment. KBR is focused on Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties with highest economic need. Healthy Ideas staff just trained in Craven County. Carla asked about outreach. She said their program connects with aging programs across the state. There is a coordinating agency for SHIP in each county, and perhaps they could get Sarah on the program to present to them at their conference.</p> <p>A big initiative Healthy Ideas staff is working on now is to have part of curriculum move to online modules so there is one day of face based training instead of two days of face to face training. It can be difficult to engage older adults sometimes. Mary shared that one of the functions of the Coalition is to provide information about programs such as Healthy IDEAS that are going on in the state.</p>

Rose Hoban
Presentation

Rose Hoban is founder and lead reporter for NC Health News. This is read widely, including by legislative and policy staff. She provided background about herself which has shaped her writing today. She is registered nurse and got license in 1992 and worked with inner city hospital in D.C. She worked in Emergency Department and formed her thoughts about advocacy needs. She is native New Yorker, and she returned to work there. She worked in the first NORC, a group of 6000 units with 4 nurses from visiting nurse service there. Goal was to keep people at home. She was very interested in policy. She went to Berkley graduate school. Her mother is 87. She thinks disability movement has been most helpful, Older persons have benefitted tremendously from this. She came here in 2005, and there were 5 people covering health issues at legislature. Now they are gone. She got married here. Her husband is publisher of N.C. Health News. KBR provides some funds. She loves to get out and see what is happening in the state. The Legislature, where she spends a lot of time, is both a depressing and stimulating place to be. The states are where things really happen. There used to be 25 in press corps at legislature, and now there are about 12. Those there are dedicated to talking about what happens at the legislature.

What is happening at legislature? She said last year's reinstatement of tax credit was biggest success on aging agenda. A lot happened in 2013. People were well organized. Coming in person works really well at the legislature. With advocacy work, you need to target people strategically. The Governor has very little to do with Affordable Care Act implementation. The Legislature makes decisions about things like Medicaid expansion. Individualized letters and phone calls to legislators are effective. Retirement communities were very well organized last session regarding the tax credit issue. Hand written letters and visits make a difference. The Legislature always manages to surprise. There is not an emphasis on health care this year since Medicaid reform legislation was passed last year. DHHS has been strategic with their Medicaid reform work. Not as much gets done in the short session. Mary asked for her thoughts about the Alzheimer's plan which was very well received. Rose noted that Senator Tucker said something about seniors, and there may be some good targets for advocacy in Senators Pate and Barringer. Senator Barringer is willing to run with a good idea. Senator Woodard has a lot of respect on the health care side. Senator Tart is another possibility. He is interested in medical technology. Representative Pendleton seemed receptive to the Alzheimer's' plan. The power of the story has diminished impact now. Legislators keep the return on investment concept in front of them. Representative Avila will respond to a well honed case. She was at a mental health program where NAMI presented to her, and she positively responded. She saw the face. She thinks that legislators are looking at House Bill 816 and House Bill 817 which passed the House last year. Guardianship health care proxies and power of attorney issues will likely come up again in the next long session. She noted that some legislators do not understand the difference between living will and a will. There was decision to eliminate Project Care. Faces of people who benefitted from Project Care might help. In her opinion, part of problem Project Care had was that it was championed by Democrats. She does not expect that to change. Medicaid reform forum was held in Winston-Salem. Rep. Donny Lambeth from there is another person to consider for advocacy focus. In HHS report, they talked about adolescents suicide. However, 45 per hundred thousand suicides are white men over 65. Data rules in this legislature.

Mary shared with Rose that one of our priorities for the Coalition is for the Legislature to form a Study Commission on Aging. Mary asked about the long session in 2017. Rose shared that she had no idea about issues that may come up. Much will depend on who is Governor and President. Linda Shaw asked about Medicaid reform and if PACE will be carved out. Will they deal with it in short session? Rose replied that decisions with Medicaid will depend on how long it takes to get the Medicaid waiver. Without Medicaid expansion, CMS may slow walk that waiver. No matter who wins Presidential election, the change of administration may slow things. There is already an interim director at CMS.

N.C. is very a purple state. Janice Tyler shared that in 2017 there is interest by some legislators in death with dignity legislation. Rose stated that she did not see this going far though unless there's a case in the news getting publicity at that time related to that. Rose's website is northcarolinahealthnews.org. She will send out a newsletter in the next couple of months.

<p>DAAS Update by Heather Burkhardt</p>	<p>There was a question about recent news about mental health changes. Rose updated on Mental Health/LME's consolidating into four regions. Maps are more contiguous now. Every LME will have about a quarter of mental health recipients. Consolidation of Centerpoint and Cardinal programs will happen soon in May or June. Eastpointe and Trillium will combine in a year or two years.</p> <p>Heather began by giving an update on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. It looks like it will be brought to the US House floor on Monday for a vote. There should be no major objections. Passage of reauthorization is way over due. There are some changes in the proposed bill especially pertaining to the Senior Community Services Employment program. There has been a recommendation in Congress to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant. This is part of a bigger plan to eliminate the deficit without having a tax increase. May is Older Americans' Month. This year's theme is "Blaze the Trail." The Division has a goal around cultural competence with LGBT. First two webinars have been conducted by Division. Sixty people have been trained so far. The Senior Tar Heel Legislature met this week.</p> <p>As a part of the effort to update Coalition members about our priority issues, Heather was asked to share details on the Home and Community Care Block Grant. She distributed details on the Block Grant including an overview of the program, information on numbers of people served, expenditure information and waiting lists data. Eighteen services can be funded through the Block Grant but most of the funding goes for in-home aide services, home delivered and congregate meals, and transportation. Block Grant services are based on age and service needs, not income based. Priority for services is given to adult protective service recipients and those at risk of institutionalization. Division funding serves some Medicaid recipients - ex. with housing and home improvement. There is not duplication of services. There is county discretion about use of the funds. Some counties have long waiting lists, and others do not. No county elects to fund mental health counseling services. There is a consumer contribution component to the Block Grant. Currently, there are more state than federal funds going into the Block Grant. State funding is "over-matched". If state funding was to be cut, there would be bigger waiting lists for services. It is not required by counties to report for waiting list, but wait list totals are more than an estimate. In regard to how long receiving services delays a person going into a nursing home or delays Medicaid enrollment, this is a question they'd like to be able to report upon, but the Division does not collect asset information. If \$2 million more in funding was appropriated by the General Assembly for the Block Grant, the Division projects 2,266 more people could be served home delivered meals. They project that with \$2 million more, 1,200 people could come off the waiting list for in home aides services. Waiting list is generated by service, not individual. Julie Wiggins commented that the service is often just enough to keep a person from going into a nursing home. The return is there. Linda Shaw said that getting the numbers together might be useful. The value of care provided by caregivers was noted.</p>
<p>Day at the Legislature Update</p>	<p>Teresa Johnson Troup reported on plans for the Coalition's Day at the Legislature on May 10. The N.C. Assisted Living Association is underwriting some of costs for this Day. This is the chance to tell story and talk of return for investment. Information gaps are there and it's hoped we'll be responsive. An e-mail was sent to members yesterday asking members to respond regarding their attendance as well as asking for a response about their availability to provide topic experts for our information sharing in the 1300 quadrant of the Legislative Building.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Raleigh co-housing cards were shared by Margaret Toman. Melinda Munden with SHIIP shared new extra help income figures Kay Castello announced that March is Social Work Month. Richard Rogers with NCRGEA talked about expanding sales tax discussion that is going on. Marty Lamb announced that OWL is honoring Dr. Luci Bearon with an award this year. Janice Tyler with NCAOA shared information about the NCAOA award recipients. Linda Shaw reminded everyone of the upcoming PACE Conference. Julie Wiggins mentioned annual policy work by the Area Agencies on Aging.</p>

HANDOUTS	
Agenda and treasurer reports, Healthy IDEAS materials, DAAS hand-out on Home and Community Care Block Grant	

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Mary Bethel	Send out updates twice a month to members.	March-April

******NEXT MEETING******

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Friday April 22, 2016 10:00am until noon	Monthly meeting	Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus