

NC Coalition on Aging Minutes of March 22, 201 Meeting

Attending In Person

Tracy Colvard – Chair, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care of NC
Charmaine Fuller Cooper – Chair-Elect of Board, AARP NC
Chad Walker – Secretary/Treasurer, Transitions LifeCare
Bill Lamb – Past President, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care
Martha Fowler – Board Member, SEANC
Frances Messer – Board Members, NC Assisted Living Association
Janice Tyler – Board Member, NC Association on Aging
Mary Bethel – Executive Director
Nancy Warren – NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Pam Palmer – Triangle J AAA, FOR LTC, and NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Jo Paul – NC SHIP
Alan Winstead – Meals on Wheels of NC
Linda Shaw – NC PACE Association
Harold Barnette – Institute for Family Caregiving
Natalie Sprague – NC United Way 2-1-1
Les Geller – SAGE Raleigh
Michael Gonzales – United Healthcare
Nancy Ruffner – Navigate NC
Tom Akins – Leading Age NC
Jeff Horton – NC Senior Living Association
Melinda Munden – NC SHIP
Hank Bowers – NC DAAS
Teresa Troup – Individual Member
Javvah Belen – Campbell Social Work Intern
Wiath Bond – Campbell Social Work Intern
Rinnah Marcell – Campbell Social Work Intern
Paola Learoyd – Randolph Cloud and Associates
Roger Manus – Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging and Campbell Senior Law Clinic
Shazia Keller – NC Division of Health Benefits
Richard Rogers – NC Retired Governmental Employees Association
Quanisha Collins – NC Housing Finance Agency
Preston Craddock – Greene County DSS
Deja Taliaferro – AARP NC Intern
Suzanne Martin – NC Oral Health Collaborative
Mary Edwards – NC DAAS
Davonda Holloway – NC State Social Work Intern/Cameron Commons
Chanelle Croxton – National Domestic Workers Alliance
Ben Popkin – Friends of Residents in Long Term Care
Christelle Ndoj – Music Makers Relief Foundation
Rep. Josh Dobson – Presenter and R-McDowell
Julie Ryan – Rep. Dobson’s Legislative Assistant

No one was able to join by phone due to phone problems

Opening and Introductions – Tracy Colvard, Board Chair

As first order of business, **Rep. Josh Dobson** was recognized for remarks

Comments from Rep. Josh Dobson (note: a summary of his remarks were mailed to all those on the Coalition's e-mail distribution list of March 28 since those who tried to call in could not get through to the meeting due to phone problems)

- He is Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, a Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, a Chair of the House Health Committee, a Vice-Chair of the House Pensions and Retirement Committee, and a member of the House Committees on Aging, Alcohol Beverage Control, and State and Local Government
- Medicaid Managed Care
 - How we got here
 - HB 403- tailored and standard plans
 - November phase in
 - Tailored plans phased in 2020
 - Look at integrating physical and behavior health
- HCBG
 - Hear the feedback that it does the most good
 - Waiting list issue
 - HB335- to increase funding
 - Dobson/White Cosponsors
- Political strategy: facilitator not pusher
- Closing the Coverage Gap
 - A top 3 issue for him
 - Common sense
 - New bill will be Carolina Cares 2.0
 - Similar
 - No state dollars (hospitals to pay)
 - Work/education requirements
- Concerns/what keeps him up at night
 - Gridlock
 - Fear will go home without a budget
- Q & A
 - Medicaid expansion at best 50/50 at passing
 - Give latitude to DHHS
 - APS Funding
 - Important, continue advocacy
 - Not a top issue right now
 - Administration can help

- County challenges
 - Education
- Top 3 budget conflicts
 - Tax policy
 - Property tax (Rep. Turner)
 - 3 exemption programs currently available
 - Revenue neutral
 - Top spending amount
 - Closing the Coverage Gap
- Reasons for gridlock
 - Far left and far right not coming together
 - Run to corners
 - Reelection season
- How to engage with legislative leaders
 - Meet in district
 - Be concise- top 3 issues
 - Follow up
 - Don't wait until long session or something happens
 - Really have 6 months of their 2-year term to make something happen

Minutes of the February 22 Meeting

- Motion to approve: Tom Akins with Second by Martha Fowler. Approved by all.

Treasury Report by Chad Walker (Treasurer)

- Balance of \$22,064 as of March 21, 2019 – Was approved as presented
- Still waiting on 501(c)3 approval

Coalition Activities and Updates Since Last Meeting by Mary Bethel (Executive Director)

- Monthly *Update* sent out
- Advocacy efforts stepped up including visits with legislators
- Rep. White has agreed to sponsor a Caregiver Study bill for the Coalition
 - There are several other caregiver related bills also introduced
- Trying to get sponsor of bill to study the Homestead property tax issue
 - Hard to get traction on study bill
 - Various groups are advocating for funding for housing – we are supportive of these efforts
- Expect House Republican bill on closing the coverage gap
- Annual Advocacy Day at Legislature was held on February 26
- Mary did presentation to House Aging Committee on March 5 on the Coalition's priorities
- Mary and Roger Manus had meeting with DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen

- Dr. Cohen noted three main priorities of Department (not aging related)
- Mary nicely reiterated that aging cannot be left out
- Tara Myers will be a good partner
- Mary was on panel about advocacy at closing session of NC Assoc. on Aging annual conference on March 15 in Asheville along with Randolph Cloud and Joyce Massey-Smith
- In-district advocacy was stressed
- Mary will serve on NC Institute of Medicine's new Task Force on Serious Illness Care

Update from NC Division of Aging and Adult Services and NC Dept. of Health and Human Services by Hank Bowers (Assistant Director at DAAS)

- Division presented its annual awards (information on these were in the March *Update*)
- New staff
 - Suzanne Harlow- Special Assistance Representative
 - Misty Pikkar Williams – Legal Services Developer in the Elder Rights Section
 - Laura Jane Ward- Family Caregiver Coordinator
 - Selena Royal- Senior Center Program Specialist
 - Sonia Denise Leak- APS Consultant
 - Joyce's old position is still open
- Joyce Massey-Smith and Tara Myers have made two presentations to legislative committees (House Aging Committee and HHS Appropriations)
- A Guardianship Study Bill has been introduced
- HB630 Update
 - Counties got data July - November
 - Speed up timelines
 - Working on State/County Special Assistance compliance and APS application
- Older Americans Month in May
 - DHHS Open House May 3 at Taylor Hall
 - Senior Games Silver Arts will be displayed in Taylor Hall
- Elder Abuse Awareness is Mother's Day to Father's Day
 - Working with Area Agencies on Aging to publicize
- Bill to postpone NC FAST has been introduced
- DAAS is working to submit APS data to maltreatment reporting system

Update on Federal and State Developments by Mary Bethel (Executive Director) and Others

- HHS Appropriations Subcommittee has been meeting
 - NCGA wants to spend less than Governor
 - Governor's budget is lean on funding for aging
- House Aging Committee has a bad meeting time
 - Low attendance at first meeting
- Status of class action lawsuit (Lake Case) – Richard Rogers provided details

- April food stamp schedule
 - Some people will get early in April but trying to get back on track
- NC 3rd and 9th District Special Congressional elections will take place
 - Voter ID will be delayed for these elections
- Issue came up on floor in Senate relative to attempt to add Medicaid expansion language to bill and this went against amendment rules
- House approved video streaming of its daily sessions
- Medicaid Appeals by those who did not get selected for Medicaid Managed Care contracts
 - DHHS is moving ahead
- NC Gerrymandering case will be heard by Supreme Court on March 26
- Pension ruling change allows employers to buy out current employees from their pensions with a one-time lump sum payment
- Rethinking Guardianship Work Group seeking legislative changes (SB 337/HB 619)
- Delay is sought in national payday rule
- President's budget requests cuts to programs for seniors
- Tom Akins reported on proposed federal legislation introduced to "fix" Medicare observation issues
- Melinda Munden reported – federal bill on eliminating asset requirements for extra help and SSA using 2018 levels instead of 2019 levels for extra help
- Jo Paul reported moratorium of durable medical equipment (DME)
 - Can get DME supplies from any provider. This opens door to fraud.
 - People can get new Medicare number if needed
 - Seeing lot of fraud with genetic testing for seniors

Sharing by Coalition Members

- Nancy Warren – Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Conference is May 15
 - Can get CE credit
- Tom Akins – NC PACE Conference is April 11-12 in Charlotte
- Announced that Richard Trotter with Legal Aid is retiring in June
- Bill Lamb - LTC Advocacy Day is April 3 (three priorities are increasing the personal needs allowance for nursing home and adult care home residents and increased funding to hire additional ombudsmen)
- Bill Lamb – the temporary increase in State/County Special Assistance rates expires in June

There being no additional business, the **meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Walker – Secretary/Treasurer