

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Executive Committee Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

<b>TO:</b>	<b>D I S T R I B U T I O N</b>	Bill Lamb, Past President Marty Lamb, Secretary Mary Bethel, President Allen Winstead, Treasurer MOW Kay Castillo, Vice-President Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP NC Heather Burkhardt, DAAS Teresa Johnson Troup, N.C. Adult Day Services Association Mary Edwards, DAAS Polly Williams, N.C. Justice Center David Litman (including 2 interpreters), DSDHH Bill Rowe, N.C. Justice Center Dee Hatch, Triangle OWL Dick Hatch, Access Dental Care Janice Tyler, Orange County AOA and NCAOA Joyce Massey Smith, DAAS Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh Natalie Jones, Wake Co. Adult Services Catherine Goldman, Wake Co Human Services Lisa Jester, Intern with NASW Hannah Rossi, NAMI N.C. Melinda Munden, NCDOI/SHIIP Karen Brewer, N.C. Assisted Living Association  Phone: Julie Wiggins, Region D AAA and NC4A Tom Aikins, LeadingAge Sarah Doughty, Healthy Ideas Ana Pardo, N.C. Justice Center Cara Townsend, Governor McCrory's Office Tara Edwards, Signature Health Care Gina Upchurch, Senior PHARMassist Dave Cottingen, Resources for Seniors
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**OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING** : To update each other, further plan Legislative Day on May 10, and to learn about adult protective services in NC and the need for support for this.

**\*\*\*\*PROGRESS AND DECISIONS\*\*\*\***  
*What key decisions were made during the meeting?*

**SUBJECT**

**SHARING**

Opening Remarks and Introductions	All were welcomed and introductions made as well as sign-in sheet passed around.
Minutes from 03-18-16 meeting	Approved with correction of spelling on name "Goldman"
Treasurer's report	Current Balance is \$10,102.50.
Update since last meeting	<p>Updates were sent out twice a month, and they are posted on the Coalition's website. Mary attended the Governor's press conference on March 11 on his HHS budget proposals. Suzanne Merrill from DAAS and Lee Covington from Senior Services in Winston-Salem were also there. The Joint HHS Oversight Committee met on April 12 and released its report and recommendations for the short session. Mary was invited to a meeting with Families USA for a discussion about Medicaid expansion. United Health Care is pulling out of the health exchange in North Carolina. Yesterday, Dr. Bill Thomas was here in the state. She attended a briefing by PHARMA about drug legislation and developments. She shared a problem she had with an attempt to scam her so others would know. Geek Squad solved the computer problem for her, but such scam attempts are all too frequent. Based on her attempts to talk with public and private concerns about scam attempts after her episode, she expressed concern that there appears to be little intervention to keep people from being scammed or help once someone is scammed.</p>
Update from N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services – Heather Burkhardt	<p>There is a recommendation from the Governor to expand CAP-DA by 320 slots. Kay Castillo pointed out that DHHS is proposing to merge CAP-DA and CAP-C programs. \$500 vouchers for families caring for persons with Alzheimer's are also being considered. How this will be handled is not yet clear - whether consumer directed or not. The Older Americans Act has now been signed by the President. Since N.C. is a high growth state, there is hope we may get more new dollars from this. State dollars have been stagnant or decreasing. Charmaine Fuller Cooper asked about the breakdown of allocations to the counties. Heather said this is available. There are 18 services that counties can choose from to provide. Ombudsman rules are being worked on for compliance by July 1. The US Administration for Community Living reported that their goal is to tighten the authority of the ombudsman program. Community Advisory Committees are robust in N.C. (approximately 1100 members), but they will be out of compliance with new federal regulations. We need to strengthen the authority at the state level to determine who would be on these committees instead of the counties doing this. DAAS is working on legislative change so that we will be in compliance in N.C. Statute change is needed. The legislative changes made last year were not enough because our volunteer program in N.C. is different, and does not exist in other states. Polly Williams commented that she thought one of issues has been recruitment being easier to do locally than by ombudsman. Mary noted that as a Coalition, we may want to weigh in on this issue in the future.</p> <p>Mary Edwards reported May 20 is the meeting of the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse. Unfortunately, this conflicts with the Coalition meeting. June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. There's a contest for those who wear purple the longest. A new presidential candidate for the group has been identified. Bill said we should extend an invitation to the Partnership to have a representative to our Coalition.</p> <p>Heather reported they have a new Elder Rights Specialist, Laura Jane Ward, to fill the position vacated when Denise Rogers retired.</p>
Presentation on Adult Protective Services in N.C. Joyce Massey-Smith	Mary reminded everyone that one of the Coalition's priorities for the short legislative session is for the General Assembly to appropriate \$2 million for Adult Protective Services (APS). She called on Joyce Massey Smith, the Adult Services Section Chief at DAAS, to talk with us about APS and its status in our state. Joyce began by sharing information about the numbers and the increase in

APS referrals in N.C. There is no funding from the Elder Justice Act to fund APS at this time. Many APS cases have increased in complexity. Financial exploitation may not be biggest source of referrals, but it has an impact. The typical APS case is an older woman living alone who cannot access services and suffers from self-neglect. County dollars are the biggest funding source for county APS staff. In some counties, the worker to case ratio is 1 worker to 40 cases when it should be 1 to 15. There is an increase of reports without an increase in funding. Forensic accounting is sometimes needed. There are good relationships with the Attorney General's office and they are doing work with a national APS association. The Social Services Consortium, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, and others are calling for increased funding for APS. Joyce said that if anyone has concerns that an APS referral has not been followed through on by local APS, her office can be contacted. North Carolina had the first APS statute in the country, but it has not been changed. Our APS system is state supervised and county administered. A criteria for receipt of APS is that the individual must be disabled. Current state statutes for APS do not spell out a time frame for the investigation of complaints. APS is a constant balance between allowing persons who are competent to make bad decision and person being incapacitated and incapable of making decisions. Dick Hatch said he is on the Senior Fraud Task Force, and they should understand about this. Joyce noted that Nancy Warren from DAAS has been serving on this Task Force. Joyce said personal stories are very effective in raising awareness about APS. If \$2 million was appropriated, this could result in a 5 to 6 % reduction in caseload size to occur at the local level. Where the need is will be one of the factors in determining where any additional funding would go. APS clients are first priority for Home and Community Care Block Grant services. Access to mental health services is a big problem in the localities. Substance abuse among older adults is also a big issue. Joyce reported that in the Alzheimer's State Plan there is a focus on looking at issues of protection. There will be a focus on building awareness and listening groups will be going on across the state. These will start in the summer. Bill Rowe noted that he was at a recent legal event and magistrates there were reporting that they have seen a huge increase in the number of involuntary commitment requests. There are more wards of DSS than there used to be. There are growing concerns with mental illness, substance abuse, and dementia increasing. Bill Lamb commented that there is much more standardization with child protective services education and training than what is available for adult protective services workers. Bill stated that it is his feeling that adult protective services is more complicated than child welfare and that salaries for APS workers should be raised. Joyce said the NC FAST is being built to capture APS information. She hopes the Elder Justice Act will bring some reporting improvements too. DAAS has a two year grant from the Council on Developmental Disabilities to rethink guardianship so that guardianship at age 18 is not what is automatically recommended. A question was asked about the breakdown of APS data relative to diversity, etc. Joyce volunteered to provide this information to us.

Mary Bethel reported that she wrote an article for the Progressive Pulse about needs, including funding for APS, that was published yesterday.

Update on Plans  
for Coalition Day  
at Legislature  
Teresa Johnson  
Troup

Teresa shared that there are multiple opportunities for our members to participate on May 10 on our Day at the Legislature. It will be helpful for planning if we know how many people will be coming for this. Everyone was asked to wear a navy or black collared shirt without buttons to help identify us. The 1300 quadrant in the Legislative Building is reserved for our use that day. All the long tables (7) there have been reserved for passing out information and having people there who can answer questions about issues related to aging between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The audience will be anyone who is in the Legislative Building. Our legislative priorities will be distributed to each legislator's office in the morning. The table for retirement and benefits does not have anyone to "man" it yet. At the Day, our purpose is to represent the Coalition on Aging although each group may have their own agendas. Handouts about the Day and our priority issues were distributed. Balloons would be nice to have on the tables if anyone has access to a helium tank. Teresa asked that people contact her if they have questions, need signage, have materials to pass out (get to her by May 2). Seven teams will be needed to make the visits to legislators. These will be comprised of representatives from various Coalition members as it is important to show diversity and collaboration among members. It is recommended that persons make contact with their own legislators. Mary noted that she has mentioned to Representative Avila about the need for a Study Commission on Aging, and she expressed some interest..

Annual Coalition Meeting	Kay Castillo reported that the date for the annual meeting is September 23. We need to determine the theme and do planning for this. Kay asked that those who would be interested in volunteering for the planning committee to contact her. Suggestions for guest speakers would be appreciated. We would like large attendance at the annual meeting.
Other Business	No information was provided from people on the phone.  Mary announced that Vernon Dull, a former Speaker of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature recently died.
Organizational Announcements and member updates	<p>Charmaine Fuller Cooper reported that AARP has lobby days scheduled for April 27, May 4 and May 10. AARP's priorities are in line with those of our Coalition. Booklets on Social Security options have been published and AARP is getting candidates on record about what they will do to fix Social Security. Three consultants are being hired by AARP in the state to meet with Congressional representatives. Also, by the end of May, AARP will hire two new staff people to work in the Asheville and Triad areas. Charmaine noted that she will be leaving on maternity leave at end of July.</p> <p>Bill Rowe noted that the Progressive Pulse is promoting articles about the need for services and programs. He also commented about the need to address the home health care wage issue.</p> <p>Dave Litman stated that he is new with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.</p> <p>Teresa Johnson Troup said the Adult Day Services Association is focusing on direct care worker concerns and are placing emphasis on making them feel like more a part of the operation. In the fall they may have a meeting on evidence based exercises. Audrey Edmonson with DAAS is aware of health promotion efforts.</p> <p>Les Geller reported that he is working on an initiative for livable senior housing. Mary suggested the Housing Financial Agency may be a resource for him. Charmaine said there is a need for affordable housing, and AARP's Director Doug Dickerson may be a good person to contact about this.</p>
Adjourn	Catherine Goldman recommended Travis Battle with Living Healthy program.

**HANDOUTS**

Agenda and treasurer reports

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Joyce Massey Smith Heather Burkhardt	Provide information to Mary Bethel that was requested	soon

**\*\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\*\***

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Friday May 20th <b>10:00am until noon</b>	Monthly meeting Call-in Number 1-866-215-3402 passcode 5080266	<b>Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus</b>

<http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>