

**North Carolina Coalition on Aging  
Minutes of April 26, 2019 Meeting (10:00 a.m.)**

**Attending In Person**

Tracy Colvard – Chair, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care of 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  
Ray Riordan – Board Member, The Carolinas Center  
Janice Tyler – Board Member, NC Association on Aging  
Mary Bethel – Executive Director  
Jo Paul – NC SHIP  
Pat Martin – Johnston County Community and Senior Services  
Jimmy Parker – Johnston County Community and Senior Services, NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature  
Neal Davis – Johnston County Community and Senior Services  
Randolph Cloud – NC Association on Aging and Randolph Cloud and Associates  
Roger Manus – Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging and Campbell Senior Law Clinic  
Rosalyn Pettyford – NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature and NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse  
Marty Lamb – Individual Member  
Pam Palmer – Triangle J AAA, FOR LTC, and NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse  
Mary Edwards – NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Tony Davis, NC Division of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Lee Little – Durham County Department of Social Services  
Teresa Troup – Individual Member  
Linda Shaw – NC PACE Association  
Heather Hooper – Dementia Alliance of NC  
Natalie Sprague – NC United Way 2-1-1  
Nancy Smith – NC Adult Foster Care Association and Wake County Human Services  
Althea Taylor-Jones – NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature, NC AARP, Piedmont Triad Reg. Council  
Karen Appert – Southern Gerontological Society  
Kent Earnhardt – NAMI NC  
Nancy Ruffner – Navigate NC  
Ben Popkin – Friends of Residents in Long Term Care  
Ana Pardo – NC Justice Center  
Christine Joseph, Captioner for Meeting

**Joining By Phone**

Rep. Donna White (R-Johnston)  
Carol Kelley – Rethinking Guardianship and NC Guardianship Association  
Nancy Francis – Kerr Tar Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging  
Gina Upchurch – Senior PHARMAssist  
Preston Craddock – Greene County Department of Social Services  
Heather Burkhardt – Resources for Seniors  
Eric Kivisto – NC Health Care Facilities Association

Teresa Evans-Hunter – NC Retired School Personnel  
Corrina Miller – UnitedHealthcare  
Leah Proctor – United Way of North Carolina/NC 2-1-1  
Haley Wilson – NC Senior Center Alliance and Johnston County Community and Senior Services  
Lisa Riegel – AARP NC

**Opening Remarks and Introductions** – Tracy Colvard – Chair of Board

**Approval of Minutes** from March 22, 2019 Meeting

- Motion by Kent Earnhard and seconded by Bill Lamb. Approved by all.

**Remarks about Captioning Provided at Meeting** – Tony Davis, Hard of Hearing Coordinator at NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Product used: CART (communication access real time caption)
- 16.2% of population in state has hearing loss. 46% of those 75+ have hearing loss
- Captioning is great for meetings, conferences, etc.
  - Could be cost for this
- Transcript for our meeting will be available after the meeting
- Contact Tony and provide him with feedback on captioning provided (was it helpful?)

**Treasurer's Report** – Chad Walker, Secretary/Treasurer

- Reviewed Financial Statement – balance is \$21,654.46
- Approved by all
- Still working on membership renewals

**Report from Financial Sustainability Committee** – Chad Walker, Committee Chair

- Overview of work done so far and timeline
  - 501(c)3 status approved, reviewed options for staffing, board constantly discusses, had first meeting of the Financial Sustainability Committee
    - Want to build on foundation
    - Want to make sure the work/momentum continues
- Decision is to seek full-time Executive Director
- Let us know if you know anyone interested or funding sources (groups, foundations, grants, etc.)
- Need to raise funds and develop job description

**Activities and Updates Since March Meeting** – Mary Bethel, Executive Director

- House proposed budget plan just came out this morning
- A lot going on relative to advocacy for our issues

- *Update* for April was sent out yesterday
- Crossover deadline is May 9
- Webmaster is retiring at the end of the year so will be looking for new webmaster
- Website is getting good traffic – 194 new people went to it in March
- House Aging Committee met March 26 and April 2
- Coalition on Dementia Capable NC met March 26. Focusing on looking at recommendations in Alzheimer’s State Plan
- Friends of Residents of LTC had a great Advocacy Day on April 3 (80 participants) – Bill Lamb provided more details
- Mary presented on panel at breakfast meeting on April 3 targeted to legislators that highlighted a Duke University School of Public Policy study was an analysis of costs and benefits of paid family leave.
  - Mary’s focus was on the role of family in caring for older relatives
  - This is backdrop for bill introduced by Rep. Greg Myer called NC Families First Act (HB 696) that provides family medical leave. Program funded by a \$2 payroll deduction from employees.
- Mary did presentation to Social Work class at NC State on aging, advocacy, and social work. Importance of students shadowing and hands-on learning was noted.
- AARP NC had breakfast meeting targeted to legislators which highlighted results of a recent caregiver survey they have completed which shows support for Enact NC Caregivers Act (HB 269/SB 161) and the SAVE Act.
- NC Institute of Medicine’s Serious Illness Task Force had first meeting April 12.
- Mary will speak at NC Public Transportation Conference on May 1 on the importance of collaboration and partnerships when doing advocacy work.

**Update from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)** – Joyce Massey-Smith, Director of DAAS, could not be in attendance due to the budget release. Mary Edwards with the Division shared remarks.

- State Aging Plan due July 1
- First envisioning session will be coming up
- DSS/DHHS working together on: statute reform, Rethinking Guardianship, improving data, APS standards, training standards for APS, best practices
- Older American Month is May. DAAS will have an Open House honoring this on Friday, May 3. Artwork from NC Senior Games’ SilverArts program will be on their walls for the Month.
- More to come on Budget

**Update on Federal and State Developments** – Mary Bethel and Others

- In May SNAP will get back to the regular distribution schedule.
- NC Medicaid Transformation – protests have been filed by companies that were not selected for the managed care contracts but DHHS is moving forward.
- Early voting has started for the elections in Congressional districts 3 and 9.

- Voting rights hearing took place in Halifax County on April 18. Rep Butterfield and other Congressional Democrats have introduced legislation which would restore Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and they want to build a case for this.
- US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 26 about NC gerrymandering.
- Statewide awareness campaign designed to fight opioid addiction was launched April 4.
- State has received \$12.2 federal grant to expand crisis counseling services to Hurricane Florence victims in 28 counties.
- Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report on April 22.
- Issue of whether to include a question on US citizenship on the 2020 census was before the Supreme Court this week. NC could pick up a 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional Seat. The citizenship question will deter people from answering.
- Social Security Administration is reporting a scam with people impersonating SSA employees. Jo Paul with SHIP shared helpful information about scams as follows:
  - Social Security numbers – could be a two year delay before they scam.
  - Due to a change in requirements related to durable medical equipment (DME), people are receiving equipment they did not request. If you receive any, send it back if you can.
  - Scammers will look at obituaries for life insurance policy scam.
  - DNA testing scams are taking place. People have test done and then get big bills for the cost of the tests.

**Remarks from Rep. Donna McDowell White (R-Johnston)** (note: she called in as the release of the House budget plan and back to back committee meetings prevented her from attending in person)

- She is trying to make sure Aging, Public Health, and IDD are back on the map
- House budget proposal contains:
  - Increase in funding for HCBG - \$4 million (part reoccurring)
  - Senior Tar Heel Legislature - \$12,000
  - Increase in personal needs allowance for adult care home residents from \$46 to \$70 a month (reoccurring)
  - SSBG funding adjusted to provide some support for APS staffing at county departments of social services
  - State/County Special Assistance rate addressed
  - Funding for NC Senior Games earmarked
  - Increase in funding for local health departments to address communicable diseases
- Working on a bill (HB 915) to Establish Task Force on Aging (contact Rep. Pat Hurley, chair of House Committee on Aging and ask that she put bill on Committee calendar)
- Private Duty Nursing increase is probably not going to make it
- HB 655 (NC Health Care for Working Families) is not in the budget but she hopes that it will move.

Rep. White was thanked for her advocacy on behalf of aging issues.

**Advocacy for Priority Issues – Mary Bethel and Others**

- Check out the *Update* for current status information on many of the bills that are most relevant to Coalition members.
- Lot of activity been going on – visits with legislators, meetings with other groups we collaborate with, etc.
- Legislation introduced on a number of our priority issues (support for HCCBG, Task Force on Aging, etc.).
  - Funding for APS in House budget is shifting SSBG money around.
  - There is no proposed increase in funding for Ombudsmen program.
  - Housing Trust Fund funding in House budget stays at \$7.6 million – no increase.
  - Could not get bill to study the property tax issues; however, problems with older adults and people with disabilities paying property taxes is a hot issue in some counties. Ex. several bills have been introduced by Mecklenburg County legislators to address.
  - Senate is probably 95% done with its budget plan
  - A challenge that no aging champions in the Senate
  - Jo Paul shared that Washington State has passed long term care insurance legislation (Long Term Care Trust Act) that is funded by employees

### **Sharing by Coalition Members**

- NAMI Fundraiser Walk on Dix Campus - May 18
- Rep. Josh Dobson plans to announce he is running for state Labor Commissioner
- NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Annual Conference is May 15
- Press Conference at Legislative Building on Paid Family Medical Leave Program
  - Proposes to expand who covered
- Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC will have their Legislative Day on May 1
- HB 604 (Small Business Retirement Program) has passed the House

### **Other Business**

#### **Reminders**

- Next meeting which is scheduled for May 17 will begin at 9:30 a.m.
- Please give Tony Davis feedback on the captioning provided at today's meeting

### **Adjourn**