

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

TO:	D I S T R I B U T I O N	Mary Bethel, President Kay Castillo, Vice-President, NASW-NC Joseph Breen, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Tracy Colvard, Assoc. For Home and Hospice Care of NC Glenda Dye, NC Assoc. of AAAs, Mid-Carolina AAA Carol Meyer, Carolinas Center for Hospice and EOL Care Teresa Johnson Troup, N.C. Adult Day Services Association Jo Paul, NC Dept. of Insurance, SHIIP Margaret Kirkman NC Adult Foster Care Association Linda Shaw, NC PACE Association Nancy Francis, NC PACE Association (intern) Amanda Borer, Charles House Association Sindy Barker, NC Continuing Care Residents Association Will Parry-Hill, NC Housing Finance Agency Daniel Jordan, NC Housing Finance Agency Leigh Hayden, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Polly Williams, N.C. Justice Center Bill Rowe, N.C. Justice Center Dee Hatch, Triangle OWL Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh Hannah Rossi, NAMI N.C. Joining by Phone: Marty Lamb, Secretary Karen Brewer, N.C Assisted Living Association Janice Tyler, NC Assoc. on Aging, Orange Co. Dept. on Aging
OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : To update each other, de-brief from Legislative Day May 10th, and to learn about Insights and Perspectives on the Short Legislative Session from boots on the ground.		
PROGRESS AND DECISIONS <i>What key decisions were made during the meeting?</i>		
SUBJECT	SHARING	
Welcome Acceptance of minutes of April 22 nd meeting Treasurer Report Updates since last meeting	All were welcomed and introductions made as well as sign-in sheet passed around. Minutes were accepted as written. Current Balance is a little over \$9,300. The General Assembly convened on April 25 for the short legislative session. Two Updates and	

<p>Mary Bethel</p> <p>Update from Day at the Legislature</p> <p>Teresa Johnson Troup</p>	<p>an update on the House budget plan have been sent to members since the last meeting. Mary has been to legislature several times to advocate for our issues. Alice Watkins retired last week from Alzheimer's North Carolina. Mary was invited to a reception at the Governor's mansion to honor Laura Gaddis who has raised millions of dollars for Alzheimer's research and support. Mary and several Coalition members attended a recent meeting of the NC Dept. of Insurance Consumer Assistance Group. The Coalition has also been invited to participate in a Dept. of Insurance Committee on network adequacy.</p>
<p>Joe Breen's update from the Division of Aging and Adult Services</p>	<p>Sixty to 65 people representing Coalition members participated in the Coalition's Day at the Legislature. A goal of the Day was engagement among members. A survey of members was administered that indicated success at this. There was not a lot of traffic from the legislators or staff in the quadrant of the Legislative Building where we were, but there were no regrets. There were some great contacts made and interactions occurred. Visits were made to all legislators' offices. There was some confusion as all people making visits did not have on the same attire and messaging was sometimes different among groups. Dee Hatch noted that it was great that legislators were blanketed with people. There were a few comments about the weirdness of the day (fallout from HB 2 and protests, not much milling around the building by staff and others, and "interesting" other groups that were there). Teresa and the members of the committee who planned the Day at the Legislature were thanked.</p> <p>Joe Breen reported the update from the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). He announced that Joan Pelletier (retired from Triangle J AAA) will Chair the Partnership for Adult Abuse and Laura Kaufman (retired from DAAS Adult and Protective Services Section) will serve as Vice-Chair. Mary Bethel will contact the Partnership about joining the Coalition on Aging.</p> <p>The aging network is trying to gain access to funding sources in addition to public funds. Sixteen Area Agencies on Aging receive federal funds. Funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant has been a concern. State funding for the Block Grant that was restored last year will need to be acted on again by the General Assembly in 2017 as it is non-recurring. Mary Bethel reported that Julie Wiggins, the Area Agency on Aging Association's representative to the Coalition, identified a reduction in Block Grant funding from the SSBG in the House budget proposal. This was checked out and DAAS reported it was due to a reduction which came from sequestering. There are many people on the waiting list for Block Grant services.</p> <p>Tweaks are still needed to the state statutes related to the Ombudsman program to ensure the state is in compliance with federal requirements. A sponsor is still needed for legislation to address needed changes. There is a contract now with United Way 2-1-1 to offer some of the services that used to be provided by CARELINE. The Governor is very supportive of the Alzheimer's State Plan. The Plan can be accessed at the Institute of Medicine's website. May is Older Americans Month and Elder Abuse Awareness Month runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Courtney Cantrell has resigned from DHHS and will be moving on to the private sector after June 30. Courtney has come up through the ranks and has made some positive changes there.</p> <p>Leigh Hayden was introduced. She is the lead on data reports at DAAS. Joe discussed the National Core Indicator for Aging and Disabilities initiative which DAAS has undertaken. This is the first study that has been done for persons who are aging and/or have physical disabilities who are accessing publicly-funded services through Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, skilled nursing facilities/nursing homes, and/or state-funded programs to find out about their quality of life. The study had previously focused on persons with developmental disabilities. Persons surveyed were selected from Medicaid and Home and Community Care Block Grant files. Adult care home residents were not included nor were persons in the Medicaid Personal Care Services program. Joe noted that hopefully individuals from these groups can be added in future studies. He said that the Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at UNC conducted the study. Although some people refused to talk to the surveyors, they got almost 1000 people to participate. This report may help in approaching Medicaid reform. This was not a cheap survey/study to do as it required 30 to 40 skilled seasoned interviewers. DAAS may pull together a stakeholders group in the future to help plan future surveys and to look at what additional questions to add to it. DAAS would like to do the survey every two years. Best wishes and comments of appreciation were shared with Joe and Leigh for the survey and report. (note: A copy of the report from the survey, which includes survey results, was e-mailed to Coalition members on May 22).</p>

Panel: Kay
Castillo, Tracy
Colvard, Will
Parry- Hill

Mary Bethel introduced the panel of advocacy and government relations experts who offered their insights and perspectives on the short legislative session. Kay Castillo who is Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation for NASW, NC Chapter, is a registered lobbyist for the Association. Tracy Colvard, Vice-President of Government Relations and Public Policy for the Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC, is coming up on 9 years on his job. Prior to that he managed a local CAP-DA program and worked for the NC Division of Medical Assistance. Will Parry-Hill is Vice-President of Government Relations and Public Policy for the NC Housing Finance Agency. He has been there 11 years and doing legislative work for 6 years.

Mary Bethel asked each panelist a series of questions. Some of the comments shared on each question follows:

Question: What are your thoughts about the short session?

Kay said it's moving faster than usual with primaries coming up and because North Carolina is on the stage with HB-2. For now, legislators are trying to take up noncontroversial issues. Tracy agreed. Nobody's complaining about leaving early. Mary commented that she'd heard TABOR might be addressed. Will said there is discussion on keeping the tax rate low which could have long standing consequences. Tracy stated that he was disappointed there was not more money for aging issues in the House budget as previous cuts have hurt people.

Question: When will the legislature adjourn the session? All three thought perhaps around mid-July.

Question: What are your thoughts on the House budget proposal? It was commented that financing is a question mark. Will noted that the state Housing Trust Fund has tremendous leverage and has held steady in the House budget. Tracy added that the money is there to do more to address needs.

Question: Are there any surprises so far?

Will said "no." Kay said "no" but there could have been more funding to address needs. For example, last year the budget cut \$250 million to the LME-MCO's, and while some was restored, more could have been done. Kay did not think there will be much difference in line items in the House and Senate plans, but the Senate has some educational initiatives that will be a concern. Tracy agreed, but added there'll be a possible log jam about taxes, but they'll iron it out. Will said we'll hope for no surprises as legislators made clear what their priorities are, including a tax cut.

Question: What about the relationships among the Governor, House, and Senate?

Tracy jokingly said he thinks the Senate would like it if the Governor loses as it would enhance their importance. Kay noted there are differences between state officials, Congress and the Governor. The Governor is not pushing legislature to change HB2 which helps his relationship with them for now. In the course of the discussion, Mary noted, that it is important that we don't pit one constituent group against another when communicating with elected officials. For example child protective services has been getting increased funding in the last few years while funding for adult protective services has stayed flat in the face of increased need.

Question: What big issues could potentially come up in 2017?

Kay said it will be influenced by who's elected to office. Tracy said if the House loses a super majority, that'll be big. He thinks the Senate will keep their majority. Certificate of Need will come up again as will discussion about a Medicaid rate increase. We'll see what happens with Medicaid expansion. HB2 may be a continuing problem. Will said to watch the Treasurer's race. He thinks House changes may be overstated. Mary asked them to speak about the Caucus and the power it has. Agreement it has lots of power. Polly Williams stated that advocates are beaten down - everyone is in same position they have been for years. Mary said she thought the Alzheimer's plan holds possibilities and that the new DHHS Secretary understands issues and needs too. Kay said she thinks there'll be a shift to more of an aging focus. Tracy said it's easy to educate legislators, but then they could lose. It's an ongoing battle, and it is never going to stop. There was a comment about the importance of educating legislature and that we need to seize the opportunity to do this. Will said we can't provide services without revenue when billions are being taken out of the economy with the current situation. Other states are investing, but we are not catching up. How to bridge the ideological divide is hard.

Mary thanked panel members for their sharing and remarked that "lobbyist" is not a dirty word.

Update on planning for annual meeting - Kay Castillo	A committee has been formed, which Kay is chairing, to plan the Annual Meeting which will take place on September 23 at the NC State University Club. Initiating a Coalition advocacy award is being discussed. More details will be reported at the June meeting. A keynote speaker has not been decided yet.
Organizational announcements	The PACE conference went well with more people attending this year. Area Agencies on Aging in North Carolina have been invited to a joint meeting with other Area Agencies in Atlanta and many are attending. Dee Hatch announced that Triangle OWL honored Lucy Dr. Bearon with their Wonderful Older Woman award as the last act of the group, and now the group locally is disbanding. It's been difficult as national OWL is not interested in local chapters. Jo Paul with SHIIP discussed an issue that has come to SHIIP's attention. Some hospitalists in the state are not employees of the hospital where they work and are not accepting Medicare. Patients do not know this when they see the hospitalists in the hospital. This presents a huge financial risk for the patient and there are no protections. It was suggested that SHIIP might want to contact the NC Hospital to talk about this problem. Carol Myers announced that their conference will be the last three days in August. Teresa encouraged everyone to attend the balloon festival in Fuquay-Varina next weekend.
Next Meeting	Everyone was reminded that the next meeting is June 24 th at 10:00 a.m. at the Division of Aging and Adult Services

HANDOUTS

Agenda and treasurer reports

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Joe Breen	Provide information to Mary Bethel on National Core Indicator Survey	soon

****NEXT MEETING****

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Friday June 24th 10:00am until noon	Monthly meeting Call-in Number 1-866-215-3402 passcode 5080266	Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus

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