

MEETING DATE: June 24, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

<b>TO:</b>	<b>D I S T R I B U T I O N</b>	<p>Mary Bethel, President Bill Lamb, Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care Marty Lamb, Secretary Alan Winstead, Treasurer Jennifer Bellingtier, NC State Un., College of Humanities and Social Sciences Polly Williams, NC Justice Center Heather Burkhardt, NC DAAS Dee Hatch, Public Dick Hatch, Access Dental Care Olene Ogles, AARP NC Julie Wiggins, High Country AAA (NC4A Liaison) Janice Tyler, Orange County Dept. on Aging (NCAOA Liaison) Margaret Kirkman, N.C. Adult Foster Care Association J. Zirbel, Rainbow Community Cares Margaret Toman, Friends of Residents in LTC/Gold Coalition Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh Joe Breen, NC DAAS Carla Obiol, NC DOI Jo Paul, N.C. SHIIP Craig Burrus, Wake County DHS Hannah Rossi, NAMI Paula Reif, RSVP Durham County Kristen Brannock, Resources for Seniors/GOLD Coalition Marsha Van Hecke, The Carolinas Center Paola Learoyd, Randolph Cloud and Associates Tommy Goldsmith, Guest Speaker</p> <p>On phone: Scott Herrick, Alzheimer's Association Heather McLaughlin, N.C. Alliance for Retired Americans Heather Black, NC 211 Alexandra Sirota, NC Budget and Tax Center</p>
<b>OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING</b> : To update each other, hear from recent retiree from the News and Observer Tommy Goldsmith about interacting with the press, learn about plans for annual meeting and share information.		
<b>****PROGRESS AND DECISIONS****</b> <i>What key decisions were made during the meeting?</i>		
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>SHARING</b>	

<p>Introductions and review of minutes</p>	<p>People introduced themselves both in the room and on the phone. Minutes were distributed and approved.</p>
<p>Treasurer Report</p>	<p>Alan Winstead reported. Those who had recently paid dues were thanked. Current balance is \$10,473.57. Mary said she'd made gentle calls to groups that had not paid dues.</p>
<p>Activity since last meeting</p>	<p>There have been numerous trips to the legislature, and Mary sent out an alert on HB 817 (Uniform Adult Guardianship) and one requesting support for the House version of the budget. Several interesting committees are meeting.</p> <p>Mary is representing the Coalition on a committee convened by the NC Dept. of Insurance to bring stakeholders together to look at health provider network adequacy standards. Several other Coalition members are also involved with this. Carla Obiol with DOI reported that when insurance products are submitted to DOI for review, DOI has to take their word that their networks are adequate. Commissioner Goodwin initiated three stakeholders' committees to see how model NAIC draft legislation on network adequacy can be adapted for North Carolina.</p> <p>Mary and Bill Lamb, as well as several other Coalition members, are on a DHHS Dual Eligible (Medicare and Medicaid) Advisory Committee. The General Assembly authorized the committee to provide input to DHHS on how to incorporate duals into Medicaid reform plans. There are 5 slots for consumers on this committee. Bill announced that if we know of consumers who have both Medicare and Medicaid eligibility who could attend, please recommend their involvement. Julia Wiggins was in attendance for a committee meeting and reported that there was a lot of good discussion. It was noted that the recommendations of the committee are important as Medicaid plays a key role in driving health policy in this state.</p> <p>Mary reported that she had reached out to several organizations who relate in some way to older adults about potential membership in the Coalition.</p>
<p>Update on State Legislative and Congressional Developments</p>	<p>The General Assembly is gearing up to get the budget in place for the next fiscal year and to adjourn.</p> <p>Margaret Toman announced that Moms Rising is encouraging persons to go to the legislature tonight regarding gun violence. Mary attended a meeting several weeks ago with the state director for Moms Rising who is interested in potential collaborative efforts with the Coalition.</p> <p>There are still some issues to be resolved before the legislature adjourns.</p> <p>Silver Alert legislation was revised to expand those who can be covered.</p> <p>Bill reported on HB 667 (Facility Penalty and Remedy) that, among other things, does away with the Penalty Review Process for fine administration on facilities. There are divergent views by Coalition members on this bill. Mary encouraged dialogue among provide and resident advocacy groups regarding the legislation.</p> <p>Senate Bill 817 (Constitutional Amendment – Maximum Income Tax Rate of 5.5%) was discussed. The bill sets a maximum income tax rate of 5.5%. Alexandra Sirota with the NC Budget and Tax Center provided an update on where the bill stands. She shared concerns about the legislation. It was noted that a drop in income tax rates could result in an increase of sale and property taxes and could impact the state's credit rating. The bill's provisions will likely be added to HB 3 (Omnibus Constitutional Amendments). She noted that the General Assembly already has authority over setting the tax rate so why limit the rate by a Constitutional amendment. Colorado is the only state that has done this and it has been suspended. She urged Coalition members to contact House members today to share concerns about the legislation</p> <p>The US Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended eliminating all fund for state health</p>

	<p>insurance information programs across the country. Carla shared information about our state SHIIP. Rep. David Price is important to contact to express concern about this as he is on the House Appropriations Committee. If funding is lost, 1-800-Medicare will not be sufficient to meet the needs of persons needing information and assistance as staff are not trained about the individual plans and differences. There is documentation that last year the dollar savings from the NC SHIIP to consumers was \$53 million. Coalition members were urged to contact our members of Congress about retaining the funding. Carla noted that it took years to get some state funding for SHIIP, but DOI could not support local sites and 50% of staff would be released if the federal funding is cut.</p> <p>Dick Hatch made a motion which was seconded that the Coalition express our concerns to our US and House members about any cuts to SHIIP funding. The measure passed unanimously. Mary will do this.</p>
<p>Heather Burkhardt DAAS report</p> <p>Guest Speaker Tommy Goldsmith "Working with the Media and Getting Aging Issues on The Media's Radar"</p>	<p>Heather Burkhardt with DAAS reported that the US Senate Appropriations Committee is also proposing to significantly cut funding for the Seniors Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP - Title V) which provides stipends to low-income older workers. The cut for DAAS could be 50%. Alan reported that nutrition programs in many counties depend on these workers to help staff their programs. There was a motion that our Coalition also do a letter to our US House members about potential cuts in Title V. Mary will do this.</p> <p>Heather reported that state legislation has not been introduced for community advisory committees which is needed to align local advisory committee volunteers to our state ombudsman program. Suzanne Merrill, DAAS Director, is on the leadership group for the Dual Eligibles initiative. DAAS is looking at the intrastate funding formula (how Home and Community Care Block Grant funds to be distributed are allocated) to determine what, if any, changes are needed. Joan Pelletier is under contract with DAAS to lead this effort. She noted that North Carolina is a high growth state, and funding has been flat. There will be adult protective services/guardianship listening sessions across the state late this summer. There will be 11 sessions to hear from stakeholders on struggles and challenges. DAAS will be getting new Adult Program representatives. There are two housing related staff vacancies. Ellen Blackman is leaving the end of next week. DAAS hopes to be fully staffed soon.</p> <p>Mary introduced Tommy Goldsmith and presented him with an "Attaboy" award from our Coalition for his good journalism through the years on aging issues.</p> <p>Tommy gave us tips on interacting with the media. He said his three points are: (1) It has to be new, just happened or newly learned, (2) It has to cause a "Can this be True?" reaction and appeal to a large number of people, and (3) It has to be important (This is a big deal because...).</p> <p>He noted that it's sometimes hard to know when to do a news obit. You can call when someone dies, saying, here are some people you can talk to about her/him and here's the funeral home, etc. Build relationships with media people. If you send an e-mail, note subject in heading. Be specific in your ask and description. Try to meet media people and let them know what your field is. He said he used to get hundreds of e-mails a day. Watch TV to get pointers. There are specific niches. Think visually. Aging stories may be more difficult to generate interest around if it's not something really active. You can emphasize videos, which are huge these days. Pre-rolls can be effective, if of good quality. Try to avoid cliché stories. It's not uncommon to turn 100 years old these days. Alzheimer's month might be newsworthy but generally reporters are not big on designated days. Real people make a huge difference. Readers may not believe a lot if you do not give complete identification. There are HIPPA requirements for family to give permission to look over health information. There are slow and busy news days. A couple of weeks would be good lead time to try to get a story. Try to get things in on a timely basis. It is a cooperative venture so being available is important. If you are to be quoted by a reporter, you can ask for your quotes to be read back to you when you give information for an article. Thank media for their stories.</p> <p>He gave examples of stories he had done and explained what made them news worthy. Mary</p>

<p>Plans for Annual Meeting</p>	<p>asked what might be a good story from what he heard discussed at our meeting today. He stated the potential cuts to SHIIP and the penalty review committee legislation.</p> <p>He shared who contacts were at the News and Observer for stories. Lynn Bonner covers DHHS. Thad Ogburn is the metro editor. Ned Barnett on the editorial side can be a source and Martha Quillan might like a really good story. He also noted that there are investigative reporters. Sarah Nagem covers Wake and is another contact.</p> <p>The NC State University Club will be the location for the annual Coalition meeting on Sept. 23 at 12:00 noon. Dr. Robert Friedland from Georgetown University has been confirmed as the keynote speaker. He is an expert on the financing and delivery of health and long-term care. There will be a discount for Coalition members.</p>
<p>Announcement of Establishment of Pioneer Award</p>	<p>The Coalition is initiating a new Pioneer Award to recognize individuals who have made long-time outstanding contributions to the field of aging in the state. Nominations need to be in by July 31.</p>
<p>Nomination Process for New Officers – Bill Lamb, Immediate Past President</p>	<p>Bill Lamb announced that he and Carol Meyer are serving on the Nominating Committee. The Vice-Chair and Treasurer positions come open this year. Alan Winstead can serve another term as Treasurer but Kay Castillo has reached the limit of her term as Vice-President. Send any nominations to him.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>none</p>
<p>Organizational Announcements</p>	<p>Mary announced that Teresa Johnson Troup is not at the meeting as she had a bad reaction to medication.</p> <p>Jennifer Bellingtier from the Psychology Department at N.C. State Un. shared that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is having an event November 11<sup>th</sup> on aging and the environment. Hans Brenner Wall from Germany will be the key presenter. Enhancing networking and dialog is a goal. Representatives from community programs which pertaining to older adults will be part of a panel discussion to share information about what they do. "Environment" is a very broad topic. The event runs from 1 to 7 p.m. Exhibit booths will be available as well. It will be at the Hunt Library and there will be heavy h'ors d'oevres. Help in getting the word out will be appreciated.</p> <p>Margaret Toman announced that the Raleigh co-housing group will meet July 22.</p> <p>It was announced that Medicare Part D opening enrollment will be from Oct. 15 through December 7 this year. Humana will not offer plans for state retirees next year.</p> <p>Sandy Gregory with NC BAM will be the new President on NCCOA.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>There will not be a July meeting. Mary will send out a summary of state legislation that passed which impacts older adults after the General Assembly adjourns.</p>

**HANDOUTS**

Agenda and treasurer reports, AARP handout on SB 817, Pioneer Award announcement, and Save the Date annual meeting announcement

Who	Assignments	WHEN
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Mary Bethel  All	Compose letters on behalf of Coalition about funding for SHIP and SCSEP and send to Congressional delegation  Contact elected representatives of concerns	ASAP
<b>****NEXT MEETING****</b>		
<b>Day / Date / Time</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>Where</b>
August 26, 2016 <b>10:00am until noon</b>	next meeting call-in number 1-866-215-3402 passcode 5080266#	<b>Division of Aging and Adult Services conference room on Dix campus</b>
<b>Website: <a href="http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/">http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/</a> and like the Coalition on Facebook</b>		