

**Minutes from North Carolina Coalition on Aging Meeting
Friday, January 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**

Room 104, Brown Building (801 Biggs Drive on Dix Campus)

In Attendance:

Tracy Colvard, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care of NC and Board Chair
Bill Lamb, Friends of Residents in LTC and Past President of the Coalition
Frances Messer, NC Assisted Living Association and Coalition Board Member
Ray Riordan, The Carolinas Center and Coalition Board Member
Mary Bethel, Ex. Director
Nancy Warren, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Tony Davis, NC Div. of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Angela Ellis, Greene Co. DSS
Preston Craddock, Greene Co. DSS
Sarah Winnick, Greene Co. DSS
Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh
Pat Martin, Community and Sr. Services of Johnston Co.
Jimmy Parker, Community and Sr. Services of Johnston Co.
Chris Jones, Fiduciary Litigation Group
Alan Winstead, Meals on Wheels NC
Kay Castillo, NASW – NC
Leah Proctor, NC 2-1-1
Teresa Troup, Oak Hill Living Center, Angier
Wiata Bond, Intern with Teresa Troup
Jarrah Belen, Intern with Teresa Troup
Rinnah Marcell, Intern with Teresa Troup
Harold Barnette, Institute for Family Caregiving, Inc.
Ben Popkin, Lobbyist for Friends of Residents in LTC
Glenda Reed, Wake County Human Services
Laura Jane Ward, NC Rural Health Leadership Alliance and Friends of Residents in LTC
Carol Kelly, NC Guardianship Association and Rethinking Guardianship
Nancy Francis, Center for Volunteer Caregiving
Karen Appert, Southern Gerontological Society
Joyce Massey-Smith, NC DAAS
Sarah Smith, NC DAAS
Leslie Jones, NC DAAS
Melinda Munden, NC DOI SHIP
Jo Paul, NC DOI SHIP
Robin Iten Porter, NC PACE Association
Martha Lamb, Cameron Commons
Dawanda Holloway, Intern for Martha Lamb
Ana Pardo, NC Justice Center
Joseph Wheeler, SAGE Raleigh
Sal Cammarata, Alta Real Estate
Tommy Goldsmith, NC Health News

Suzanne Martin, NC Oral Health Collaborative
Shazia Keller, W.G. Alexander and Associates; NC Bar Assoc. Elder Law/Special Needs Section
Chanelle Croxton, NC Domestic Workers Alliance

Joining Meeting By Phone: (Apologies to those who could not join by phone due to difficulties in getting a phone connection)

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP NC and Chair Elect of Board
Roger Manus, Campbell Un. Senior Law Clinic and Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
David Rhew, NC Public Transportation Association
Tom Akins, LeadingAge NC
Nicole Hiegl, High Country AAA and NC Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging
Denise Matthewson, A Helping Hand

The meeting convened a few minutes after 10:00 a.m. **Opening remarks and introductions** were provided by Tracy Colvard, Chair of Board.

Minutes from the December 7, 2018 meeting were approved (motion by Pat Martin and second by Nancy Warren) with one correction (Pat Martin is from CSS in Johnston County not Martin County).

Treasurer's report was presented by Mary Bethel, Ex. Director, in the absence of Chad Walker, Treasurer/Secretary, who was at an out-of-state meeting. The balance is \$17,112.31.

Members were reminded to renew their membership in the Coalition either by completing the application form and paying on-line through PayPal or by completing a renewal form and mailing this to the Coalition's P.O. Box with payment. Dues remain at \$100 for agencies/organizations and \$20 for supporting individuals. There have been a few reports of people having difficulty renewing on-line. If problems arise, please let Mary Bethel know. Sixteen agencies/organizations have renewed or joined and five individual supporters have paid dues so far.

Activities and updates since the December meeting were shared by Mary Bethel. Items covered include:

- *Update* was sent out last Friday
- Voter ID legislation passed, was vetoed by the Governor, and the veto was overridden by the Legislature. The Coalition provided comments to legislative leadership on bill provisions.
- The Coalition was invited to a meeting sponsored by the NC Nurses Association about Advanced Practice RN full practice authority and plans to push for this in the 2019 legislative session. Ray Riordan, Frances Messer, and Charmaine Fuller Cooper who attended the meeting offered background and insights on this issue.
- A NC Health Care Facilities Association steering committee has been looking at direct care workforce issues including recruitment and retention. Tom Akins, Mary Bethel, Charmaine Fuller Cooper, and Bill Lamb have participated in this.

- NC Health News (Tommy Goldsmith) did an article about the accumulation of civil penalty monetary fine monies in the state. Bill Lamb, who was quoted in the article, shared information about this issue and the challenges in its use. Tommy noted that he is interested in how states across the country are using these monies to improve quality of care.

Update from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) was provided by Joyce Massey-Smith, Director of DAAS. She offered apologies on behalf of Tara Myers, Deputy Secretary for Human Services at NC DHHS, who could not attend the meeting due to a health issue. She began by offering comments about the federal shut down and how this impacts the state. She shared that the Division received \$5 million in new federal dollars last year. The waiting list for services continues to be about the same even with this funding.

She noted that the Governor's budget will be out March 1. She will share information on this when she can. She provided information/data on adult protective services (APS) funding and on the number of reported and substantiated complaints. (note: This information has been sent to Coalition members). State funding for APS is 0.01% of the total funding.

She provides and update on Medicaid transformation. The PHPs (prepaid health plans) selected for this will be announced February 4. DAAS will meet with the PHPs selected on long term services and supports. Duals will not be in the initial group of Medicaid recipients moved to managed care. Up to \$650 million is being designated to support healthy opportunity pilot programs. Resources are being committed for capacity building. Alan Winstead commented that other states have seen out-of-state groups come in to provide services when they have moved to managed care. Training of providers on transformation and how they can be a player in this was encouraged. Joyce talked about the importance of providers having good business acumen and volunteered to help get a speaker at a future meeting on transformation and all that is involved – changes, opportunities, etc. Robin Iten Porter had a question relative to the enrollment broker for Medicaid, MAXIMUS, which will help members select the health plan and primary care provider that is most appropriate to meet their needs. Charmaine Fuller Cooper commented about the importance of outreach to Medicaid recipients. Information about this and other matters about the transformation can be found on the DHHS website at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/medicaid-transformation>.

Joyce reported that DAAS staff have met with staff from the Benefits Data Trust (from Philadelphia) that has received funding to provide outreach to dual eligible individuals in the state about SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). There is a need to identify healthy strategies to maximize efforts.

Joyce provided an update on efforts related to the DSS regionalization and supervision (HB 630, Rylan's Law) workgroup. DHHS is looking at the recommendations from the workgroup that will go to the General Assembly. Nancy Warren, who has attended many workgroup meetings, offered comments also.

Joyce closed her comments by noting that the 2020 S.E. Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference will be in Asheville. There is some discussion about the possibility of doing a state aging conference in conjunction with this.

Update on federal and state developments, including the following, were shared by Mary Bethel and others:

- The General Assembly convened on January 9 for a one day ceremonial and organizational meeting. They come back on January 30 to officially start work.
- Over 100 respite vouchers are still available through the DAAS respite care program.
- The CAP-DA new continuation waiver application is in process (more on this later in minutes).
- House Speaker Moore has said that the House will take up Medicaid expansion this session and there will likely be a work requirement associated with this.
- The 9th Congressional seat for the state is still not certified.
- Congressman Walter Jones is still not back in Congress due to health problems (absent since last fall).
- The U.S. Supreme Court will hear the state's gerrymandering case in March.
- The state has a new Office for Recovery and Resiliency which is currently being staffed.
- Food stamps for February will be issued on January 20.
- The partial federal shutdown continues. Five of the 12 federal budgets were approved which represent 75% of federal funding. Programs impacted by the shutdown include: SNAP, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Low Income Housing Assistance, Senior Transportation, and Elder Justice and Consumer Protection initiatives administered by the Justice and Treasury Departments. If the shutdown continues, more effects will be seen in February and March.
- Money Follows the Person (MFP) received a three month extension until March 31.

Nancy Warren shared that the National Elder Justice Coalition met last week with federal officials about trying to see if any of the state money for the opioid crisis can be directed to older adults.

Advocacy for priority issues, including the Day at the Legislature, was discussed. Highlights from the discussion were:

- The Fact Sheet on priority issues has been finalized which incorporated suggestions to this made at the December meeting.
- Coalition members are to let Mary Bethel know of particular issues that are priorities for them/their organizations on which they are willing to be active in their advocacy efforts.
- Coalition members are also to let Mary Bethel know if they know of other groups and organizations we might partner with to advocate for our priority issues.
- The Day at the Legislature will be February 26. We will convene in Room 240 (note: this has been changed to the Media Room on the first floor) at the NC Dept. of Insurance located at 325 N. Salisbury Street (across the street from the Legislative Office Building) to get oriented and to receive materials. Diverse teams of Coalition members will be assigned to visit designated legislators' offices.

- Training will be provided at the conclusion of the February 22 membership meeting by Ray Riordan, Coalition Board member who is with The Carolina Center, on legislative advocacy and how to communicate with legislators. Talking points on issues will also be shared at the meeting. If there is interest, a tour of the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building will follow the training. It was suggested that the training be open to those from Coalition groups/organizations.
- One-on-one visits with key legislators will also continue after the Day at the Legislature as needed.
- It was suggested that it might be good to do training on tweeting as an advocacy tool.
- It was shared that there are many other Advocacy Days scheduled by Coalition members. Many of these groups/organizations have the Coalition's priorities on their own lists too. The Senior Tar Heel Legislature will visit the legislature on March 11 and Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will have a Legislative Advocacy Day on April 3. The Oral Health Advocacy Day is April 24 and NASW-NC's Social Work Advocacy Day is April 6. DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen will be the keynote speaker for this. The NC Justice Center's Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Day is February 27. They are collecting stories to put a face on the Tar Heels whose lives could be improved if they could get the health care they need.

Mary Bethel shared that the **comment period for the Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults (CAP-DA) Waiver Application** is open until February 4. She noted that the Coalition has received a letter from a parent who is a guardian for her daughter who is IDD about her concerns that the waiver provisions could prevent her from being paid to provide care to her daughter through CAP-DA. It was agreed that the Coalition will submit comments acknowledging that paying family members is an issue with many complexities, but we ask that provisions remain in the policy that will allow family caregivers who are legal guardians to continue to be the paid care provider when it is in the best interest of the relative in need of care.

Mary Bethel announced that the **location for the February 22 Coalition meeting and advocacy training has been changed** to Room 240 at the NC Dept. of Insurance located at 325 N. Salisbury Street. The Brown Building is not available that day due to a scheduling conflict.

Sharing by Coalition Members included the following:

- Robin Iten Porter with the NC PACE Association announced that Linda Shaw's father died this week.
- Suzanne Martin with the NC Oral Health Collaborative shared that they have a new Director, Dr. Zachery Brian.
- Kay Castillo with NASW-NC announced that their Ethics Conference will be on April 15.
- Karen Appert who represents the Southern Gerontological Society reported that their annual meeting which is April 9-13 has been moved to the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, Florida due to hurricane damage at the original location.
- Glenda Reed with Wake County Human Services shared that Craig Burris who previously attended Coalition meetings for their agency has received a promotion.
- Laura Jane Ward with the NC Rural Health Leadership Alliance noted that they will have a Regional Telehealth Summit – West in Asheville on March 1.

- Charmaine Fuller Cooper with AARP NC and Carol Kelly with the NC Guardianship Association reported on the Summit on Rethinking Guardianship that will be held on February 25 at the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University (note: This was later changed to the Royal Banquet Center located at 3801 Hillsborough St., Suite 109, in Raleigh because a larger venue was needed). A reception will follow the Summit. Pre-registration is required. Members were reminded that our U.S. Senators Burr and Tillis are on the Senate Special Committee on Aging and information on a recent Committee report on guardianship was sent to members in December.
- David Rhew with the NC Public Transportation Association shared that their annual conference and expo will be April 29 – May 1 in Wilmington. They have been reaching out to DSSs in the state.

Other Business – Mary Bethel announced that Chad Walker, who will chair the Coalition’s Financial Sustainability Committee, asks that anyone interested in joining the Committee contact him.

It was noted that the meeting dates for 2019 as follows: March 22, April 26, May 17 (9:30 a.m.), June 28, August 23, September 27 (annual meeting at NC State University Club), October 25, and December 6. All meetings, with the exception of the September 27 annual meeting which will be a lunch meeting beginning at 12:00 noon, will be in the Brown Building and will be at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

There being no further business, the **meeting was adjourned** at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by Mary Bethel, Ex. Director