

MEETING DATE: January 27, 2017

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	Marty Lamb, Secretary Mary Bethel, President Alan Winstead, Treasurer Roger Manus, Campbell University Law School Kay Castillo, NASW-NC Marian Cower, NASW-NC Intern Heather Burkhardt, DAAS Helen Savage, Center for Responsible Lending Heather Black, United Way Kanesha _____ Susan Meador, The Center for Volunteer Caregiving Lindsay Schinasi, The Center for Volunteer Caregiving Adam Svolto, N.C. Justice Center Kristen Brannock, Resources for Seniors Teresa Johnson Troup, NC Adult Day Services Association Randolph Cloud, Randolph Cloud and Associates Janeen Gordon, American Heart Association Beth Oakley, NC Association of Long Term Care Facilities Sarah Jacobson, American Heart Association Catherine Goldman, Wake County Human Services Amanda Borer, Charles House Assoc. Matthew Herr, Disability Rights NC Margaret Kirkman, NC Adult Foster Care Association Tamara Griffin - Duke Elder Family Caregiver Support Center Karen Appert SGS Mary Edwards, DAAS Pam Palmer, Part. to Address Adult Abuse/Gov.'s Ad. Council Margaret Toman, Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care Les Geller, SAGE Linda Shaw, NC PACE Association Sandy Gregory, NCAOA and NCBAM Julie Wiggins, NC Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging Yvetta Smith, NCBAM Alfred Johnson, State Employees Association of NC CJ Stephens, State Employees Association Gina Upchurch, Senior PharmAssist Jo Paul, NC SHIPP Melinda Munden, NC SHIIP Suzanne Merrill, DAAS Pat Martin, Johnston County Community Senior Services Dick Hatch, Access Dental Care Dee Hatch, Advocate David Litman, NC Div. of Services for Deaf and Hard Hearing Monica McGee, Interpreter Sue Murdoch, Interpreter
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Theresa Matula, Legislative Staff (guest speaker)

Participating By Phone:

Joan Bass, NC Retired School Personnel
 Terry Mitchell, NC Retired School Personnel
 Barbara Patterson, Nurse Care North Carolina
 Joan Pelletier, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
 Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP NC
 Steve Hahn, AARP NC
 Sharon Kilpatrick, Navigate NC
 Rev. Audrey Gaskins, Senior Advocate
 Polly Williams, Senior Advocate

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : To update each other and plan for coming year

*****PROGRESS AND DECISIONS*****

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Review of minutes	Corrections or additions to the minutes: "Hise" is the correct spelling of the Senator's name. The Secretary will correct this.
Finance Update and Membership renewals	Alan Winstead, Treasurer, shared that our current balance is \$11,139.91. Notices of membership renewal will be sent out. Joseph Libera from Elon and Roger Manus from Campbell Law School have joined as new individual members and The Center for Volunteer Caregiving in Cary has joined as an organizational member.
Update from Mary Bethel	Since the last meeting, <i>Updates</i> were sent out in Dec. and Jan. Mary has attended the meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. Since the General Assembly is back in session, Committee meetings will be starting back up. The report from the Dual Eligibles Advisory Committee is being finalized and will be sent to the General Assembly before the end of the month. Linda Shaw reported that she thinks what the Advisory Committee came out with was OK and that input was heard. Mary reported that during the Advisory Committee deliberations, we advocating for more services to keep people in their homes. More emphasis was given on ensuring that Medicaid beneficiaries could receive counseling about options for services. Mary noted that she went to the Care for Carolina meeting. This Coalition is advocating for health care access for all. We have updated our website and updated our domain name for 5 years. Mary will be doing upcoming presentations for the Regional Advisory Council at Kerr Tar Area Agency on Aging in Henderson and at the senior center in Wake Forest. She has had requests from the NC Retired Governmental Employees Association and AARP to set up the Coalition's banner at the Days at the Legislature these groups are having.

Annual meeting	<p>Alan has reserved the NC State University Club on Sept. 22, 2017 for the annual meeting of the Coalition. Bill Lamb is chairing the Committee to plan the annual meeting. If interested in serving on this Committee, see Bill.</p>
Report on Project of Health and Aging Fellow	<p>Amanda Borer, Health and Aging Fellow, reported she is working with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance to help develop their state advocacy work on the eldercare workforce in the state. A Coalition is being formed to look at workforce issues. LeadingAge at the national level is involved. Mary pointed out that the huge shortage of home care workers is being recognized at the national level. There is almost 100% turnover every year in N.C.</p> <p>Gina Upchurch asked if anyone is looking at the importance role of immigrants in providing care. Amanda said yes. Linda Shaw suggested Amanda make contact with the N.C. Rural Health Association.</p> <p>If Coalition members and/or their organizations are interested in being a part of the Workforce Coalition, contact Amanda. She can be contacted for more information at Amanda@charleshouse.org or (919-967-7570).</p>
Presentation by Theresa Matula	<p>Theresa Matula was introduced by Mary and thanked for her years of work on aging issues in the General Assembly. Theresa reported that she would give us a catch-up from Feb. of 2016 when she was with us last.</p> <p>There are several divisions at the General Assembly which provides support: bill drafting, fiscal research, program evaluation, and the legislative analysis divisions. Legislative staff provide staff support to committees, write summary analyses of bills, and respond to questions. The staff is non-partisan. There are also partisan staff in the House and Senate. The website for the General Assembly is a wealth of information about happenings in the legislature. She shared the report prepared by staff of the “2016 Substantive Enacted Legislation Pertaining to Health and Human Services”. She team leads the health and retirement and state personnel issues efforts. In regard to the report, Subheadings change from year to year based on what are hot issues in a particular year. She pointed out several highlights from the report: page 9, section on a pilot program to increase access to public benefits for older dual eligible seniors and page 12, section on Medicaid graduate medical education program. She noted budget wise that there is a non-recurring appropriation of \$969,549 for the Home and Community Block Grant. It was noted by Mary that increased funding for the Block Grant and the continuation of this funding is a priority of the Coalition.</p> <p>Theresa noted that interim study committees have been meeting between the 2016 and 2017 sessions. Agendas for meetings are posted the day before or the morning of committee meetings. Presentations are online and access to all the handouts is available. The HHS Joint Oversight Committee and the Joint Medicaid and Health Choice Oversight Committee met between sessions. The Behavioral Health Subcommittee did not meet. It was noted that Medicaid is moving from fee for service to managed care with July 1, 2019 as the go live date</p>

(pending federal approval). Mary commented that aging is not much on the radar screen of legislators. Several Coalition members noted the need for a study committee on aging. Gina Upchurch asked if the IOM report is read as they had requested reinstatement of the Aging Study Commission. Teresa said that a bill would have to be introduced and enacted for such a reinstatement. She did note, however, that a legislator, as a committee chair, could decide to appoint a subcommittee on their own. There are challenges with having subcommittees or study commissions.

There are House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Health and Human Services. There is no Senate Aging Committee, but there is a House Committee on Aging. The Senate Health Committee is where aging related issues are generally taken up. In some instances, bills are not introduced and items are added as part of the budget bill. The House Aging Committee has not been meeting frequently because a lot of legislation crosses over the Health committee. Many of the same representatives are on the House Health Committee and the House Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services. The Senate Health Committee Chairs are also the Chairs of the Senate Appropriation Committee on Health and Human Services. Putting committee schedules together is challenging. All bills get referred to a committee, but few are heard. The House deadlines are close this year. Theresa advised that we not wait if you have a bill we would like to see introduced. The crossover deadline this year is April 27. Many years the crossover date gets pushed back. This year, the budget development process starts in the Senate. Bills and their status can be tracked through the General Assembly website. A summary of a bill is not listed until it is scheduled for hearing. The UNC School of Government website will list bills that are before the State Legislature. In the House, a key partisan staff person is Leah Burns and a key staff person in the Senate is Colt Uln.

It was noted that Democracy NC has reported that their analysis of who voted in the last elections found that 78% of older adults who were registered to vote voted. Amanda Borer asked about reaching out to a legislator’s office about an issue. Theresa stated that legislators get a lot of e-mails and some are more involved with that than others. She recommends talking directly with a person as preferable to e-mailing or calling. Mary mentioned anyone can sign up for notices of when committees will be meeting and the bills that will be addressed in committee. Charmaine Fuller Cooper stated that the current Senate committee calendar is up in the air waiting for the cabinet confirmation issue to be settled. It was noted that the new Secretary of HHS, Mandy Cohen, has been named and will likely face a challenging confirmation hearing if there is one since she previously worked for CMS. Charmaine noted that on Feb. 14, AARP will be having a “Kissing Booth” (Hershey kisses) at the legislature to draw attention to the importance of family caregivers. She invited Coalition members to join in this effort if interested.

Plan for our
Coalition

Mary noted that the Plan of Action for the Coalition for 2017 was sent to members in e-mail. There is not a lot that is different from last year. Mary asked for

thoughts from the group about where the Coalition wants to go in the future. We'd like to get aging more on the radar here in N.C. Amanda asked where the money goes in the budget. Mary said most of the income comes from membership. The annual meeting is another source of income. She went over the proposed budget for 2017. The annual meeting, Lobby Day and website are expenses as well as awards and office supplies. The Ex. Committee approved that mileage reimbursement could be provided for travel that was unusual and \$500 was designated to join other coalitions. Teresa Troup commented that she thought Mary should have a way to maintain our *Updates* for sustainability in the future. She and Julie Wiggins both stressed the importance of the *Updates as a* means of sharing information with members. Heather Black said she wondered what kind of tools we have for training on Lobby Days and wondered if the Coalition could do training on advocacy. Mary responded there has not been an organized advocacy 101 or curriculum but instructions are shared for Lobby Day. She pointed out the legislative priorities that we are focused on. Members were encouraged to visit their legislators on our priorities now. Gina Upchurch said a piecemeal approach is fine, but not great. She thought Mary should be paid for her efforts. She recommended interns as well. Amanda Borer also supported interns. Kay Castillo recommended we consider establishing an Advocacy Committee for the Coalition. Julie Wiggins said that we need to build revenue streams and seek sponsorships to support Mary's work. It was noted that the Coalition should maintain one year's funding reserve as well. Heather Black suggested we look at our membership structure and consider dues based on the size/budget of an organization. She said smaller organizations could have a lower fee. David Litman commented that perhaps we need a larger place to meet since we seem to have outgrown the current meeting space. Heather Black suggested we survey members to see who has ties to legislators. Mary said she'd also like other perspectives. The Advisory Committee has approved forming a workgroup to look at the future of the Coalition. She will name people to this. The workgroup is to report back prior to the September annual meeting. She said she'd like to see more join the Coalition, and said she saw strengths in diversity. Following this discussion, Dick Hatch moved that we approve the budget and work plan. The motion was seconded by Kay Castillo. They were approved without objection.

Mary asked that we look at the sheet developed on our priorities issues. We're asking for \$7 million for HBBG funding and funding for other issues. Rose Hoban with *NC Health News* had a great article about the data on aging in our state. Tracy Colvard got us national data on the payment rate for nurse aides. There are 1.28 million caregivers in this state. Gina mentioned the huge need for dental access and that she would like to see a workgroup on this issue. Mary asked for feedback about the format of the sheet on the priorities. Roger complimented the format and emphasized having good stories to share about our issues will be crucial. Alan reported, upon request from Mary, that home delivered meals provided by his agency cost \$7.99 but they are reimbursed \$2.99 through the Medicaid program. The impact of waiting is tremendous, and he mentioned an advocate for caregivers would be good. Mary mentioned we need to have contact with Senate leaders, including Sen. Hise who lives in Julie Wiggins' area.

Roger recommended a caregiver from that area go along with Julie to see Sen. Hise. Heather Black noted United Way did a survey to learn about what connections people had to see where to tap. Sarah Jacobson said a one minute video or pictures or quotes can be considered. There was lively discussion. Gina asked if it matters what district you're from when contacting legislators. The response was that legislators are generally more responsive to their own constituents. Teresa Matula said that the Division of Aging has demographic data that the legislators appreciate. Heather suggested we look at 2-1-1counts.org real time through United Way about what immediate needs are.

Mary reported that Bill Lamb, who was not able to be at the meeting, had wanted us to bring up the possibility of having a weekly call of aging advocates to update each other. AARP has offered a phone. Kay Castillo said NASW does this with NC Child and it works well. Dee Hatch wondered if every other week would work. Mary said she'd explore further. It was noted to do this would be a big commitment of time and effort.

Day at the Legislature

Last year we did the Day at the Legislature in May. Teresa Troup has volunteered to Chair the Planning Committee for the Day this year. Mary asked if everyone still supported setting up in a quadrant and doing visits with legislators? Kay mentioned both were useful. Teresa asked for volunteers to be on the Committee. The quadrant needs to be reserved immediately as many are already reserved. Teresa Matula shared that a lot happens in the Legislative Office Building so between the buildings might be a good place to catch a legislator. Dick Hatch said the Senior Tar Heel Legislature has established its Day at the Legislature. Mary Edwards confirmed it was March 15. The priorities for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature are very similar to our own.

DAAS report

Heather Burkhardt reported that the legislative report on Special Assistance is due April 1. Mary Edwards provides staff support to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The priorities of both groups are similar to ours. Heather said the Council is recommending PACE expansion as well. The position previously held by Nancy Warren's in Adult Services will be posted later in the day.

Updates from others

Gina announced that tomorrow at 7:00 a.m., the People's Pharmacy will be talking about geriatrics and de-prescribing. Sandy Gregory said that NCCOA's annual meeting will be in Winston-Salem, and more information can be found at NCAOA website. The N.C. Coalition to Address Adult Abuse's next meeting will be held on March 15 and their annual meeting will be May 17. Karen Appert noted that the SGS meeting will be in Asheville on April 6-9. Margaret Kirkman announced that Chandra Henson from Catawba County is the new president of the NC Adult Foster Care Association. Adam Svolto from the Justice Center reported that Charlotte and Fearington will have screening of the film "Care" in the near future. It was also shared that the NC PACE Association's annual conference is May 4-5, 2017.

Next Meeting

	Feb. 24, 2017 at 10 AM	
HANDOUTS		
Agenda and treasurer reports and draft working plan for year and information from Teresa Matula		
Who	Assignments	WHEN
Mary	Send out updates and coordinate in looking towards our Coalition meeting on February 24.	Soon
Alan	Keep books and manage account	Soon
Marty	Will route draft minutes to Mary	Prior to next meeting
****NEXT MEETING****		
Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Feb. 24 th , 2017, Friday	N.C. Coalition on Aging meeting	<i>DAAS offices on Dix campus</i>