

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2016

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Martha Lamb, Secretary

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Mary Bethel, President
Alan Winstead, Treasurer
Martha Lamb, Secretary
Bill Lamb, Past-President
Sarah Jacobson, American Heart Association
Yvetta Smith, NC Baptist Aging Ministry
Melinda Munden, NCDOL/SHIIP
Randolph Cloud, Randolph Cloud and Associates
Pam Palmer, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Julie Wiggins, N.C. Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Teresa Johnson Troup, NC Adult Day Services Association
Frances Messer, NC Assisted Living Association
Chandra Henson, NC Adult Foster Care Association
Joan Pelletier, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Ana Pardo, N.C. Justice Center
Margaret Toman, Friend of Residents in LTC and Gold Coalition
Craig Burrus, Wake County DHS
Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh
Kenneth Wilkins, NCDOL
Tracy Colvard, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care of NC
Polly Williams, NC Justice Center
Karen Appert, Southern Gerontological Society; Gerontology Student
Dennis Streets, Chatham Co. COA, NC Association on Aging
Steve Hahn, AARP NC
Nancy Ruffner, NAVIGATE N.C.
Dick Hatch, Access Dental Care
Dee Hatch, Aging Advocate
Sandy Gregory, NC Assoc. on Aging/NC Baptist Aging Ministry
Carol Meyer, The Carolinas Center
Kay Castillo, NASW-NC
Susan Hellmer, Friends of Residents in LTC Student Intern
Doug Dickerson, AARP NC
Sharnese Ransome NC Association of County Directors of Social Services

On phone:
Janice Tyler, Orange Co. COA; Vice-President
Aimee Reimann, Carolina Senior Care/NC PACE
Dave Beijer, CarePartners/NC PACE
Heather Altman, Carrol Woods

OBJECTIVE , THE MEETING : To receive an update, to hear speakers present their proposals for inclusion of priorities for the Coalition for the coming year, and to consider the process for voting on legislative agenda and plan.

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

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Introductions and Review of minutes	Mary welcomed the group and introductions of persons in attendance and on the phone were made. There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the August 26 and September 23 meetings which were e-mailed prior to the meeting.
Treasurer report and Membership renewals	Alan shared the Treasurer's report. We now have a balance of \$10,940.71. The N.C. Continuing Care Residents Association gave a donation in recognition of Mary Bethel being a speaker at their annual meeting. The Treasurer's report was accepted. There are 4 new organizational members and a few new individual memberships.
Debrief on September 23 rd annual meeting	82 people registered for the annual Coalition meeting/luncheon; 75 were in attendance. There were some students in attendance on scholarship. Mary read a note received since the meeting from Dot Crawford, the Pioneer Award winner. Thanks were offered to the Committee that planned this annual event. Mary referenced the diversity of those in attendance at the meeting, and noted that our strength is in our diversity.
Activities and Updates from Mary since August meeting	Amanda Boyer, Health and Aging Policy Fellow, will be looking at the return from investment on community based care. We signed on with 116 other organizations supporting strong pay day lending rules. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committees on HHS and Medicaid are getting under way. The Alzheimer's Task Force is looking at how to move plan recommendations forward. Mary attended DOI and Dual Eligibles committee meetings. She and other Coalition members on the Dual Eligibles Advisory Committee have been advocating for a continuum of care and adequate reimbursement for providers as recommendations are developed by the Advisory Committee. Mary was the closing speaker for Mental Health, Substance Use and Aging conference in Winston-Salem that had 220 people in attendance. AARP NC did a survey of voters and financial security was identified as a key concern by many respondents.
Report from Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)	Suzanne Merrill, DAAS Director, gave the report for DAAS. They have been active with Hurricane Matthew with local agencies on aging. Some gradual improvement is being seen but there are still many people in disarray, including many aging individuals. FEMA is here with community response teams going door to door with local aging staff in 7 of the hardest hit counties. It'll be a long term recovery. This week they finished the listening sessions on adult protective services and guardianship. They are developing a white paper to address the issues heard and will describe major findings and process. The listening sessions validated the need for housing, transportation, more protective services, more resources and more home and community based services. The white paper will be shared with the Governor's office. There were several legislators and local officials at some of the listening sessions. Suzanne shared that Dementia Friendly America held a very good conference attended by 165 people in Wake Forest. They shared their model to develop dementia friendly communities. There is now a dementia coordinator at the Division. Mark Hensley who led the Project Care initiative is now in that position. There will be a state Alzheimer's Coalition meeting between now and end of the calendar year. This Coalition will be networking with everyone. A lot of Alzheimer's training and education has been turned over to the Area Agencies on Aging. Project Care expansion has taken place. Contracts with Region O AAA, Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, and Region E AAA will make new family care consultants available to these areas. Region A will be the respite voucher administrator. Making good use of the money is expected. A voucher is for \$500 and families can have up to two a year. They can serve about 453 families with these vouchers. Families can choose the provider. DHHS is starting to work on their agenda for the legislative session. She noted that it will be good to have Secretary of HHS Rick Brajer at the Coalition's next meeting. She shared he will typically shake all our hands and then will want to hear our concerns. Mary said we may organize ourselves so we'll be focused in what we have to say to him. He'll want to know what's going well.

<p>Process for Development of 2017 Legislative Agenda</p>	<p>Attendees were referred to the list of issues submitted for consideration for the Coalition's 2017 legislative agenda. Mary noted that at the meeting today, there will be up to a three minute presentation by each person submitting an issue for consideration. A ballot will be developed for voting on issues and sent to Coalition members. Agency/organization/group members can vote, but not individuals, for their top three choices. There will be 3 points assigned for first choice, 2 points for the second, and 1 point for third (note: the Coalition's Executive Committee decided after the meeting, based on feedback received, to allow four choices instead of three). Dick Hatch said he attended by phone a Senior Task Force meeting. The NC Bar Association will be asking for uniform power of attorney legislation. He suggested we may want to consider adding this to our list for consideration. Mary indicated that they did not submit a request to us to have this included on our list for consideration, however, relevant issues sometimes come up during the session that are not on our legislative agenda, and we decide at that point about taking a position on them.</p> <p>After the votes are tallied, the Coalition will make recommendations on how many issues we put on our agenda. Mary noted in making this decision, we may want to consider such things as: Is it in keeping with our mission? What are the chances the issue will be favorably perceived and acted on by the General Assembly? Who is impacted? Is now the time or is more groundwork needed? Is there a downside to our recommending?</p> <p>Some on the issues on the list are the same because they were brought up by different persons. We may combine issues when the ballot is developed for voting.</p>
<p>Presentations on issues submitted for consideration for legislative agenda and discussion</p>	<p>The presentations on the issues began with Doug Dickerson from AARP NC. He thanked Suzanne Merrill for her work. Doug said in considering issues, we should think about which ones are legacies from previous administrations and which can be rebranded for now. He noted that some of the recommendations in the Alzheimer's State Plan are getting new traction. He then shared information on the "Work and Save" issue. He began by stating that many people now do not have pensions and 55 million people can not save through their pay check. It's too hard for many low income persons to obtain an IRA now. If there is money voluntarily taken out for payroll deduction for an IRA he sees this as being an improvement. Under such a Work and Save Plan, the savings plan could be administered by the State Treasurer. Upfront cost could be born to set up the process. The cost to the state would be nothing.</p> <p>Doug also spoke about the issue to propose a state coordinator for protection of citizens. A recent AARP poll found that many older adults have great concern about fraud.</p> <p>Dennis Streets with the Chatham County Council on Aging spoke to the request for \$7 million in recurring funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG). The Block Grant supports many services across the state primarily for non-Medicaid near poor persons. There have been three reductions in funding in recent years while the population in need increases. The Block Grant funds such things as in-home aides, home delivered meals, and transportation. Thank you notes from recipients for Block Grant services were read. Julie Wiggins, representing the NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging, added that in looking at Medicaid reform, the Block Grant is an investment in the continuum of care and in the quality of care. Dick Hatch added we continue to advocate every year for Block Grant funding, and this needs to be recurring funding. There are 9400 people on the waiting list for HCCBG services. Doug Dickerson asked about fund raising for services, and if the state is incentivizing private sector donations. It was noted that one of the issues of private grants is restricted funds that don't help with all the extended needs. There is a ten percent match required for the state and federal funds. Teresa Troup added that adult day services are currently losing money when they serve people through the Block Grant. The question was asked where are the champions for aging in the legislature? Who can we nurture? Rep. Avilla and Senator Barefoot and Representative Dollar were noted.</p> <p>Les Geller addressed the issue of training in cultural competence for staff working with LGBT persons. He stated that the LGBT population will double by 2030. Regulations for training to assure that persons in facility will be welcoming and safe were recommended. Doug Dickerson added that the amount of discrimination is appalling. He supported training but noted that the</p>

legislative route may not be the best way to proceed. Mary added that education and outreach are important, and Bill commented that issue in facilities is important as well. Mention was made that the NC Culture Change Coalition is looking at this. The NC Division of Health Services Regulation is taking the lead on this with adult care as well as nursing homes. Doug asked if change could be directed through the new Governor or legislature. Bill Lamb added that federal regulations address that states provide training in skilled nursing facilities.

Ana Pardo with the NC Justice Center spoke to the need for increasing the reimbursement rate for Medicaid PCS and CAP-DA services. Because of the low rate, worker turnover is high and many workers work long hours and often take on multiple jobs. An increase in the Medicaid rates to \$17.73/hour is needed to bring the rate for these services to the national average. Tracy Colvard with the Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC also spoke to the need for an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate. He stated that it is not anecdotal any more that providers are leaving the field. Doug Dickerson stated that a million dollars more was put in CAP DA by the legislature last year. It was noted that this was specified for new slots. It is close to impossible to find workers to provide personal care services said one person. Discussion was also had as to whether to ask that 50% of any rate increase be passed directly to staff wages.

Sharnese Ransome with the NC County Directors of Social Services discussed the need for increased funding for adult protective services (APS) and guardianship services. County Departments of Social Services (DSS) APS and guardianship cases has been on the increase. There has been a 50% increase of wards of DSSs - many of them young adults. She noted that \$7 million is need for APS and \$5 million is needed for guardianship. There is also a request for funding a comprehensive evaluation of APS as was done with child APS. Joan Pellettier asked if it was better to separate the funding request from the request for a comprehensive evaluation. Sharnese advised against this.

Frances Messer with the NC Assisted Living Association (90% of the members' residents are self-pay) said they are trying to keep persons in their communities but they can not keep them when they become Special Assistance eligible. Members of her association report that they lose \$400 to \$500 per month when a resident goes on Special Assistance. They are asking that the Coalition support increasing funding of the Special Assistance program. Frances also noted that another issue is that the special needs allowance for residents who receive Special Assistance has not been increased in years.

Kay Castillo with NASW, NC Chapter, spoke to the issue of supporting working caregivers and enhancing the FMLE definitions. It would help many people to expand FMLE so that it could be made available for grandchildren. She also requests that social workers being hired with any increase in APS funding have a degree in social work. There were diverse views on this.

Mary Bethel noted that Margaret Toman had to leave the meeting early but she wanted the Coalition to consider recommending that a stipend be established for family caregivers.

"Lack of Independent communities accepting Medicaid funding" was an issue that had been submitted by Scott Tenbroeck. Since he was not present to speak to the issue, Mary referred those at the meeting to the information submitted by Scott on this.

The proposal to support legislative efforts to close the coverage gap in North Carolina to assure access to health care for adults earning up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level was shared. This was submitted by Betsy Vetter with the American Heart Association on behalf of the Care4Carolina Coalition. Sarah Jacobson with the Heart Association passed around a resolution of support for closing the gap. Mary noted that the Coalition had been asked to sign on to the resolution. After discussion, Alan Winstead made a motion we sign on to this resolution and be supportive of efforts to close the coverage gap. The motion was seconded by Joan Pellettier and approved by all in attendance.

Aimee Reimann spoke to the issue of mandating that PACE be available in all 100 counties. PACE covers services within its capitation rate. Enrollment in PACE is capped and there has been no expansion in three years. Teresa Troupe commented that 1800 persons are currently

Announcements	<p>being served. Dennis Streets asked what evaluation of the PACE program has been done. Aimee said evaluation was done two years ago. He asked if acuity needs were being assessed.</p> <p>Julie Wiggins spoke about the need for establishing a N.C. Study Commission on Aging as a means of getting aging needs looked at. Dennis Streets added that legislative champions were groomed in the past through this kind of Commission. Mary noted that since the General Assembly had eliminated the Study Commission several years ago, perhaps the issue should be worded to establish a legislative committee to study issues (make it more general).</p> <p>Following the presentation on all the issues for consideration, Polly Williams asked if there would be a cap on the number of issues on the Coalition's legislative agenda? Mary responded that we would see how the voting turned out and as a Coalition would vote at the December 9 meeting about the number of issues to include. An email ballot will be sent out before Thanksgiving. Each agency/organization/group member of the Coalition can vote.</p> <p>Karen Appert announced during introductions that the Southern Gerontological Society Conference will be April 6-9, 2017 in Asheville, NC.</p> <p>Mary noted that we need to think about what committees we want for next year. Also, development of the work plan and budget for 2017 will begin soon.</p> <p>Organizational announcements: Bill Lamb shared that a new lawyer referral service is available through Friends of Residents in Long Term Care.</p> <p>Mary reminded everyone that Secretary of DHHS Rick Brajer will be at the December meeting.</p> <p>Mary noted that since our next meeting will be the last one before the holidays, perhaps we should have some goodies and take time to socialize as a Coalition. She invited those who were willing to bring goodies to do so.</p> <p>There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.</p>
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HANDOUTS

Agenda, Treasurer's report and issues for consideration for legislative recommendations

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Mary	Send out updates and ballots and coordinate in looking towards our next Coalition meeting	Soon
Allen	Keep financial books	Ongoing
Marty	Will route draft minutes to Mary	Before next meeting

******NEXT MEETING******

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Tues., Dec. 9, 2016 10 AM	Monthly meeting	DAAS conference room

