

MEETING DATE: Oct. 27, 2017

SUMMARY OF: N.C. Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb

<b>TO:</b>	<b>D I S T R I B U T I O N</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>  Mary Bethel, Coalition President Alan Winstead, Wake Meals on Wheels; Coalition Treasurer Marty Lamb, Coalition Secretary Bill Lamb, FOR-LTC; Coalition Past-President Margaret Toman, FOR-LTC Nancy Warren, Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Teresa Johnson Troup, Individual Member and Oak Hill Living Center Pam Palmer, Triangle J AAA and Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Robert Leonard, NC-BAM Sandy Gregory, NCBAM Craig Burrus, Wake County Human Services Tod Carver, Individual Member and MSW Student at NC State Nancy Smith, NC AFCA Vanessa Broadhurst, NC AFCA Hank Bowers, NC DAAS Charles Gray, Transitions Life Care Nathan Robison, Woodland Terrace Mary Edwards, NC DAAS Roger Manus, Campbell Senior Law Clinic and Governor's Advisory Council on Aging Leah Proctor, NC 211 Janeen Gordon, Durham County DSS Ana Pardo, NC Justice Center Suzanne Merrill, NC DAAS Tracy Colvard, AHHC of NC Karen Appert, Southern Gerontological Society Shaneka Grimer, NC Office of Minority Health Rosalyn Pettyford, NC Adult Guardianship Assoc.
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Amanda Gerende  
Carol Kelly  
Lacey Cottingham, MSW Student at NC State  
Danielle Norris, Oak Hill Living Center Intern  
Mary-Clara McAlister, Universal Health Care Intern  
Kelly Peterson, NASW intern  
Mark Hensley, NC DAAS (Speaker)  
Ryan Hill, NC DHHS Communications Office (briefly)  
Cullen Browder and Camera Man, WRAL TV (briefly)

On phone:

Dick Hatch, Individual Member and Advocate  
Dee Hatch, Individual Member and Advocate  
Joan Pelletier, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse  
Julie Wiggins, Region D COG and NC Assoc. of AAAs  
Chanelle Croxton, National Domestic Workers Alliance  
Linda Shaw, NC PACE Association  
Jeff Horton, NC Assoc. of Long Term Care Facilities  
Kathryn Doddridge, Sandhills Adult Day Care Center

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING: to hear updates including from Mary Bethel and Suzanne Merrill of State DAAS; to hear presentation on Alzheimer’s State Plan; to discuss federal, state and other developments related to aging; to discuss plans for 2018; and to have sharing by Coalition members.

**\*\*\*\*PROGRESS AND DECISIONS\*\*\*\***  
*What key decisions were made during the meeting?*

**SUBJECT**

Introductions	Persons identified themselves and the organizations they represented. It was noted that a number of students were in attendance and a number of regular attendees were absent because they were attending the program at the UNC Business School on the Economics of Aging
Minutes	The minutes from last two meetings were approved. The Treasurers report was delayed as Treasurer Alan Winstead was not yet present.
Activities and Updates Since June Meeting	Mary shared a number of items. She mentioned new members who had joined our organization (Missy Klutz and Dr. Jim Johnson). <i>Updates</i> were mailed out in September and October and Mary has attended numerous meetings on behalf of the Coalition. Roger Manus, Chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging, has put together a leadership roundtable that both Mary and Bill Lamb attended. The Senior Tar Heel Legislature had their annual meeting, and Mary, along with several other Coalition member representatives, were on a panel there about advocacy and issues before Congress and the legislature. An Aging subcommittee of the Joint Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services has been set up, and there is excitement about that. Rep. Josh Dobson and Sen. Joyce Krawiec are the co-chairs of this. Teresa Matula will be the lead staff person for the subcommittee. Several members of the Coalition are on a steering committee for the NC Eldercare Workforce Coalition. There are listening sessions on CAP-DA (Medicaid waiver program which helps people stay in their homes) being held around the state including one scheduled for October 31 in this same room. Bill Lamb will be offering comments on behalf of the Coalition. A new Genworth report on the costs of long term care services in each state is out. Of particular note is the fact that N.C. has one of the lowest rates for adult day care of any state. Teresa Troup added that although this report is called a cost study it is really a “fee” study. A link to this study was shared in a recent <i>Update</i> from Mary.
DAAS Report	Suzanne Merrill, Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), introduced Hank Bowers, the Division’s new Assistant Director. Hank has extensive work experience in planning and came to the Division in September from the Division of Social Services. She also noted the establishment of the Aging subcommittee and noted that an announcement about a November meeting of the subcommittee will be forthcoming. An interim report from the subcommittee is due in March 2018. The Division received a number of applications for their annual aging awards. They will announce the award winners soon. She noted that DHHS will be publishing comments/reactions soon on the white paper released on Medicaid transformation. In response to questions, she ended her report by providing an update on House Bill 630 that addresses social services reform. An RFP has been issued to receive proposals for a contractor. A comprehensive study of Departments of Social Services will be done. There are 10 areas to be studied regarding data, communication, performance, etc. Between now and Nov. 16, bidders will be submitting proposals. A working group is

<p>State's Strategic Plan for Addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders - Mark Hensley</p>	<p>being convened by the UNC School of Government. It will meet again next week to continue to look at regionalization and supervision. A plan is due by April 15, 2018. DHHS is to have written agreements which address children and adult services with all local departments of social services by July 1, 2018. The House bill excludes Medicaid but Special Assistance, Work First etc. are included. Mary Bethel announced that the Coalition's Executive Committee has a meeting scheduled with Michael Beckett, DHHS Assistant Secretary for Human Services, coming up to discuss aging issues and House Bill 630 will be on the agenda to discuss. Nancy Warren suggested we put a link on the Coalition's website to the School of Governments information about the work group and the legislation.</p> <p>Mary introduced Mark Hensley and then left the meeting briefly to conduct an interview with Cullen Browder with WRAL TV on the Medicare observation policy issue. Mark is the Dementia Services Coordinator with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services. He began by noting that Alzheimer's/dementia is a lifespan issue and a public health issue. His presentation is titled "Dementia Capable North Carolina" (a copy of handouts from his presentation were e-mailed to Coalition members prior to the meeting). The bulk of the funding to help support the development of the Plan came from the Duke Endowment. State legislation called for the establishment of a Plan which focused on 16 areas such as how do we address needs of unpaid caregivers and safety concerns. The Plan was developed under the guidance of a work group pulled together by the NC Institute of Medicine. The Plan was published in March of 2016. At the same time as the Plan was being developed, the Dementia Friendly America effort was taking off. Eradicating stigma, enhancing quality of life, supporting caregivers and reaching out to others touched by the disease are some of the areas to be addressed by the initiative. Promoting meaningful participation in community life and reaching those who are underserved are others.</p> <p>Mark noted that the NC General Assembly has continued to back Plan recommendations on raising awareness and eradicating stigma. Transformation of attitudes is needed. It's important to have planning and legal documents in place. He also spoke about the need for community engagement with grassroots organizations; promoting family planning, aging preparation, early screening and diagnosis; promoting brain health initiatives; and increasing family education. DAAS has Dementia Friendly initiative going on in Asheville, Wilmington, Charlotte, and Sylva. Ten more communities have expressed interest. Duke, UNC, and ECU are schools doing training to address some of the issues.</p> <p>Mark added having supportive options that foster quality of life is a need. 75% of people with Alzheimer's are admitted to a nursing home by age 80. Medicaid costs are 19 times as high for older adults with dementia. Access to care is often difficult to navigate. \$100 spent on respite care can prevent institutionalization for a week. There are now respite vouchers available to provide temporary and intermittent relief to families. Promoting 211 for all human services needs is supported. He pointed out the need for supporting caregivers and families. The caregiver ratio will change from 8/1 in 2010 to 3.9/1 in 2030. Community-based supports, including respite, delay institutionalization. He also offered that extensive waiting lists for HCBS limit caregiver options for care. Employed caregivers face logistical and financial</p>
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difficulties when providing care. Caregivers are at risk for stress, depression and declining personal health. Individuals with dementia are at risk for fraud, abuse, financial exploitation, self-neglect and may need guardianship. Wandering, falls and driving are safety risks for persons with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

He noted that efforts are under way for reaching those who are underserved. The prevalence of dementia is significantly higher with African Americans, Latinos, and those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Deaths related to dementia are highly underreported. Participation in clinical trials has led to successful research. Prevalence data is currently estimated.

Mark shared his contact information which is Mark Hensley, Dementia Services Coordinator with NCDHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services, 919-855-3417. [Mark.Hensley@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Mark.Hensley@dhhs.nc.gov).

Linda Shaw, who was on the phone, asked about the absence of the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) being listed as a backer on this. With PACE 50% of participants have dementia, but they are not mentioned in this presentation. Mark reported that in the full Plan there are partners listed and DMA is mentioned significantly but they are bound by Medicaid laws. New models of care as alternative to hospitalization are listed in the full report. There was also a question on caregiver homes (ex. where live-in or nonpaid person with a stipend of about \$75 a day and where information is sent to a hub with nurse and PT, etc. and they are then triaged in community) and whether this is a possibility being explored. Also, how does CAP-Choice play into this. Mark said there are still many questions to be addressed.

Update on  
Federal and  
State  
Develop. –  
Mary Bethel  
and Others  
Who Track  
Federal and  
State Issues

Mary reported the State Legislature has gone home and is not expected back until January 10. Legislative Committees are meeting in the interim. Since this will be a short legislative session, the Executive Committee recommends that the Coalition look at what was not addressed on our legislative agenda for 2017 as well as see what else might bubble up to the surface. The new Aging Subcommittee should be a conduit for getting legislation introduced. On the federal level, health care reform legislation did not pass, but there seems to be a lot of efforts by the President to chip away at the ACA by executive order. Tax reform is a major consideration now nationally, and we'll see what happens with this. Information was sent out in the last *Update* about this. The 401-K issue and how it will be handled will be worth watching. The possible elimination of the medical deduction is a concern to many people with large medical bills. The NC Continuing Care Residents Association has started an advocacy effort to get Congress to keep the medical deduction. Cindi Barker, an Association member, is the contact for information on this. The projected increase in future debt may impact Medicare and Medicaid. Tax reform legislation may pass before the end of the year. There has been a recent change to the benefit configuration by the USDA for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which means that some people will receive a slightly reduced monthly allotment of food stamps. Funding for the HCBG is still vulnerable, but nothing is new on this. Bill Lamb reported he had received an Action Alert from Consumer Voice to

Report on Annual Meeting	<p>advocate for maintaining new nursing home rules.</p> <p>Bill Lamb reported we had a positive annual meeting, and the speaker joined the coalition. The award winners were very pleased. There were four sponsors. Tom Akins'(Leading Age) father died this week (Leading Age was one of the annual meeting sponsors).</p>
Plans for 2018	<p>Mary indicated there will be a committee set up in 2018 to look at seeking 501(c)3 status and at the bylaws revisions proposed by the workgroup on the future direction of the Coalition.</p>
Sharing by Coalition Members	<p>Mary shared that a notice was received from Public Citizen about joining a call to action for lower prescription drug prices should people wish to respond to this. She also pointed out information from AARP about a Veteran's Day weekend event on Nov. 11 to honor veterans at the Battleship Park in Wilmington and about the 2017 NC Bike/Walk Summit in Wilmington on Nov. 3-4. Transitions Life Care will have an event on Nov. 2 from 4 until 6 p.m. and Coalition members are invited. Margaret Toman reported that the FOR in LTC annual meeting was held and was enjoyable and successful. Nancy Warren encouraged people to join the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse. The next meeting will be on Nov. 15 at the Judicial Center. Sandy Gregory reported that the NCAOA annual meeting will be at the Great Wolf Lodge on March 14-15, 2018, and there is now a call for presenters. NCBAM set a record by building 321 ramps in a day. They work with 4300 Baptist churches across the state to do the ramps. Mary asked about average cost of a ramp. Sandy responded the cost is about \$30 a foot,</p>
Treasurer's Report	<p>Treasurer Alan Winstead was now present and gave the Treasurer's report. The present balance is \$17,624.28 as of Oct.23<sup>rd</sup>.</p>
Continuing of Sharing by Coalition Members	<p>Durham County DSS has a new director, Ben Rose from Cabarrus County. November is Alzheimers' Awareness month, Residents' Rights Month, and Breast Care Awareness month. Bill Lamb reported that FOR-LTC is looking at developing policy priorities for the year, so now is the time to share input on this. He also noted that FOR was chartered in 1987 so it is 30 years old. Jeff Horton asked if the increase in Social Security will impact eligibility for residents receiving Special Assistance. Suzanne Merrill said recipients would be eligible for Medicaid and that usually allows residents to stay in a facility when their Social Security increases.</p> <p>Julie Wiggins shared information about the Life Span Respite program which supports caregivers across the state of persons of any age with a \$500 voucher for respite care. The High Country Aging AAA can be contacted for more information about this program. Applications are processed quickly. The AAA will have a care transitions summit next</p>

<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Friday.</p> <p>Linda Shaw of the PACE Association reported that PACE listening sessions are being held across the state. The next sessions will be in Fayetteville and Pittsboro. Anyone interested in PACE is encouraged to attend. Karen Appert reported that the SGS meeting will be on April 11-14 at Lake Lanier in Georgia. Abstracts are due December 1.</p> <p>Mary reminded everyone that the next Coalition meeting will be on December 8 here in the Brown Building. Everyone is invited to bring holiday snacks to share with the group. A combined November/December meeting of the Coalition is held each year in early December. The meeting was adjourned.</p>	
<p>Hand-outs: agenda, NC-BAM information, Dementia Capable NC information, Alzheimer's caregivers' information</p>		
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<p style="text-align: center;">****NEXT MEETING****</p>		
<p>Day / Date / Time</p>	<p>WHAT</p>	<p>Where</p>
<p>Friday Dec. 8, 2017 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Next Coalition meeting</p>	<p><i>Brown Building Dix campus</i></p>
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