

NC Coalition on Aging- Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2018

Present:

Tracy Colvard - Board Chair, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care
Mary Bethel - Ex. Director
Charmaine Fuller Cooper – Chair Elect, AARP NC,
Chad Walker – Secretary/Treasurer - Transitions LifeCare
Bill Lamb – Past President, FOR in Long Term Care
Martha Fowler, Board Member, SEANC
Frances Messer – Board Member, NC Assisted Living Assoc.
Ray Riordan – Board Member, The Carolinas Center
Mary Edwards - NC DAAS
Pam Palmer - Triangle J AAA, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse, FOR in Long Term Care
Nancy Warren - NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Carol Kelly - NC Guardianship Assoc., Rethinking Guardianship
Margaret Toman - FOR in Long Term Care, Consumer
Leslie Jones - NC DAAS
Carla Obiol - Care4Carolina
Angela Ellis - Greene County DSS
Nancy Ruffner – Navigate NC
Leah Proctor – NC 2-1-1
Suzanne Martin, NC Oral Health Collaborative
George Smith – STHL Johnston Co.
Jimmy Parker – CSS Johnston Co.
Pat Martin – CSS Johnston County
Lee Little – Durham Co. DSS
Nancy Francis – Center for Volunteer Caregiving
Chanelle Croxton – National Domestic Workers Alliance
Leslie Roseboro – LeadingAge NC
Rosalyn Pettyford – AARP NC
Roger Manus – Campbell Law School, Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging
Sal Cammarata – Allen Real Estate
Shazia Keller – WG Alexander & Associates, NC Bar Assoc. Elder Law and Special Needs Section
Alan Winstead – Meals on Wheels of NC, Meals on Wheels of Wake Co.
Catherine Goldman – Wake County Human Services
Joyce Massey-Smith – NC DAAS
Marty Lamb – FOR in Long Term Care
Dawanda Hollaway – Social Work student from NC State (Marty Lamb’s intern)
Preston Craddock – Greene Co. DSS
Tony Davis – NC Div. of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Ana Pardo – NC Justice Center
2 Interpreters

On the phone:

Janice Taylor – Board Member, Orange Co. Dept. on Aging
Heather Altman – Carol Woods CCRC
Karen Appert – S. Gerontological Society
Jeff Horton – NC Senior Living Assoc.
Linda Shaw – NC PACE Assoc.
Paola Learoyd, Randolph Cloud and Associates
Tracy Honeycutt, NC Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging, Mid-Carolina AAA
Janeen Gordon, Durham County DSS
Denise Matthewson, A Helping Hand

Opening Remarks and Introductions

- Tracy Colvard was introduced as new chair
- Charmaine Fuller Cooper was thanked for chairing the last meeting

Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2018 Meeting

- One correction- October is Residents Rights Month (not November)
- Motion to be approved- Roger Manus and second by Martha Fowler. Approved with correction.

Review of Financial Report

- Submitted and Presented by Chad Walker, Treasurer. Balance of \$17,557.78.
- Motion to be approved- George Smith and second by Pat Martin. Approved as presented..

Update from Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of Aging and Adult Services

- Presented by Joyce Massey-Smith, Director of Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Division is working on changes with federal reporting.
- Department has several leadership changes (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/leadership>)
 - Susan Perry-Manning- Principal Deputy Secretary
 - Tara Myers- Deputy Secretary for Human Services
 - Michael Becketts- Still Assistant Secretary for Human Services
 - Joyce still reports to Michael
- Suggestion to invite Tara Myers to a Coalition meeting soon.
- DAAS is interviewing for Joyce's former Section Chief position.
- Joyce commended the great work of her staff and the Department during hurricane relief.
- Legislative package for Department:
 - Can't share at this time.
 - She has relayed our interests to the Department
 - Developing the proposal and budget
 - Wants to share with the Coalition (and vice versa) so we can work well together
- HB 630- Regionalization of Social Services (Rylan's Law):
 - Center for the Support of Families is the vendor creating the reformation plan

- Includes Aging Services
 - APS, Guardianship, and State/County Special Assistance
- Will have a public stakeholders session in February
 - Will invite Coalition leadership
 - Timing is intentional to tie in with other incentives (especially federal)
- Aging Plan (due to the General Assembly in the spring):
 - Briefing note is being prepared for Sec. Mandy Cohen next week
 - Appreciated the Governor Advisory Committee's comments on APS
 - Highlight what has been accomplished
- Housing Program at DAAS:
 - Hidden gem- HUD and Rental Assistance programs
 - Governor's Council on Coordinating Homelessness report due to Governor by end of month - Joyce represents senior services on that group
 - Most people who are homeless are 50+
- Community Inclusion for Persons with Serious Mental Illness- want to do more
 - Would 60 year old with mental illness fit in at a senior center?
 - Develop education, and work with others to include input
- State Ombudsman Report will be released soon
- 2nd Annual Older Adults and Opioid Symposium next week
 - Target audience for this is DSS and AAAs
 - Looking at adding providers next year
- Medicaid Transformation
 - Department has been addressing social determinates of health for a while
 - Joyce is trying to get the word out that the aging network is poised to be involved
 - Lot of great information about efforts on the website:
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/medicaid-transformation>
 - Resource Platform (2-1-1) – will help individuals with access and will be handed off to services
 - Trying to buy health and not just health care
 - Will use social determinants of health screening
- SNAP- working on developing trusted and easy application process
 - Meeting next week with Benefits Data Trust on strategies for doing this

Activities and Updates Since October Meeting

- Update went out on November 21
- Sent out information on mid-term Elections results
- Sent out information on Constitutional Amendments – We are particularly interested in the Voter ID issue. General Assembly has passed SB 824 to implement Voter ID. We sent suggestions/concerns relative to implementation to leadership in both the House and Senate.
 - Our proposal- if have Medicare card, why not exempt
 - Many new provisions
 - Absentee ballot fraud not addressed
 - Probably will end up in the courts
- SHIP- Final day of Medicare Open enrollment is today (December 7)

- Alzheimer’s Coalition- new name is Coalition for Dementia Capable NC
- Articles of Incorporation for the Coalition have been filled and approved
- Coalition invited to a meeting sponsored by NC Nurse Association on December 19 on Advanced Practice RN’s and expanding scope of practice
- Mary’s email hopefully will be safe soon. She apologized for the spam e-mail.

Update on Federal and State Developments

- Federal Budget- parts of it on hold due to funding for the wall debate
 - Federal Shutdown extension to December 21
 - Farm Bill tied up with the debate – this impacts SNAP
- Rules for public charge have been published and this has raised fear in Immigrants
 - 1 in 4 direct care workers are immigrants
 - Also concern for older immigrants
 - Comment period on the rule runs through December 10

Recommendations from Policy Committee of 2019 Legislative Priorities

- See handout
 - Priorities not in any order
 - Comments below are outside of what is on the handout
- 1. Support for APS Funding**
 - a. Angela Ellis noted that the turnover among APS is not as high as for CPS, but APS staff have many roles/responsibilities.
 - b. Cases have increased 5% per year and are more complex (seeing more persons with mental health problems).
 - c. Potentially a \$4 million request
 - d. Nancy Warren suggested that consideration be given to rewording the “ask” to get across the fact the state is really not providing financial support for APS (different wording other than “increase funding”)
 - 2. Ensure Safe and Affordable Housing**
 - a. County Commissioners Association would likely oppose expanding Homestead Property Tax Exemption
 - b. Consider adding a provision for the State to offset the county’s losses for the exemption
 - c. Mecklenburg Co. should be looked at as an example
 - 3. Increase funding for HCCBG**
 - a. Opioid Crisis is impacting this fund
 - 4. Close Health Insurance Coverage Gap**
 - a. If expand, 150,000 could get treatment that have opioid addiction.
 - b. Think Carolina Cares will be re-introduced
 - c. 63% in gap in NC are working
 - d. Lot of support from many groups
 - 5. Caregiver study**
 - a. Focused on keeping caregivers in the workforce
 - b. Know other issues will be brought up
 - c. Hope Aging Subcommittee gets behind this idea

- d. Effort being mounted to introduce paid family medical leave bill
- e. Look at Child Fatality Task Force Report

Discussion of Issues for Legislative Priorities and Vote on Priorities

- No institution-related priorities
 - Other groups are working together
- No PACE-related priorities
- Reminder that these are the priority areas, but the coalition will take a stand on many more issues that come up.
 - Need to add a general statement on this to priority sheet
- Policy Committee decided to focus on broad priorities that impact everyone, rather than industry-specific issues.
- Ideas: share submitted priorities/issues and where the coalition stands, have collaboration meetings where members can gather around priorities issues and other issues they care about to form issue-specific workgroups, add to agenda an update on activities/progression for the priority areas, and continue to have education at the meetings on broad and narrow issues
- Motion to approve by Nancy Warren and seconded by Bill Lamb.
- Unanimous approval

Sharing by Coalition Members

- Angela Ellis spoke on the Low income Energy Assistance program:
 - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/low-income-services/low-income-energy-assistance>
 - Applications for seniors are taken from Dec 1-31, then opens to all ages
 - Contact local DSS to apply or for information.
- SHIIP- today is last day for open enrollment
- Carol Kelly noted that the US Senate Special Committee on Aging has issued Report on Guardianship
 - <https://www.aging.senate.gov/press-releases/senate-aging-committee-examines-ways-to-strengthen-guardianship-programs>
- Leah Proctor spoke of the NC Care 360 Resource Platform
 - More will be shared later. Will see about having presentation at future meeting

Other Business

- Brief Board meeting will be held at the front of the room at the conclusion of the meeting

Adjourn for Holiday Cheer

Submitted:

Chad Walker, Secretary/Treasurer