

Minutes of March 23, 2018 Coalition on Aging Meeting

Participants in Attendance:

Mary Bethel, President
Janice Tyler, Vice-President/NCAOA/Orange Co. Dept. on Aging
Marty Lamb, Secretary
Alan Winstead, Treasurer/Wake Co. Meals on Wheels/ Meals on Wheels Assoc. of NC
Bill Lamb, Past-President/Friends of Residents in Long Term Care
Mary Edwards, NC DAAS
Pam Palmer, Triangle J AAA/NCPAAA
Leah Proctor, United Way/NC 2-1-1
Sarah Hammond, CSS Johnston County/NC Senior Center Alliance
Roger Manus, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging/Campbell Un. Senior Law Clinic
George Smith, NC STHL/CSS Johnston County
Jeff Horton, NC Senior Living Association
Karen Appert, Southern Gerontological Society
Nancy Ruffner, Navigate NC
Hank Bowers, NC DAAS
Laure Jane Ward, Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation/NC Rural Health Leadership Alliance
Carol Kelly, NC Guardianship Alliance/Rethinking Guardianship
Nancy Francis, Center for Volunteer Caregiving
Mark Valletta, Resources for Seniors
Melinda Munden, NC SHIIP
Van Braxton, NC SHIIP
Emily Duberman, United Way/NC 2-1-1
Suzanne Martin, NC Oral Health Collaborative
Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP NC
Joseph Wheeler, SAGE Raleigh
Lee Little, Durham County DSS
Elizabeth Page, NC Health News
Rose Hoban, NC Health News
Noelle Owusu-Akyaw, Nurse Care of NC
Katherine Freeman, NC State Student/Campbell Un. Senior Law Clinic
Rosalyn Pettyford, NC STHL
Bill Rowe, NC Justice Center
Lacy Cunningham, NCSU Intern
Linda Shaw, NC PACE Association/Speaker
Samuel Gunter, NC Housing Coalition/Speaker

Attendees on phone:

Pat Martin, CSS Johnston County
Kent Earnhardt, Advocate
Nathan Robison, Woodland Terrace
Jo Paul, NC SHIPP

Catherine Goldman, NC Adult Foster Care Assoc./Wake County Human Services
Julie Wiggins, High Country AAA/NC4A
Leslie Roseboro – LeadingAge
Dot Crawford, Advocate
Denise Matthewson, A Helping Hand
Teresa Troup, NC Adult Day Services Association

Welcome by Mary Bethel, President.

Introductions by all in attendance and on the phone.

Review of minutes from meeting on February 23, 2018 – approved with addition of Janice Tyler’s name as being in attendance.

Treasurer’s Report – Alan Winstead, Treasurer, reported a balance \$16,365.85 as of March 12, 2018.

Mary Bethel reported on activity since the last meeting including:

- Membership Renewals and New Members
 - One new agency/organization members – A Helping Hand.
 - Thanks to those of who have renewed
- March *Update* went out on Wednesday. Mary asked if there were questions about that or any of the other information sent to out this month? No questions were raised.
- Confirmed Michael Becketts for April 20 Meeting
- Attended lots of meetings including JOC on HHS and JOC on Medicaid and NC Health
- Talked with DSS Director’s Association Adult Services Committee on Coalition and Our Priorities on March 7
- Recommended Suzanne Black and Heather Burkhardt for DAAS Interstate Funding Formula Committee
- Met with Alexandra Sirota with NC Budget and Tax Center of the NC Justice Center on April 9 on the Pilot Project to Get Dual Medicaid/Medicare Recipients Signed Up for Food Stamps and Ways We Can Help to Support This
- Participate on Advocacy Panel at NCAOA Conference on March 14
- Getting Request from Candidate for Office for Support/Meetings – It was noted that we don’t support and will refrain from inviting candidates if have opposition until after elections. Linda Shaw noted that doing candidate forums is a good way to get in front of candidates and to raise issues.

Update from DHHS and DAAS – Hank Bowers, Assistant Director of DAAS, shared the following:

- Interagency Council on Coordinating Homeless Programs convened March 15 for its first meeting. This is chaired by Michael Becketts. The Council will be meeting bi-monthly. They will be working over the next year and will be making recommendations. Mary asked for statistics on homeless older adults. A Homeless Conference is scheduled for April 30/May 1 at McKimmon Center.
- Opportunities are being made available for obtaining comments on the State Aging Services Plan. There are listening sessions scheduled across the state including in Asheville on May 8, Kernersville on May 22, and Wilmington on May 30. Charmaine Fuller Cooper expressed concerns that no sessions are scheduled for northeastern North Carolina. Written comments can also be submitted. He will get information to Mary Bethel to mail to Coalition members.
- HB630 (Social Services and child welfare reform). Draft recommendations from the working group are under review and should be coming out soon regarding regional structure for supervision and law changes. A third party vendor for reform efforts, Center for Services for Families, has been selected. Recommendations are expected from the vendor in about a year. Work is under way to get contracts and performance measures for counties in place by July 1 for implementation next year.
- The Governor's Advocacy Council on Aging meets next Tuesday.
- Lisa Worth has been hired as the new housing program consultant at DAAS.
- DAAS is recruiting for the dementia coordinator position previously held by Mark Hensley who left to go to work for AARP NC.
- The interstate funding workgroup will be gearing up.

Mary Bethel recognized Rose Hoban and Elizabeth Page and thanked them for being at the meeting and for NC Health News' coverage of aging issues.

Mary next introduced Samuel Gunter, Policy Director with the NC Housing Coalition, for his presentation. Highlights from his presentation included: He shared some statistics. People who spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs are considered cost burdened. Those who spend 50% of their income on housing are considered severely cost burdened. Low income people cannot afford housing in any county in North Carolina. There are 190,000 needed units of housing not available in the state. With the tax changes, there are less incentives for developers to do affordable housing units. They are thinking more broadly about how communities think about housing. He noted that the largest subsidized housing is home ownership and the interest deduction. There is a ten year wait for housing vouchers and many landlords will not accept these. County housing data is available on their website. *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond is required reading about housing challenges. He also suggested that people should look at the YouTube video *Poverty and Profit in the American City*. *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein of the Economic Policy Institute. The Federal budget tax credit program is increasing by 12.5%. There are big increases in the HUD funding after the spending caps were eliminated. Housing is a social determinant of health and well-being. He noted that in our state,

the Housing Trust Fund program for urgent repair and critical repair has helped a lot of older adults, but the bottom line is there is just not enough funding available. He suggested that there is a need to be proactive in looking at housing challenges. Getting people with capital to invest in housing is a need. Another book he recommended is *Not a Crime to Be Poor* by Adleman.

Samuel did Q&A and after his remarks Mary thanked him for his informative presentation. She next introduced Linda Shaw, Executive Director with the NC PACE Association for her presentation. Linda shared information about the PACE program in North Carolina through a Powerpoint that had been mailed out to Coalition members prior to the meeting. She noted that the stated purpose of PACE is to keep people safely at home instead of in a nursing home. PACE began in the mid-70's in California as pilots looking not just at medical care but also at social needs of individuals – looking at the total person. The first PACE program opened in North Carolina in 2008 and most programs opened in 2013. Persons eligible for PACE are those 55 and over who are eligible for nursing home care and are able to live safely in a NC-PACE service area. During the last legislative session, the General Assembly called for a report about PACE. This report has been completed and is ready to be released. It calls for allowing existing PACE sites to expand. The expansion to more programs depends on the availability of funding. PACE is not offered statewide, but she would like to see this occur. They are presently in 36 counties. PACE programs are at full risk for providing all services to program participants. They are the insurer and the provider. They can only enroll participants on the first day of the month. The vast majority of persons (91%) have dual eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid, and 5% are only eligible for Medicaid benefits. 50% have dementia. Recipients receive a PACE card instead of a Medicaid card. The Division of Medical Assistance is the state administrative agency. It takes over a year to get a new program started. It can start with private funding and partnerships. Almost all PACE programs in the state are private non-profits. PACE program are required to be certified as adult day health centers. PACE will be a direct enrollment option of the state's managed care program when this is up and running.

Lind also fielded questions. Following this Mary thanked her for the very thorough presentation and the PowerPoint.

Update on Federal and State Developments was provided by Mary and others who track state and federal legislation. Information shared included:

- JOC on HHS reviewed their draft recommendations which included a recommendation from their aging subcommittee that the Co-chairs of the JOC on HHS allow the Subcommittee on Aging to continue its study of the State's delivery of services to older adults during the interim period following the 2018 Regular Session of the 2017 NC General Assembly. The recommendation met with approval.
- As has been reported, the federal government will shut down on March 23 if Congress fails to act on a massive FY 2018 Omnibus funding bill. Congressional leaders have

announced that they have reached agreement and the final vote will hopefully take place today and the President will sign before midnight. If not all done by the end of today, a short term continuing resolution is likely. This is an election year, and Congress wants to be able to go home and campaign that they received money for X,Y,Z programs. This will likely be the last major piece of legislation the President will sign before the midterm elections. We had been concerned about potentially devastating cuts to programs like SHIP, SCSEP, Chronic Disease Self-Management Education, and Elder Justice initiatives but it looks like these programs will come out O.K.

Mary provided a brief report on the work of the Coalition's Workgroup on Updating By-Laws, Seeking 501(c)3 Status and Long-Term Financial Sustainability of the Coalition. The Second meeting of the workgroup was held on March 5. David Heiner with NC Center for Non-Profits Talked with the group. The Workgroup is recommending that the Coalition join the NC Center for Non-Profits and that the Coalition move forward with seeing 501(c)(3) status by filing of articles of incorporation and drafting new by-laws. Linda Shaw raised concerns with the Coalition seeking 501(c)(3) status. Mary noted that the working group convened in 2017 had recommended that the Coalition proceed in this direction and the Coalition had approved.

Sharing by Coalition Members – Persons announced upcoming events such as the conference sponsored by SAGE that will be held at Five Points Senior Center. Twelve booths are left for this. The Southern Gerontological Society annual meeting will be in Lake Lanier, Ga. on April 11 through 14, The PACE Conference will be on April 12-13 at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham, the Center for Volunteer Caregiving will have a Lunch and Learn session at the Five Points Senior Center on June 5, and the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse's annual conference will be on May 16 at Wake Tech. The NC Oral Health Collaborative will hold its Day at the Legislature on June 5. Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will continue to hold listening sessions across the state.

Other Business – Bill Lamb shared that the Adult Care Licensure Section in the NC Division of Health Services Regulation has been tasked to complete a study of the NC Star Rated Certificate Program as mandated by S.L. 2017-184. The study shall evaluate the effectiveness of the program in providing information to consumers and a workgroup on the Star Rating System has been pulled together to do this study and to make recommendations. A brief survey to gather consumers' feedback on the Star Rating system has been developed. To complete the survey, go to <https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/acls/star/search.asp> and click on the top link on the left side of the page labeled "Facility Inspections, Ratings and Penalties." Browser must have pop-ups enabled. The survey will remain posted until July 31, 2018. Coalition members were encouraged by Mary to complete the survey.

Two additional reminders were (1) the workgroup collecting stories about the needs of older adults and addressing these is still welcoming stories and (2) CAP/DA Stakeholder Engagement Small Group Discussion Sessions are being held across the state.

The meeting was adjourned a little after 12:00. The next meeting will be on April 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown Building.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Lamb