

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2017

SUMMARY OF: NC Coalition on Aging Meeting

RECORDED BY: Marty Lamb, Secretary

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In attendance:

Mary Bethel, President

Marty Lamb, Secretary

Bill Lamb, Past President (Friends of Residents in LTC)

Janice Tyler, Vice-President (Orange County Dept. of Aging)

Margaret Toman, Consumer and Friends or Residents in LTC

Frances Messer, NC Assisted Living Association

Julie Wiggins, NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Suzanne Merrill, NC DAAS

Pat Martin, Johnston Co. Community Senior Services

Tracy Colvard, Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC

Zach Nissen, Food Bank Central and Eastern NC

Craig Burrus, Wake Co. DHS

Jo Paul, NC SHIIP

Joan Pelletier, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse

Susan Meador, The Center for Volunteer Caregiving

Sandy Gregory, NC Assoc. on Aging, NC-BAM

Janeen Gordon, Durham County Dept. of Social Services

Leah Proctor, NC 211

Ana Pardo, N.C. Justice Center

John Thoma, Transitions Life Care

Bob Konrad, Friends of Residents in LTC

Van Braxton, NC SHIIP

On phone:

Dick Hatch, Advocate and Individual Member

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Stephen Kulawiak, Nurse Care N.C.

Ellen Schneider, NC Mental Health, Substance Abuse, & Aging Coalition

Dorothy Crawford, Advocate and Individual Member

Nathan Robinson, Woodland Terrace

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING : To update each other and plan

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

What key decisions were made during the meeting?

SUBJECT	SHARING
Introductions and Review of minutes	<p>We informally discussed electronic challenges and older adults being targeted by phone and other scams. Mary announced that Rep. Donna White was unable to come to speak today as she has caregiving responsibilities for her father. The NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse was congratulated on a successful annual meeting attended by 140 people. The Center for Volunteer Caregiving was also recognized for their 25th anniversary. Persons in attendance introduced themselves. The minutes of the April 28 meeting were approved.</p>
Treasurer report	<p>Alan Winstead was absent as he was at his son's college graduation but he left the Treasurer's report. We have a balance of \$15,796.75. Thanks was extended to those who renewed their membership since the last meeting. Woodland Terrance/Kisco Senior Living and the N.C. Mental Health, Substance Use and Aging Coalition were announced as new members.</p>
Mary's activities and update since April	<p>Materials sent out since the last meeting were noted including the summary of the Senate budget proposal. Mary has reached out to several organizations about sponsoring our annual meeting that will be on September 22. If other organizations would like to be a sponsor, they are encouraged to contact Mary. Mary attended several meetings to represent the Coalition. There has been significant legislative advocacy. Mary has been active with other members of the Coalition in making visits with legislators on behalf of the Coalition's priorities.</p>
Report from DAAS	<p>Suzanne Merrill, Director of DAAS, shared information from NASUAD about anticipating FY 17 federal funding for aging program. She noted that the Administration for Community Living has modest increases for nutrition and HCBS supportive services. There is great concern about the funding for SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) under the Dept. of Labor where an 8% reduction is expected. A cut of this magnitude would impact 233 slots under DAAS and 911 slots by national contractors in North Carolina. There is also a significant likely cut in Community Service Block Grant funding. We do not use this for aging service funding in the state. Another concern is a reduction in funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Van Braxton with NC SHIIP shared that there is likely a \$1.54 million cut to SHIIP. Congressman Price has indicated that funding for SHIIP is one of his top five priorities. Mary mentioned that Sen. Murphy from Kentucky has done an open letter in support of SHIP and is asking</p>

Senators to sign on to this.

Suzanne reported that World Elder Abuse and Awareness Month is this month. DAAS has wrapped the trees near their office on the Dix campus with purple ribbon in honor of this. She commented that those who attended the Partnership to Address Adult Abuse Conference this week were energized. A question was asked about the provision in the budget plan to continue the pilot program to increase access to public benefits. Suzanne noted that a private non-profit called Benefits Data Trust out of Maryland is the contractor for this. She suggested that we consider contacting Wayne Black with the NC Division of Social Services about having a presentation on this at a future Coalition meeting.

Follow-up from
DHHS
presentation at
last meeting

Mary shared that follow up thank you's were extended to the leadership of NC DHHS who attended our last meeting, and we have received nice responses back from them. Alan, Frances Messer, and several other providers and association representatives have met with Assistant Secretary for Human Services Michael Beckett since our last meeting. Suzanne added that Mr. Beckett did want to reach out to organizations. The comment was made that he had done a lot to support aging when he was the DSS Director in Durham County.

Update on
Legislative
Developments
related to Aging

Mary reported on bills that made crossover/still eligible for consideration that might be of interest to us including:

HB 702 (Seniors Tuition Waiver at Community Colleges)

SB 594 (Family/Child Protection and Accountability Act - would established no more than 30 regional social service departments. We had been concerned that aging services were not mentioned).

HB 248. (Support for Older Adults - This bill would establish a subcommittee of the joint LOC of HHS that may study aging issues and also includes provisions related to the LTC ombudsman program and community advisory committees).

HB 657 (Improve Adult Care Home Regulation)

HB399 (Stop Images Taken without Consent from Dissemination)

Legislative
Report, Senate
Budget Proposal

Senate Budget Proposal

-Mary expressed great disappointment that NO funding is in the Senate

budget for Adult Protective Services and Guardianship and only the \$969,549 that had been non-recurring for the HCCBG was again made non-recurring for each year of the biennium.

On a more positive note, Mary called on Tracy Colvard who shared that the Senate proposal includes an increase in the reimbursement rate for Medicaid personal care services. He said that the House wants to increase the rate from \$13.88 to 15.52, but the Senate may not agree to that large of an increase. He shared that several home care agencies are closing their doors already due to the low reimbursement rates.

Mary also shared that it was good to see \$5 million in non-recurring funds were in the budget proposal for a temporary increase of \$34 a month for facilities that serve recipients of State-County Special Assistance. It was shared that this is only a temporary fix. Suzanne noted that more money is needed for NC-FAST so that adult care homes can be reimbursed through this system.

Another big omission noticed from the budget proposal was the lack of a COLA for retired state employees. Coalition members N.C. Retired Governmental Employees Association and SEANC are very concerned about this. Frances Messer commented that there is a need to look across the board for everyone. She thanked the Coalition for their support.

Mary expressed concerned that there was no money in the budget for Adult Protective Services (APS) and Guardianship Services and commented that most persons in need of APS or who receive Home and Community Care Block Grant Services (HCCBG) will not benefit from a tax cut. She discussed some of the efforts undertaken since the Senate budget plan was released to increase awareness about APS, Guardianship, and HCCBG with House members. Representative William Brisson, one of the Vice-Chairs of HHS, is very pro-HCCBG and he agreed to try to get this on the radar screen in the House budget deliberations. Mary developed a press release last week about the APS/Guardianship and HCCBG issues. The only outlet reported to have picked it up was the Indy Weekly that Tommy Goldsmith writes for. Coalition members were encouraged to continue calls, e-mails, and visits with legislators to put a face on the issue. Ana asked about the Senate proposal to cut food stamps to 135,000 people. We are going to see where discussion about this go.

The N.C. Partnership to Address Adult Abuse's annual meeting was on Wednesday the 17th, and Bill Lamb and Mary both addressed the 140

<p>Federal Developments</p> <p>Workgroup on the Future Direction of the Coalition</p> <p>Annual meeting update</p> <p>Organizational announcements</p>	<p>participants there and asked them to please call legislators about Adult Protective Services and guardianship. It is important to highlight the lack of state support for these programs. The state only puts in 3% of funding for APS and only 4% for guardianship.</p> <p>It was noted that the U.S. Senate is expected to change the American Health Care Act legislation passed by the U.S. House</p> <p>The Workgroup on the Future Direction of the Coalition met on May 4. A mini survey of those on the Coalition’s distribution list found what members value most from the Coalition is the news and information we provide, the advocacy efforts, and the networking opportunities. The Workgroup has discussed issues such as how to handle funds in the future, how other similar organizations are organized, etc. Plans are to have a discussion with representatives from groups such as N.C. Child to find out more about how they are organized and issues they addressed in looking at their organizational structure. We need to look at what administrative and programmatic functions are needed to sustain the Coalition. A report from the Workgroup is due by September.</p> <p>Bill Lamb, Janice Tyler, and Heather Altman are working on plans for the annual meeting that will be held on Sept. 22 at the NC State University Club. They are working to confirm a keynote speaker, and more details will be available soon.</p> <p>Suzanne Merrill indicated that the replacement for Nancy Warren who retired from DAAS will soon be hired. Heather Burkhardt, Deputy Director, is leaving the Division on June 23.</p> <p>John Thoma announced that Transitions Life Care is expanding its facility to 30 beds.</p> <p>Jo Paul with NC SHIP reported on a phone scam going on where someone claiming to be with the federal Administration for Community Living is asking people for their Medicare number. Scams regarding Medicare paying for durable medical equipment were also noted.</p> <p>Julie Wiggins with the AAA Association noted that they are still advocating for HCCBG funding. Several regional AAA meetings are coming up.</p> <p>Janice Tyler said the 5 year master aging plan for Orange County has been completed. They signed on as an Age Friendly Community. They’re putting</p>
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together a tool kit for other communities to do this more easily. She'll soon share their efforts at a program at Lynchburg College.

Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will have a wine tasting at a home concert hall on June 14 for \$10 per person. Information about this is available on their website.

Susan Meador again mentioned that it is the 25th anniversary of The Center for Volunteer Caregiving and a celebration is planned. Hand-outs about the organization were brought today for distribution.

Pat Martin added that Johnston County has completed their aging plan.

Ana Pardo with the NC Justice Center shared that there was a surprise hearing scheduled for the Caregiver Relief Act but it got pulled. They are trying to schedule another screening of CARE in Durham. A crucial conversation on home care is to be scheduled. Their Justice Awards are being presented tonight.

Zach Nissen with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC discussed their efforts to expand food programs for seniors in more counties. They have a grant from NCOA to do food stamp outreach. Several thousand applications have been taken for food stamps. He will share information about this for a *Coalition Update*.

Sandy Gregory announced that the NC Association on Aging will be getting a new website. Nina Walters will be their Ex. Director effective July 1. He also shared that NC-BAM has a focus on family caregiving. They have a regional position coming open in July. He's going to Chicago for the 7th annual aging and spirituality conference.

Janeen Gordon reported that Durham DSS has a lot going on. They're working on a project with Duke Law to avoid evictions of older adults. They are working with the city to assure home restoration.

Leah Proctor shared that NC 211 is working on the no wrong door project with DAAS. They participated in the NC PACE Conference and in Alzheimer's training.

Bill Lamb noted that Friends of Residents in Long Term Care has been working with the General Assembly on the ombudsman legislation. They have had an increasing number of calls on their hotline concerning care

<p>Mary's final comments</p>	<p>needs and discharge issues.</p> <p>Bob Conrad, Friend of Resident's representative, said he has done some testimony on Medicaid.</p> <p>In regard to the request for comments about Medicaid transformation, Mary said she had questions about what comments we should make. She did draft comments that built on the work of the Dual Eligibles Advisory group that came up with a recommended managed care strategy for duals. There was a motion from Bob which was seconded by Joan that we submit the draft comments prepared by Mary. The motion passed unanimously, and Mary will submit the comments.</p> <p>Mary shared that David Litman with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has volunteered to demonstrate computer assisted real-time translation (CART) at a future meeting. We will arrange this with David.</p> <p>The next Coalition meeting will be June 23 at 10:00 a.m. in the Brown Building on Dix campus. There will not be a meeting in July.</p>
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HANDOUTS

Agenda and treasurer reports, minutes, list of Mary Bethel activities

Who	Assignments	WHEN
Mary	Send out updates and coordinate in looking towards our next Coalition meeting.	Soon
Allen	Keep books.	ongoing
Marty	Will route draft minutes to Mary	Soon
All who can	Continue to try to make inroads in the House	Soon

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

Day / Date / Time	WHAT	Where
Friday, June 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m	Next Coalition Meeting	Brown Building Dix campus

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