

## **North Carolina Coalition on Aging**

**Draft Minutes of Friday, August 24, 2018 (10:00 a.m.) Meeting**

**Room 104, Brown Building (801 Biggs Drive on Dix Campus)**

### **In attendance:**

Mary Bethel, (President)  
Janice Tyler, Orange Co. Dept. on Aging, NC AOA (Vice-President)  
Alan Winstead, Meals on Wheels Assoc. of NC, MOW of Wake County (Treasurer)  
Jo Paul, NC SHIP  
Les Geller, SAGE Raleigh  
Sarah Hammond, CSS of Johnston Co./NC Senior Center Alliance  
Jimmy Parker, CSS Johnston Co.  
Nancy Warren, NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse  
Pam Palmer, Triangle J AAA  
Jane Jones, Cape Fear AAA  
Ray Riordan, The Carolinas Center  
Leslie, Jones, NC DAAS  
Martha Fowler, SEANC  
Joseph Wheeler, SAGE Raleigh  
Craig Burrus, Wake Co DHS  
Nancy Francis, Center for Volunteer Caregiving  
Chad Walker, Transitions LifeCare  
Joyce Massey-Smith, NC DAAS  
Leslie Roseboro, LeadingAge NC  
Nancy Ruffner, NAVIGATE NC  
Roger Manus, Campbell Senior Law Clinic, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Tracy Colvard, Assoc. for Home and Hospice Care of NC  
Lee Little, Durham Co. DSS  
Linda Shaw, NC PACE Assoc.  
Sal Cammarata, Alta  
Jeff Horton, NC Senior Living Assoc.  
Pat Martin, CSS of Johnston Co.  
Meike Wiest, LifeLinks  
Karen Appert, Southern Gerontological Society  
Ana Pardo, NC Justice Center  
Lisa Riegel, AARP NC  
Roselyn Pettyford, AARP NC

### **Joined By Phone:**

Marty Lamb, (Secretary)  
Bill Lamb, Friends of Residents in LTC (Past President)  
Dee Hatch, Individual Member  
Dick Hatch, Individual Member  
Carol Kelley, NC Guardianship Assoc.  
Denise Matthewson, A Helping Hand

Preston Craddock, Greene County DSS  
Charmaine Fuller Cooper, AARP NC  
Crissy Moody, Duke Hospital  
Gaye Weaver, Duke Hospital  
Leah Proctor, NC 2-1-1  
Kristen Brannock, Wake Resources for Seniors  
Rachel Evans, Silver Linings for Seniors

Opening Remarks and Introductions – Mary Bethel, President

Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2018 Meeting – Marty Lamb, Secretary  
These were e-mailed out early this morning. Minutes were approved.

Review of Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer is beginning to get registrations for the annual meeting/luncheon. We paid the \$75 quarterly fees for the website management plus the monthly contract fee. The balance is \$19,892.05.

**Report from Nomination Committee on Recommendations for Board of Directors** (moved up on agenda) – **Report by Bill Lamb, Chair of the Nominating Committee who called in from vacation in New York state.**

Bill reported that numerous nominations were received, and the Nominating Committee is recommending seven individual for the Board of Directors which will be voted on at the meeting on September 28. The seven individuals who are being recommended are all active Coalition members. The slate being recommended is diverse in terms of age, race, gender, and varied disciplines reflective of the membership of the Coalition. Persons recommended are: Tracy Colvard , Charmaine Fuller-Cooper, Martha A. Fowler, Frances Messer, Ray Riordan, Janice Tyler, and Chad Walker. In order to get staggered terms, Tracy, Charmaine, Janice, and Chad are being recommended for two year terms and Frances, Martha, and Ray are being recommended for one year terms. Bill extended thanks to Janice Tyler, John Thoma, and Tom Akins as well as Mary Bethel for their assistance in the review and recommendation process.

**Several Updates Since June Meeting** – Mary Bethel

- Mary drew everyone’s attention to the letter that was sent to DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen about addressing senior hunger. Joyce Massey Smith, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, reported that she believes the Secretary will be excited to partner with the Coalition to address senior hunger efforts.
- The NC Social Services Institute will be coming up on October 17-19, in Hickory N.C. There will be a workshop on aging and advocacy presented by Mary, Bill, Joyce, and Davie County manager and former Catawba DSS Director John Eller. (note: The Institute was cancelled due to the impact of Hurricane Florence and the critical role that local DSSs play in recovery efforts).
- After reaching out to KBR about their latest round of grant solicitation and finding out the Coalition does not fit their priority areas for funding this go-round, we are still working to set up a meeting with staff there to discuss if there might be future opportunities for support in the future.

- There is a Foundation Fair scheduled in Wilmington on October 16 for non-profits. This might be beneficial for Coalition representatives to attend.

Mary noted that other updates would be discussed as a part of other agenda items.

**Update by Joyce Massey-Smith, the new Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).** Mary introduced Joyce and congratulated her on the new job. Joyce began her remarks by sharing information about her background including her work at a local Department of Social Services (DSS) as an eligibility specialist which convinced her to go to graduate school. She has been a planner at an Area Agency on Aging as well as an Area Agency on Aging Director and has worked in Adult Services at DAAS. She noted she still has much to learn. She thanked the Coalition for our advocacy work.

In her update, she shared that the adult protective services (APS) position approved by the General Assembly will be posted. Training on APS will be held across the state. She noted the funding approved by the General Assembly for guardianship and the Home and Community Care Block Grant. They have met with DHHS in preparation for planning for the long legislative session starting in January. She reported that Maximus has been approved as the new brokering agency for Medicaid transformation. DAAS hopes to partner with them. Maximus will be developing partnerships at the community level. Local Departments of Social Services will continue to determine eligibility for services. There is a lot of focus on social determinants of health. She shared that there is an article in Forbes about older adults not being the highest users of Medicaid; younger persons with disabilities are. Governor Cooper has reestablished the Interagency Council that focuses on coordinating efforts to address homelessness. DAAS serves on that. A report from the Council will be expected in early spring. Places for older adults who are homeless to go are very limited. There is excellent work being done on behalf of homeless Veterans. The issue of older adult homelessness needs to be brought forward. She reported that there was a 9% increase in APS reports last year. DAAS is doing a survey. She is concerned that abuse rates are not high at all, but she thinks that is because abuse is not reported. Henderson County has been selected to participate in a NAPSA grant to look at issues around mistreatment.

She noted that the Department will be launching a new website. Mary Bethel commented that it is nearly impossible to obtain names of persons to contact about issues at DHHS agencies on the website. Joyce said they will be improving that. Bill 630 (Social Services reform) is moving forward. Memoranda of understanding with County Social Services Departments are taking place. An emphasis will be placed on data collection efforts particularly around APS and guardianship. Performance measures are being addressed. Regional supervision should be in place by 2020. Training of staff is important. Reducing the number of uninsured is a concern of the Department. She noted the role of Medicaid Administrative Claiming in assisting people in applying for Medicaid. She also noted the continuing efforts by the Department to address the opioid crisis. There was a 22% increase in deaths in the state last year due to overdoses. Regional trainings are being done about accessing treatment. The Division wants to improve documentation about opioid deaths among older adults. She'd like to expand this training to the aging network. She stated she is proud to be part of developing the State Aging Plan. A big

challenge the DHHS has identified are problems faced by children who are aging out of the foster care system. She is working with Social Services on transitions and decreasing guardianship with these younger persons. She stated that DAAS has excellent relationships with UNC and Duke, but they need to expand that. She thinks DAAS has to strengthen its message. DAAS does not have all the answers. They need to hear from AAA's, the Coalition and many others. Linda Shaw asked a question about Medicaid administrative claim funding. Craig Burris asked a question about when counties will receive the guardianship funding. Joyce stated that no direct instructions came from the legislature about how to allocate guardianship funds. She noted that the \$987,000 appropriated does not go far. Nancy Warren remarked that that this is not new money. It came from SSBG funds; it was just reconfigured. This is problematic as SSBG funding is the life line for local Departments of Social Services.

### **Update on Federal and State Developments – Mary Bethel and Others Who Track Federal and State Issues**

Mary stated that information on the status of most issues were included in the Update that went out to Coalition members this morning.

- There is a lot of activity at the State level relative to legislative action and balance of power issues and constitutional amendments. She forwarded information from the NC Center for Nonprofits relative to the amendments.
- The RFP has been issued for the Medicaid Prepaid Health Plans.
- The US Senate approved the funding bill for HHS yesterday. How to pay for the Border wall may play into budget approval.
- We need to begin the process of selecting our legislative agenda for the next biennium.

**Presentation on Medicare Changes for 2019 – Jo Paul, with NC Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP).** (Jo made the presentation in place of Melinda Munden, SHIIP Director, who has been at the national SHIP conference and did not get back until very late last night). Jo provided a handout of her presentation. She began by noting that the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 and the CMS Final Rule dated April 2, 2018 both made significant changes to the Medicare program. Changes include adding efforts to combat the opioid epidemic, providing more choice for Medicare beneficiaries, increasing the number of affordable options, and providing new benefits to meet unique health needs. There are an estimated \$295 million in savings for the Medicaid program over five years (2019-2023) which will result in lower premiums and benefits. The Act also provides an additional two years of funding for SHIPs, AAAs, and ADRCs to conduct outreach and application assistance to low-income Medicare beneficiaries through the Extra Help and MSP Programs. It closes the Medicare Part D "donut hole" faster (was 2020 now 2019) and it permanently repeals the payment cap on outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy effective January 1, 2018. It also changes the Home Health benefit by reducing the unit of payment for a home health episode from 60 days to 30 days. In addition, it expands the supplemental benefits Medicare Advantage plans may offer to chronically ill persons beginning in 2020 and makes special needs plans permanent. The Independence at Home program is renewed for two years and telehealth and other technologies are expanded in Medicare Advantage plans. Jo shared that in North Carolina, less than one-third of the Medicare population participates in Medicare Advantage plans.

There are changes in the open enrollment period for Medicare Advantage. It will be from October 15 through December 7, 2018 and then again from January 1, 2019 through March 21, 2019. Mary noted that in the past Medicare Advantage plans have sometimes been marketed in the state and the provider network was not sufficient. Jo added that this is still an issue. She advised that Medicare beneficiaries need to contact their physicians to find out if they “are taking” the plans. Jo reported that generic drugs can now be added to plan formularies in the middle of the year. The Comprehensive Addiction Act of 2018 has added opioids and benzos as abused drugs. Seeking alternative medications will be sought. Drug companies will be monitoring use of drugs. These policies are being phased in which is opening up possibilities for new conversations. New Medicare cards are rolling out in North Carolina now. The Office of Inspector General has issued a fraud advisory warning the public about Social Security impersonation schemes. Jo emphasized that if a real Social Security office calls you, which is rare, they will not ask for your Social Security number. She encouraged people to contact SHIPP at 855-408-1212 for information or if they have questions and to also go to My Medicare.gov for information.

### **Vote on Change to By-Laws**

Mary noted that a vote is needed to delete the following sentence from the by-laws approved last month as it is not needed and complicates the terms of office for officers: On Page 6, Article VI, Section 2, the sentence which reads - “The Chair and Secretary shall be elected in odd number years and the Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be elected in even years.” There was discussion of this and a motion was made by Martha Fowler to delete the sentence and seconded by Ana Pardo. The motion was passed by acclamation.

### **Update on Plans for Annual Meeting – Mary shared the following information:**

- Registration for the meeting/luncheon is open
- It will be held at the NC State University Club on September 28
- The fee is \$20 members and \$30 non-members; scholarships available (students and if challenged to pay)
- Howard Bedlin with NCOA will be the speaker
- Pioneer Award(s) will be presented
- Will have short business meeting including voting to select a Board of Directors
- Excited that have 13 sponsors at different levels at this time and sponsorship opportunities are still available
- This is the Coalition’s biggest revenue raising event of the year

### **Sharing by Coalition Members**

- Ana Pardo on behalf of NC Justice Center reported they are working on a fact sheet about the importance of paid work for the senior population. A survey is being done by The Arc looking at people with disabilities who are working. Information has been shared on this.
- Meike Wiest with LifeLinks reported the Rethinking Guardianship report is out. Possible legislation may be pursued.
- Leah Proctor with NC 2-1-1- reported on NC Cares 360, the NC Resource Platform.
- Johnston County representatives noted they have three senior centers of excellence.
- Mary Bethel added that Calvin Vaughan, long time senior center director in High Point, has retired.

- Chad Walker with Transitions LifeCare shared that caregiver events will be held on September 22 in southeast Raleigh, October 2 at Campbell University, and on October 30 in Raleigh.
- Mary shared that Chad has proposed that the Coalition start networking groups for Coalition members. Hopefully this is something that can be pursued. She announced that Chad will be getting married in September.
- Karen Appert with the Southern Gerontological Society announced that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Society has been scheduled for April 9-13, 2019 in Panama Beach, Florida.
- Pam Palmer with Triangle J Area Agency on Aging and Friends or Residents in Long Term Care announced that Friends will have their annual event on October 20 at Glenaire in Cary with the Casablanca Orchestra. October will be Residents' Rights month.
- Jeff Horton announced that the NC Senior Living Association will have their annual conference on September 17-19 in Greensboro (note: This was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence).
- Mary Bethel shared that Theresa Johnson Troup has left the NC Adult Day Services Association.
- Nancy Francis with the Center for Volunteer Caregiving reported they will hold a four-part Lunch 'N' Learns starting Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at the Five Points Center in Raleigh
- Janice Tyler with the Orange County Department on Aging/ NC AOA announced that Jerry Passmore, the founding director of the Department recently died. There will be an event on October 20 at the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill in his memory.
- Jo Paul reported that SHIIP has a new collaboration with the High Point University School of Pharmacy where second year pharmacy students take the SHIIP online training class. The Harnett County SHIIP site has used Campbell University pharmacy students before but this is the first time there has been a formal relationship with a Pharmacy School. They would like to develop a relationship with community college medication techs.
- Nancy Warren with the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse reported the Partnership will meet on September 19. They will Facebook the meeting live. (note: The meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence).
- Jane Jones shared that they will hold a telephone town hall on September 28 in Wilmington (coordinated by AARP NC) with Attorney General Josh Stein on home improvement scams.

Other Business – None to come before the body.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon with a reminder of the meetings for the rest of the year.

**Next Meeting: Annual Meeting on September 28, 2018 at NC State University Club**

**Remaining Meeting Dates for 2018**

September 28 (annual meeting)

October 26

December 7

Respectively Submitted,  
Marty Lamb, Secretary