



## **NCCOA Membership Meeting**

**Friday, Dec. 3, 2021**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom**

### **Attendees:**

Aimee Kepler, Triangle J Area Agency on Aging  
Althea Taylor Jones, NC Senior Tarheel/SGS  
Angela Ellis, Martin County Department of Social Services  
Angie Phillips, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Audrey Edmisten, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
B Walk  
Ben Popkin, Popkin Strategies  
Beth Rummage, The Life Center  
Brooke Baragona, SembreCare  
Carol Kelly, Individual Member  
Catherine Sevier, AARPNC, NC Serious Illness Coalition  
Chad Walker, Alignment Health Care  
Chanell McCain, Individual Member  
Chris Brandenburg, AARPNC  
Crystal Adams, NC Oral Health Collaborative  
Dale Neal, Alignment Healthcare  
Daunita Maennle, Cherokee County DSS/Individual Member  
David Rhew, NC Public Transportation Association  
Demarcus Andrews, The Center for Responsible Lending  
Deryl Davis Fulmer, NC Governmental Employees' Association  
Dick Chady, NC Continuing Care Residents Association/NC Third Age  
Ellen Bailey, North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness/University of North Carolina Asheville  
Ellen Schneider, NC Center for Aging and Health  
Emily Jones, ASL Interpreter  
Emily Jones  
Frances Messer, NC Assisted Living Association  
Gina Upchurch, Senior PharmAssist  
Guy Brown, NC Alliance for Retired Americans  
Haley Williford, Community and Senior Services of Johnston County  
Hank Bowers, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Harold Barnette, Institute for Family Caregiving  
Heather Burkhardt, NC Coalition on Aging  
Heather Hooper, Dementia Alliance NC  
Janice Tyler, NC Association on Aging/Orange County Department on Aging  
Jill Dixon, ASL Interpreter  
Jillian Hardin, Brunswick Senior Resources  
John Gibbons, RHA Health Services  
John Schlobohm, Individual Member

Karen Appert,, Appert Marketing, NC Serious Illness Coalition  
Karen Brewer, NC Assisted Living Association  
Karin McDaniel, Adult Life Program  
Kathie Smith, Association of Home and Hospice Care of NC  
Katie Franklin, NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Kay Castillo,National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter  
Kevin Robertson, NC Department of Insurance/Senior Medicare Patrol  
Kezia Scales, PHI  
Kristen Brannock, Resources for Seniors  
Laura Schlabach, NC Department of Justice  
Leah Foil  
Lee Dobson, Bayada  
Les Geller, SAGE Central NC/Resources for Seniors  
Linda Kendall Fields, NC cares  
Lisa Riegel, ARP NC  
Lisa Tyndall, Foundation for Health Leadership  
Madeline Rickett, NC Coalition on Aging/UNC School of Social Work Student  
Margarita Hooper-Vinson, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Clinician /Individual Member  
Mark Hensley, ARP NC  
Martha Fowler, State Employees Association of NC  
Marty Lamb, FOR/Individual Member  
Mary Bethel, NC Coalition on Aging, Board Chair  
Mary Marlin, Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government  
Mary Williams-Stover, NC DHHS  
Mary Brenda Tremoulet, Individual Member  
Meike Wiest, Rosa  
Melinda Munden, NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP  
Nancy Ruffner, Navigate NC  
Natasha Vos ,North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness/University of North Carolina Asheville  
Nicolle Miller, North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness/University of North Carolina Asheville  
Paola Learoyd, Randolph Cloud Associates  
Patricia Calloway, Generations Ashe  
Preston Craddock, Greene County Department of Social Services  
Rebecca Freeman, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Roger Manus, NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging  
Sarah Richardson, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Steven Hahn, AARP NC  
Suzanne Black, AARP Volunteer/Individual Member  
Thomas Goldsmith, NC Health News  
Tracy Colvard, Maxim Healthcare  
Tracy Honeycutt, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments  
Twilla Allen, Lumber River Council of Governments  
Valerie Arendt, National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter

**Opening Remarks:** Mary Bethel, Chair of the Board, opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

**Minutes from the Oct. 22, 2021 meeting** were unanimously approved with no changes.

**Finance:** Treasurer Dick Chady reported a checking account balance of \$74,928.06 as of Dec. 3, 2021. The report was accepted.

**Legislative Update:** Heather listed highlights from the new, two-year \$53 billion budget:

- It has many positive things for older adults. We saw significant activity in all five of NCCOA's five critical priorities and our seven points for most vulnerable and growing populations.
- Although we still need action to improve voting for residents of long-term care facilities, Disability Rights NC has filed lawsuit on that issue.
- Even though the budget did not include full Medicaid expansion, the legislature did extend Medicaid coverage for new moms up to 12 months postpartum, as well as authorizing an 18-member legislative study commission on full expansion.
- The NCGA will reconvene Dec. 30 for limited issues.

Budget highlights by NCCOA priorities:

- Removes the reimbursement cap for adult day service providers.
- Stabilizing the direct care workforce crisis.
  - Provides a one-time bonus of up to \$2,000 per worker; \$102 million in state funds for raises to workers in Home and Community-based services over two years; raises up to \$15/hour for ICF/IIDs.
- Increases support for home and community-based services.
  - Provides \$5.7 million to reduce the Home and Community Care Block Grant waiting list by 1,500 slots.
  - Expands the Community Alternative Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA) by 114 slots.
  - \$11 million for more slots for several Medicaid waiver programs.
  - Increases the Medicaid rate for private duty nursing to \$45/hour.
  - \$15 million for another 1,900 Medicaid recipients under the State-County Special Assistance In-Home programs.
  - \$1.1 million to transition persons with mental illness from institutions to community-based settings.
- Restores \$50 million for Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) and State Maintenance Assistance Program (SMAP)
- \$2.6 million in federal funds for Adult Protective Services.
- Increases the Personal Needs Allowance for Special Assistance recipients in adult care homes to \$70 from \$46 in 2022.
- Unfinished Business – The Coalition will need to continue working on the following priorities:
  - Remove voting barriers for residents in group care settings.

- Increase access to health care by expanding Medicaid.
- Undertake a comprehensive study to address the challenges and opportunities of North Carolina’s increasing older adult population.
- Invest additional state dollars in Adult Protective Services.
- Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for residents living in nursing homes.
  - Increase wages for direct care workers in adult care homes and skilled nursing facilities

**Member Comments**

- **Jeff Horton** of the NC Health Care Facilities Assn: Their industry behind the move to make in-home Medicaid rates more comparable to facility-based ones.
- **Linda Kendall Fields:** CARES UNC Chapel Hill; will offer grants for up to \$150,000/year for innovations in housing, transportation, direct care workers for adults with disabilities and older adults.
- **David Rhew** NC Transit thanked NCCOA for its efforts in increasing transportation funding.
- **Tom Goldsmith** of NC Health News asked for information on how many seniors have been moved from adult care homes to community facilities under the NC Disability Rights lawsuit settlement. **Kathie Smith** of the Assn. of Home and Hospice Care recommended checking Brad Owen in NC DHHS re a pilot program.
- **Heather:** NC DHHS will release the Olmstead plan in 2022 to improve opportunities for people with disabilities to live in the community. We have provided comments.

**Adult Protective Services: Rebecca Freeman** of NC DAAS explained that the budget allocates \$43.4 million from American Rescue Plan:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▪ Title III-B: Supportive Services \$14.2 M            | Support \$4.4 M Title                   |
| ▪ Title III-C: Nutrition \$16.9 M                      | ▪ VII: Long-Term Care Ombudsman \$300 K |
| ▪ Title III-D: Evidence-Based Health Promotion \$1.4 M | ▪ AAA Planning & Administration \$4 M   |
| ▪ Title III-E: Family Caregiver                        | ▪ State Administration \$2.2 M          |
|  | ○ State budget \$75 mi                  |

**Sarah Richardson** of NC DAAS detailed their Adult Protective Services Improvement Plan. Its four goals:

1. Consistency of practice
2. Community stakeholder engagement
3. Community education
4. Statutory improvement

**Director’s Update by Heather:**

- **Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation** has given us a two-year, \$60,000 grant for advocacy regarding the direct care workforce, particular for communities of color, women. The board will develop the specifics on goals and milestones.
- We welcomed six new members since October.
- Supporters donated \$260 for NCCOA's first #GivingTuesday.
- **Intern Madeline Rickett** completed the stakeholder survey and will make a report. In January, she'll start membership Spotlights on @NC Aging Twitter.
- Work groups: **Family Caregiver Work Group**. We have partnered with the Caregiver and Patient Engagement Work Group of the NC Serious Illness Coalition to bring collective efforts together to support family caregivers.
- **Health Equity Committee: Daryl Davis Fulmer** and Laura **Schlabach** will co-chair. SAGE will do a webinar and training. The NCDHHS Chief Health Equity Officer **Victor Armstrong** will join us at a future membership meeting.
- Heather thanked **the NC Alliance for Health** for hosting her on a podcast on resilience.
- Heather will appear on a policy forum on Facebook live arranged by Lisa Riegel of AARP on December 3, 2021.
- Heather thanked **PHI** for helping to create Essential Jobs, Essential Care NC project. Our work to spotlight this issue had a positive effect in the recent NCGA session.

### Sharing by Coalition Members

- **Roger Manus** from Governor's Advisory Council on Aging looking for areas to cooperate. They offered a short survey re possible collaborative efforts.
- **Gina Upchurch** of Senior PharmAssist Asked people to be aware of possible cutbacks in networks in Medicare Advantage plans when some persons become sick.
- **NC Bar Assn** reported a goal for reforming the NC guardianship program (Section 35-A of the NC laws) in 2023.
- **Ben Popkin** of Popkin Strategies asked to focus attention on visitation over the holidays.
- **Details on the budget are on the [coalition website under News > Updates/ Resources](http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/news-resources)**

[www.nccoalitiononaging.org/news-resources](http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/news-resources).

- The schedule of meetings for the Executive Committee, board and members for 2021 are listed on the last page of these minutes.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** 10 a.m.-noon Friday, January 28, 2021.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Chady

**Dick Chady**

Secretary/Treasurer

Dec. 7, 2021

**Schedule of NCCOA Executive Committee, board and members meetings for 2022**

**Full Board Meetings: 2nd Mondays of the quarter 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.**

December 13, 2021

March 14, 2022

June 13, 2022

September 26, 2022

December 12, 2022

**Executive Committee meetings: 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.(may not be full meeting if not needed)**

Jan. 11

February 8

April 12

May 10

July 12

August 9

October 11

November 8

**Membership Meetings: Typically, the 4th Friday of the month 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.**

December 3, 2021

January 28, 2022

February 25, 2022

March 25, 2022

April 22, 2022

May 20, 2022

June 24, 2022

August 26, 2022

September 23\* Annual Meeting

October 28, 2022

December 2, 2022