**NCCOA Membership Meeting**

**Friday, Jan. 28, 2022**

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

**Attendees:**

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| Alan Winstead | Meals on Wheels of Wake County |
| Allyse Buck | NC State University |
| Angela Bryant  | NC Department of Health and Human Services |
| Angela Ellis | Martin County Department of Social Services |
| Audrey Edmisten | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Barbara Berney | BLB Film Productions |
| Bill Lamb | Friends of Residents in Long Term Care (FOR) |
| Christy Walker  | Captionist |
| Chanell McCain | IPRO/Individual member |
| Crystal Adams  | NC Oral Health Collaborative |
| Dale Neal | Alignment Healthcare |
| Daunita Maennle | Cherokee County DSS/Individual Member |
| Demarcus Andrews  | The Center for Responsible Lending |
| Deryl Davis Fulmer | NC Governmental Employees' Association |
| Dick Chady | NC Continuing Care Residents Association/NC Third Age |
| Edward Jones | Land of Sky Regional Commission |
| Elaine Whitford | The Center for Volunteer Caregiving |
| Gail Miller | North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislator |
| Gina Upchurch | Senior PharmAssist |
| Guy Brown  | NC Alliance for Retired Americans |
| Harold Barnette | Institute for Family Caregiving |
| Heather Altman | Harmony Advisors/Individual member |
| Heather Burkhardt | NC Coalition on Aging, Executive Director |
| Jamie Philyaw | UnitedHealthcare |
| Janice Tyler | NC Association on Aging/Orange County Department on Aging |
| Jeff Horton | NC Senior Living Association |
| Jillian Hardin | Brunswick Senior Resources |
| Joe Wheeler | SAGE of Central NC |
| John Gibbons | RHA Health Services |
| Julia Burrowes | Centralina Area Agency on Aging/Individual member |
| Karen Appert | Appert Marketing, NC Serious Illness Coalition |
| Kathie Smith | Association on Home and Hospice Care of NC |
| Katie Franklin | NCDHHS/Division for Services for 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 |
| Laurie Dotson | Buncombe County Health and Human Service |
| Les Geller  | SAGE Central NC |
| Lisa Hoskins | The Center for Volunteer Caregiving |
| Madeline Rickett | NC Coalition on Aging, Intern |
| Roger Manus | Governor's Advisory Council on Aging |
| Marisette Hasan | The Carolinas Center |
| Mark Hensley | AARP NC |
| Marty Lamb | FOR/Individual Member |
| Mary Bethel | NC Coalition on Aging, Board Chair |
| Mary Lucas | Transitions Life Care |
| Mary Marlin | Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Mary Williams-Stover | NC DHHS |
| Michael Dawkins | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Melinda Munden | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Nancy Ruffner | Navigate NC |
| Nancy Warren | NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse |
| Natasha Vos  | NC Center for Health and Wellness/UNC-Asheville |
| Nicolle Miller | Partners in Health |
| Paola Learoyd | Randolph Cloud Associates |
| Pat Martin | Community & Senior Services of Johnston County |
| Preston Craddock | Greene County Department of Social Services |
| Rosalie Calarco | AARP NC |
| Sandy Deutsch | Wake County Community Advisory Committee |
| Susan Bone | Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Thomas Goldsmith | NC Health News |
| Tracy Colvard | Maxium Healthcare |
| Willetha Barnette | Institute for Family Caregiving |
| Zoe Taylor |  |

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

**Finance: Treasurer Dick Chady** reported a checking account balance of $79,263.50

as of Jan. 28, 2022. The report was accepted.

**Minutes from the Dec. 3, 2021 meeting** were unanimously approved with no changes. (Kay Castillo/Alan Winstead)

**Angela Bryant,** a former state representative and state senator from eastern North Carolina who’s now the NC DHHS Assistant Secretary of Equity and Inclusion, described her career in “putting equity into practice on the ground.” DHHS has recently created the Office of Health Equity to with a vision that “everyone would have a fair opportunity to live a healthy life.”

Ms. Bryant explained that age was a dimension across which Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) might blossom. It crosses all of the other dimensions of age, race, gender, etc.

**The DHHS strategy is to “advance health equity by reducing disparities in opportunities for historically marginalized populations within DHHS and across the state.”**

‘**Health equity** implies that ideally everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential and that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential. To advance health equity, we must address the social and structural drivers of inequities.”

There are four levels of analysis and change: Personal, Interpersonal, Institutional and Cultural.

She recommended **six strategies** in advancing equity care;

1. Recognize and address the **root cause** of the disparity.
2. Use **data** for precise impact.
3. Invest in **economic well-being** of communities.
4. Create **inclusive teams and strategies.**
5. Shift support to **historically marginalized populations and organizations.**
6. Change **policies, systems and environments.**

**Gina Upchurch** of Senior PharmAssist added, “I’ve heard t said that we focus on the fish rather than the water they swim in.”

**Mark Hensley of** AARP NC introduced the documentary, [“Power to Heal,”](https://www.blbfilmproductions.com/) PBS documentary narrated by **Danny Glover** about the long struggle to integrate hospitals in the US. One of the leaders was **George Simpkins**, a Greensboro dentist, who began suing hospitals for discrimination against Black patients and staff in the 1960s. Hospitals were finally integrated thanks to the “stick” through the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

**Deryl Davis Fulmer** of the NC Retired Governmental Employees Assn. (NCRGEA) and co-chair of the Coalition’s Health Equity Workgroup, cited her family’s involvement in the civil rights movement. In continuing that struggle, she said the group will present information to help NCCOA’s various members in the constituencies they serve.

**Activities and Updates Since December**

**Heather Burkhardt,** Executive Director, thanked **Deryl Davis Fulmer** and **Laura Schlabach** of the NC Attorney General’s office. For co-chairing the Health Equity Workgroup. It will meet every other month for two hours. Upcoming events:

* SAGE of CNC will provide training on “Creating Inclusive Services for LGBTQ+ Older Adults” from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15. All members are invited
* At the equity group’s kickoff meeting March 11, Justice in Aging staff will discuss national issues.
* **Cornelius Wright**, executive director of Minority Health in NC DHHS, will be a later speaker.
* The Coalition will dedicate a Disparity Moment on a different topic each month.

Intern **Madeline Rickett** will share analysis Membership Survey report next month.

The coalition will ramp up its Direct Care workforce initiative “Essential Jobs Essential Care” with a three-hour advocacy training in March.

**Sharing by Coalition Members**

**Joe Wheeler** said that the SAGE CNC Facebook page will have a new post on a prominent LGBTQ Black person every day in February for Black History Month.

**Katie Franklin**, the hard-of-hearing coordination for NCDHHS, said they are developing consumer guidelines for buying hearing aids over-the-counter when the FDA finally approves that advance.

**Gail Miller,** a Senior Tar Heel legislative representative from Alamance County, said they are looking to re-energize the organization.

**Mary Bethel** said recent coalition emails had information on:

* The public comment period is open for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plan to limit coverage for Aduhelm, the controversial Alzheimer’s treatment, to persons in clinical trials.
* The FCC has a new program to pay for Internet access for low-income families.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 12:02 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

* **New Member Mingle online-** **Wednesday, February 9** from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
* **Creating Inclusive Services for LGBTQ+ Older Adults-** **Tuesday, February 15** from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
* **Next Membership Meeting:** 10 a.m.-noon **Friday, February 25.**
* **Health Equity Workgroup Friday, March 11,** 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Chady

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Secretary/Treasurer

Feb. 1, 2022

**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.**

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)

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.**

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