**NCCOA Membership Meeting**

**Friday, Feb. 25, 2022**

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

**Attendees:**

Alan Winstead, Meals on Wheels of Wake County

Allyse Buck, Meals on Wheels of Wake County

Althea Taylor Jones, NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature/SGS

Ana Pardo, NC Justice Center

Autumn Cox, Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging

Betsy White, Access Dental Care

Bob Cleveland, Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging

Brooke Baragona, SembraCare

Chanelle C.C. Croxton , National Domestic Workers Alliance

Carolyn Pennington, Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging

Catherine Sevier, NC Serious Illness Coalition

Crystal Adams, NC Oral Health Collaborative

Dale Neal, Alignment Healthcare

Daunita Maennle, Cherokee County DSS/Individual Member

David Litman, RHA

Deryl Davis Fulmer, NC Governmental Employees' Association

Dick Chady, NC Continuing Care Residents Association/NC Third Age

Ed Rosenberg, NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Ellen Bailey, NC Center for Health and Wellness/UNC-Asheville

Guy Brown, NC Alliance for Retired Americans

Harold Barnette, Institute for Family Caregiving

Heather Burkhardt. NC Coalition on Aging

Holly Pilson, Cape Fear Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging

James How, FCC

Janice Tyler, NC Association on Aging/Orange County Department on Aging

Jeff Horton, NC Senior Living Association

Jillian Hardin, Brunswick Senior Resources

Joyce Massey Smith, NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Jo Paul, NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP

Karen Brewer, NC Assisted Living Association

Katie Franklin, NCDHHS/Division for Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Kay Castillo, National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter

Kezia Scales, PHI

Lee Dobson, Bayada

Lisa Riegal, AARP-NC

Lacee Monte, Chatham County Council on Aging

Lora Felger, FirstCareolinaCare

Madeline Rickett, NC Coalition on Aging, Intern

Roger Manus, NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Marisette Hasan, The Carolinas Center

Mark Hensley, AARP-NC

Martha Fowler, SEANC

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 Warren, Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging

Mary Williams-Stover, NC DHHS

Nancy Ruffner, Navigate NC

Natasha Vos, NC Center for Health and Wellness/UNC-Asheville

Patricia Calloway, Generations Ashe

Rebecca Freeman, NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Romona McGinnis, Captionist

Rosalie Calarco, AARP-NC

Susan Butler-Greene, Seniorlink

Sue Gregg

Susan Bone, Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging

Suzanne LaFollette-Black, AARP-NC Volunteer

Thomas Konrad, FOR Volunteer

Tom Akins, LeadingAgeNC

Tracy Colvard, Maxim Healthcare

Zoe Taylor

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

**Dave Richard, NC DHHS** Deputy Secretary for Medicaid, gave a briefing on how the state is leveraging federal aid to improve salaries for direct care workers in home and community-based services, as well as in nursing homes.

* The American Rescue Act lets us save $300 million in state funds to cover a total of $900 million; DHHS is presenting a plan to CMS to give priority to increasing wages to direct care workers.
* Although the federal aid is non-recurring, the NCGA created the Home and Community Based Services Fund as a permanent part of the state budget, funded by a tax on hospitals.
* Our goal is to move toward $15/hour for Personal Care Services workers. DHHS will encourage, but not require, providers to spend 80 percent of these funds on wages. They will monitor the results.
* Although nursing homes received higher Medicaid rates during COVID, they cannot take advantage of the HCBS funds now. DHHS is working with the NCGA to find other ways.

**Finance: Treasurer Dick Chady** reported a checking account balance of **107,520.82**

As of Feb. 24, 2022. The report was accepted.

**Minutes from the Jan. 28, 2021 meeting** were unanimously approved with no changes.

* **Heather Burkhardt,** Executive Director, reported:
* The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded NCCOA $60,000 over two years to advocate for statewide systemic change for direct care workers. To leverage this funding, we are exploring additional grant possibilities with (a) the Duke-UNC “Money Follows the Person” project for those transitioning from nursing homes back to the community and (b) with the Serious Illness Coalition on “Changing the Care Conversation.”
* As part of our Essential Jobs, Essential Care initiative with PHI, NCCOA will participate in three, 90-minute webinars with collaborating states MI and NM on March 8, 15 and 22. On March 30, NCCOA will host one for NC only.(See other newsletters for details on how to register.)
* Two recent initiatives have been very successful: Spotlight on Members on social media every Monday and the first New Member Mingle on Zoom.
* Members **Harold and Willetha Barnette** participated in a Kaiser Family Foundation webinar on how different seniors showed resilience during the pandemic.
* During the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, Sandy Terrell, Chief Clinical Officer of NC Medicaid, DHHS estimated that 81,000 direct care workers will get bonuses under the new federal and state funds.
* **Deryl Davis Fulmer**, NCRGEA, co-chair of Health Equity Workgroup, reported they had about 50 people for Zoom training for LGBTQ+ inclusivity; On March 11, the workgroup will host its first meeting with a presentation on “Advancing Health Equity for Older Adults.” Guest speakers re **Sahar Takshi**, staff attorney at Justice in Aging; **Cornell Wright**, Executive Director of the NC DHHS Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.
* **Intern Madeline Rickett** reported very positive results for the Membership Survey. There was high praise for Heather and Mary; some members sought improvement on social media and better orientation. Madeline will do a fact sheet.

**Sharing by Coalition Members**

* **Tom Akins**, Leading Age of NC, said they have engaged a consultant for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives for their 46 nonprofit CCRCs and 17 affordable housing providers. They will share he results with NCCOA.
* **Jillian Hardin** of Carolina Active Living Centers, said they are promoting the concept of active older adults.
* **Ellen Bailey,** NC Center for Health and Wellness, said they seek DEI coordination with other groups.
* **Kay Castillo,** NASW, said they plannedseveral virtual events for March as Social Work Month**.**

# Rebecca Freeman, NC DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services. said the Healthy Aging Task Force meets April; 2. They are working with NCCOA, NC Senior Games and others to present older American events on “Age My Way” theme. Also, the Senior Tar Heel Legislature has new leadership; the next virtual meeting is March 15.

* **Betsy White** said Access Dental Care will take a mobile van to senior centers in New Hanover County and seek other partners to provide dental services for 55+, low-income and uninsured people.
* **Board Chair Mary Bethel:** Reminded people that the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee On Medicaid And NC Health Choice is considering Medicaid expansion. We must plan for the legislative short session starting in May.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Chady

Secretary/Treasurer

March 7, 2022

**Upcoming Events**

**Advocacy Skills Training**

* Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 12- 1:30 pm: Convening and Mobilizing a Strong Coalition
* Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from 12- 1:30 pm: Communicating the Value of Care Work
* Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 12- 1:30 pm: Building the Relationships you Need to Win
* Friday, March 25, 2022 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm: Membership Meeting
* Wednesday, March 30, 2022 from 9 am – 12:00 pm: NC’s 2nd Annual Direct Care Workforce Convening

**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)

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.**

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