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**Membership Meeting**

**Friday, March 25, 2022**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm** via Zoom

**Attendees:**

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| Aislinn Cummings | Seniorlink |
| Allyse Buck | Meals on Wheels of Wake County |
| Ben Popkin | Popkin Strategies |
| Bill Lamb | Friends of Residents |
| Carolyn Pennington | Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Chad Walker | Alignment Healthcare |
| Chell'le Craig | Chowan County Department of Social Services |
| Chris Brandenburg | AARP NC  |
| Crystal Adams | NC Oral Health Collaborative |
| Danielle Weeks | Senior Real Estate Specialists |
| Daunita Maennle | Cherokee County DSS/Individual Member |
| David Rhew  | NC Public Transportation Association |
| David Siever | NC Serious Illness Coaltion |
| Deanna Cherry | Chowan County Department of Social Services |
| Deryl Davis Fulmer | NC Governmental Employees' Association |
| Dick Chady | NC Continuing Care Residents Association/NC Third Age |
| Don Seay | Individual Member |
| Elizabeth Williams | Mountain Care |
| Ellen Schneider | UNC Center for Aging and Health |
| Haley Williford | Community and Senior Services of Johnston County |
| Harold Barnette | Institute for Family Caregiving |
| Heather Altman | Harmony Consulting |
| Heather Burkhardt | NC Coalition on Aging, Executive Director |
| Janice Tyler | NC Association on Aging/Orange County Department on Aging |
| Jeff Horton | NC Senior Living Association |
| Jenisha Henneghan | Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Jo Paul  | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Karen Appert | Appert Marketing, NC Serious Illness Coalition |
| Kathryn Bunn | SembraNet |
| Katie Franklin | NCDHHS/Division for Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing |
| Kezia Scales | PHI |
| Laura Schlabach | NC Department of Justice |
| Lauren Zingraff | Friends of Residents |
| Les Geller  | SAGE Central North Carolina |
| Lisa Fletcher | Seniorlink |
| Lisa Riegel | AARP NC  |
| Lisa Tyndall | Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation |
| Mark Hensley | AARP NC |
| Martha Fowler | State Employees Association of NC |
| Marty Lamb | FOR/Individual Member |
| Mary Bethel | NC Coalition on Aging, Board Chair |
| Michael Dawkins | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Nedra Williams | Bertie County Department of Social Services |
| Paola Learoyd  | Randolph Cloud and Associates |
| Patricia Calloway | Generations Ashe |
| Rebecca Freeman | NC DHHS/Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Rochelle Sparko | NC Center for Responsible Lending |
| Sandy Deutsch | Wake County Community Advisory Committee |
| Sara Merz | Merz Consulting |
| Sarah Bowen | NC State University |
| Scott Tenbroeck  | Elder Options for You |
| Sean Baker  | NC Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs |
| S. Faircloth |  |
| Shannon Butler-Greene | Seniorlink |
| Shannon Myers | Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services |
| Susan Bone | Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Suzanne LaFollette-Black | AARP NC Volunteer |
| Suzanne Martin | Carol Woods Retirement Community |
| Terry Westbrook | NC Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs |
| Tracy Colvard | Maxim Healthcare |
| Willetha Barnette | Institute for Family Caregiving |

**Board Chair Mary Bethel** opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

**Secretary/Treasurer Dick Chady** presented the minutes from the February 25, 2022 members’ meeting. They were approved without changes.

**Treasurer Dick Chady** reported the bank account balance was $117,682 as of March 24, 2022. The report was accepted.

**Terry Westbrook**, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, reported that:

* NC is home to 100,000+ active duty personnel on five bases and 700,000 veterans, plus the NC National Guard. The DMVA has 210 Veterans Service Officers all around the state to help veterans with their issues.
* The DMVA operates skilled nursing facilities for veterans in Black Mountain, Kinston, Fayetteville and Salisbury with a total of 399 beds. They are about to open a fifth in Kernersville and plan to build a sixth near the PNC Arena in Raleigh. The current homes are managed by PruittHealth Corp. of Norcross, GA.
* Because DMVA estimates a need for 1,900 beds along the continuum of care, they hope to establish at least 1,100 beds, including new ones for assisted living. And they are considering adding home care.
* NCCOA could help DMVA by identifying benefits to help veterans for independent living and home health care. Example: transportation in rural areas.

**NCCOA Updates by Heather Burkhardt**

* We have hit the 90-member mark.
* She recently participated in several events:
	+ Grand openings for SAGE**,** and the NC Baptist Aging Ministry Care Village in Kinston.
	+ The NC Impact show on “Aging in Place” that aired on PBS North Carolina in March. It’s available on the web.
	+ The Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health.
* In April, Heather is going to report on our experience with EJEC at the Southern Gerontological Society conference in Florida and the American Society on Aging national meeting in New Orleans.
* **Direct Care Workforce**: We received the Z. Smith Reynolds grant of $30,000/year for two years to continue and expand the Essential Jobs, Essential Care initiative begun with the PHI grant. We provided three online advocacy training along with MI and NM. We’ll cap that with NC’s second annual Convening on the Direct Care Workforce on March 30.

The NCCOA website has PHI’s great progress report on the project, including our successes in the NCGA with one-time bonuses for certain workers in long-term care settings and permanent wage increases.

* **Grants:** NCCOA is lead agency in seeking $15,000 for one year on “Changing the Care Conversation” from Grantmakers in Aging/Community Catalyst. It’s aimed at developing skills and materials for experienced caregivers to have a stronger voice in the policy world.
* **Health Equity Workgroup: Co-Chair Deryl Davis Fulmer** said the group’s first online meeting was well-received, with speakers on the national perspective and NC’s progress on health equity. The next meeting is 9:00 a.m. May 13.
* For **Older Americans Month in May**, NCCOA is following the national theme of “Age My Way” We will be seeking videos of what “Age My Way” means to our members. We will compile them and show in May.
* For **Virtual Day at the Legislature on May 24, we** are coordinating with Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care, AARP and NASW.
* **Return to in-person meetings:** We presented an online survey form to learn members’ preferences for in-person, online or a hybrid format. Site options include the Dix campus or the Department of Insurance’s Albemarle Building in downtown Raleigh.
* We are monitoring the joint legislative committees on oversight for Medicaid expansion and other DHHS issues, such as Medicaid managed care.
* At our April 22 members’ meeting we will be partnering with the NC Serious Illness Coalition. The focus will be a preview of legislative short session, which convenes on May 18.

**Sharing from Members**

* **Jeff Horton** of the NC Senior Living Association said their providers would suffer an 18 percent cut in rates when the state moves back from higher, COVID-related payments to the regular rates. The legislature seems to consent to OK continuing the higher rate this year.
* **Ben Popkin** of FORLTC said they focus on increasing the Personal Needs Allowance for nursing homes. At $30, NC is one of four states to keep the allowance at $30 since 1986.
* **David Sevier** said the bill on advance care planning passed Senate and is pending in House Rules Committee.
* **Rebecca Freeman** said the Division of Aging and Adult Services made annual awards to:
	+ - Centralina AAA Pride and Care NC for cultural competency training.
		- Pisgah Health Foundation for programs to improve the health and wellness of WNC residents.
		- **Bill Lamb** of FORLTC for effective advocacy for older residents, such as securing passage of the “No Patient Left Alone Act.”
	+ The NCIOM’s **Task Force on** **Healthy Aging’s** Steering Committee Co-Chairs are **Dennis Streets** of Chatham County and **Becky Gray** of BCBS. Plans are to add a third one, with a kickoff in April or May.
	+ **David Rhew** of the NC Public Transit Assn. said there are some glitches in non-emergency transportation under Medicaid Transformation, including one provider leaving. The NCPTA’s annual conference in Concord on April 1-13.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Chady

Secretary/Treasurer

April 2, 2022

**Next Membership Meeting**

**Friday, April 22, 2022 from 10 am- 12:00 pm**

**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.**

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.**

April 22, 2022

May 20, 2022

June 24, 2022

August 26, 2022

September 23\* Annual Meeting

December 2, 2022