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**Membership Meeting**

**Friday, May 20, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at NC DOI and via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

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| Abby Emanuelson | Care4Carolina |
| Adam Sholar | NCHCFA |
| Ana Pardo | NC Justice Center |
| Beth Reeves | Arosa |
| Bill Lamb | FOR |
| Chad Walker | Alignment Health Care |
| Crystal Adams | NC Oral Health Collaborative |
| Daunita Maennle | Cherokee Co. DSS |
| Demarcus Andrews | The Center for Responsible Lending |
| Deryl Davis Fulmer | NC Governmental Employees' Association |
| Dick Chady | NC Continuing Care Residents Association/NC Third Age |
| Dr. Taylor Jones | SGS; NC AARP; NCSTHL |
| Ed Rosenberg | NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging |
| Elaine Whitford | The Center of Volunteer Caregiving |
| Ellen Schneider | UNC Center for Aging and Health |
| Erica Janko | UNC Chapel Hill |
| Gail Miller | NCSTHL |
| Harold Barnette | Institute for Family Caregiving |
| Heather Altman | NC Serious Illness Coalition, Harmony Advisors |
| Heather Burkhardt | NC Coalition on Aging |
| James How | FirstCarolinaCare |
| Janice Tyler | NC Association on Aging/Orange County Department on Aging |
| Jeff Horton | NC Senior Living Association |
| Jo Paul | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| John Gibbons | RHA Services |
| Joseph Wheeler | SAGE of Central NC |
| Joyce Massey-Smith | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Julia Burrows | Am. Society on Aging |
| Karen Appert | NC Serious Illness Coalition |
| Karin McDaniel | Adult Life Programs |
| Kathryn Bunn | SembraNet |
| Kay Castillo | NASW-NC Chapter |
| Kelly Stevens |  |
| Lauren Zingraff | FOR |
| Leah Proctor | NC 211/United Way of NC |
| Les Geller | SAGE of Central NC |
| Linda Barfield | Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments |
| Lisa Fletcher | Seniorlink |
| Lisa Hoskins | The Center for Volunteer Caregiving |
| Martha Fowler | SEANC |
| Mary Marlin | Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments AAA |
| Mary Williams-Stover | NC DHHS |
| Marybrenda Tremoulet | Individual member |
| Michael Dawkins | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Paige Sprinkle | NCDHHS, Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing |
| Paola Learoyd | Randolph Cloud and Associates |
| Patricia Calloway | Generations Ashe |
| Rebecca Freeman | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Roger Manus | Individual member |
| Sarah Bowen | NC State University |
| Susan Bone | Triangle J Area Agency on Aging |
| Tracy Colvard | Maxim Healthcare |
| Tracy Honeycutt | Mid-Carolina Council of Governments AAA |

Board Chair **Mary Bethel** opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Members introduced themselves in person and online.

Secretary/Treasurer **Dick Chady** presented the minutes from the April 22, 2022 members’ meeting.  They were approved without changes.

Treasurer **Dick Chady** reported the bank account balance was $106,583.68 on May 19, 2022.  The report was accepted.

**Joyce Massey-Smith,** Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, provided updates on Gov. Cooper’s proposed budget. It includes:

* $4.2 million in Key Rental Assistance for **affordable housing** for approximately 2,200 households with disabled and/or low-income persons.
* $60 million for a **Medicaid rate increase for direct care workers** in nursing homes. This makes part of the temporary COVID funding permanent.
* $4 million to help persons with **mental illness make the transition** from nursing homes to community-based facilities
* $2.9 million for increased health and safety staff for **inspections of nursing homes and assisted living.**
* $7.5 million to add more than 100 fulltime positions in counties for **Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services.**
* $7.7 million to **expand In-Home Special Assistance** for room and board. Creates parity between in-home and adult care homes.
* $45 million to **expand healthcare workforce training** in the UNC System.
* **Medicaid expansion:** This would expand coverage to 600,000 NCians by using all federal money and a special tax on hospitals.

In other comments, Joyce said:

* NC needs a plan for public health infrastructure when federal American Recovery Program Act (ARPA) funds end.
* NC DHHS will kick off planning for a new four-year **State Aging Plan**.
* The NC Institute of Medicine’s **Healthy Aging Task Force** had its first meeting to begin developing recommendations.
* NC DHHS is developing a 3-5-year plan of improvements in **Adult Protective Services.**
* NC has received funding to participate in national 988 hotline for access for mental health services and those emergencies.
* World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15.  The San Diego district attorney will speak at a virtual event sponsored by NC DHHS.

**Mary Bethel** explained the AARP survey that accompanies the **“Age My Way**” video. Persons can take the survey at: https://states.aarp.org/north-carolina/

**Jeff Horton** of the NC Senior Living Assn. commented that funders do not cover the cost of care provided in most assisted living facilities. Although there were 19,000 residents in those facilities in 2010, now it is about 10.000-12,000.

The second presenter**, Abby Emanuelson,** consultant with Care4Carolina, voiced optimism that NC may finally expand Medicaid this year. Senate Republican Leader Phil Berger has accepted the idea. Roughly 70 percent of NCians support it.

As extra incentive for the remaining 12 states to expand it, the federal government now offers an extra five percent in the federal share of expenses over eight quarters. NC would receive $1.5 billion in total, which could be spent on anything, not just Medicaid.

Expansion would extend coverage to an estimated 34,000 NCians aged from 55-64. In addition, it would help an estimated 150,000 NCians with mental health or substance use disorders. Experience in other states documents how the expansion, reduces the mortality rates for older adults; improves access to early screening and diagnosis: provides prescriptions for heart disease and diabetes and other conditions. Some 76 percent of those in the Medicaid coverage gap are already working. Nine percent are healthcare and social assistance workers. Some 20 percent of the direct care workers are uninsured.

In addition, the move would create jobs in health care and stabilize safety net and health care providers.

**Mary Bethel** urged coalition members, especially from rural areas, to ask their state legislators to support the action. It’s very effective to invite them to visit programs in their district.

**Heather Burkhardt Updates:**

* NCCOA’s **Virtual Legislative Advocacy Day** is noon-1:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 24.**
* For Older Americans Month in May, NCCOA sponsored placements with the “Age My Way” theme.
* **The NCCOA annual meeting is September 23 at the NC State University Club in Raleigh**.  The main speaker will be **Tracey Gendron**, Chair of the Department of Gerontology at VCU and the executive director of the Virginia Center on Aging.  Her book is: “Ageism Unmasked: Exploring Age Bias and How to End it.”
* **Care Collaborative Group:** They are implementing the “Changing the Care Conversation.” Heather attended the kick-off meeting with nine other states (CA, AZ, HI, T, TX, WI, MI, IL, NY). The first goal is to recruit 12 champion caregivers for webinars by May 24.
* **Essential Jobs, Essential Care:** After three years with the grant from PHI to advocate for the direct care workforce, we are transitioning the project to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant.
* **Community Capacity Building for Home and Community-Based Services:** The UNC School of Social Work has received a $150,000 grant for each of four years to work on this. We are a subrecipient to work on credentialing and training for the direct care workforce.
* **Health Equity Workgroup Update from Deryl Davis Fulmer:**

At the workgroup’s May 13 meeting:

* **Catherine Sevier**: President of AARPNC, provided an update on the NC DHHS Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental and Health Equity Task Force.
* **Mary Williams Stover** facilitated discussions of the four topic areas for the NCCOA workgroup: Older adults with disabilities; Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); Rural communities; and persons who identify as LGBTQ+. Each workgroup shall do research and make recommendations by next March. Deryl encouraged others to join.

**Updates from Members:**

* On June 6, the NCRGE will Celebrate Public Service Day.
* On June 9, the NC Rural Health Association holds its kickoff and legislative breakfast.

Mary adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Chady

Secretary/Treasurer

May 23, 2022

**Next Membership Meeting**

**Friday, June 24,** 2022 from 10 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.  Note: This will be in person at the Department of Insurance’s training room in the Albemarle Building in Raleigh with an online option.

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

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

June 24, 2022

August 26, 2022

September 23\* Annual Meeting

December 2, 2022

**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)**

**July 12**

August 9

October 11

November 8