

Membership Meeting

Friday, June 24, 2022

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

At NCDOI and Via Zoom

Attendees:

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| Alan Winstead | Meals on Wheels NC |
| Amber Chapman | High Country Council of Governments |
| Audrey Edmisten | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Bill Lamb | Friends of Residents in Long Term Care (FOR) |
| Brooke Baragona | SembraCare |
| Christy Walker | Captionist |
| Cynthia Hancock | University of North Carolina- Wilmington |
| Daunita Maennle | Cherokee County DSS/Individual Member |
| Demarcus Andrews  | The Center for Responsible Lending |
| Deryl Davis Fulmer | NC Governmental Employees' Association |
| Ed Rosenberg | NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging |
| Elaine Whitford | The Center for Volunteer Caregiving |
| Elizabeth Williams | Mountain Care |
| Ellen Bailey | NC Center for Health and Wellness/UNC-Asheville |
| Ellen Schneider | UNC Center for Aging and Health |
| Erica Janko  | UNC Chapel Hill Student |
| Greg Tanner | Mecklenburg DSS |
| Heather Altman | Harmony Advisors/Individual member |
| Heather Burkhardt | NC Coalition on Aging, Executive Director |
| Ivy Williams | Freedom House Recovery Center |
| Jay Potter | NASW- NC intern |
| Jeff Horton | NC Senior Living Association |
| Jo Paul  | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Joyce Massey-Smith | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Juan Jefferson | NC Association on Aging |
| Karin McDaniel | Adult Life Program |
| Katie Franklin | NCDHHS/Division for Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing |
| Kay Castillo  | National Association of Social Workers-NC Chapter |
| Kezia Scales | PHI |
| Kimberly Williams | Individual Member |
| Laura Schlabach | NC Department of Justice |
| Lauren Zingraff | Friends of Residents in Long-term Care |
| Les Geller  | SAGE Central North Carolina |
| Lisa Riegel | AARP-NC |
| Lora Fleger | FirstCarolinaCare |
| Marty Lamb | FOR/Individual Member |
| Mary Bethel | NC Coalition on Aging, Board Chair |
| Mary Rudolph | Individual Member |
| Mary Warren | Triangle J Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging |
| Michael Dawkins | NC Department of Insurance/SHIIP |
| Nancy Ruffner | Navigate NC |
| Nancy Warren | NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse |
| Paige Sprinkle | NCDHHS/Division for Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing |
| Patricia Calloway | Generations Ashe |
| Rebecca Freeman | NC DHHS, Division of Aging and Adult Services |
| Roger Manus | Individual Member |
| Sandy Deutsch | Wake County Community Advisory Committee |
| SFaircloth |  |
| Steven Hahn | AARP-NC |
| Susan Bone  | Triangle J Council of Governments |
| Tom Akins  | LeadingAge NC |
| Toni Chatman | Wake AHEC |
| Tracy Colvard | Maxim Healthcare |
| Tracy Honeycutt | Mid Carolina Area Agency on Aging |
| Valerie Arendt | NASW-NC |
| Zoe Taylor |  |

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

Secretary/Treasurer **Dick Chady** was out of state and not able to attend the meeting. Mary presented the minutes from the May 20, 2022 members’ meeting.  She urged those with comments or changes to email Dick or Heather.

Mary announced that **Chad Walker,** who has served on the Board of Directors for nearly four years, resigned earlier this year. Per the policies and bylaws of the Coalition on Aging, when a position is vacated in the middle of a term, the board fills that position until the term expires. Mary was pleased to share the Board met a week ago and voted to elect **Deryl Davis Fulmer.** who is co-chair of the Health Equity Committee Workgroup works with NC Retired Governmental Employees’ Association. Deryl made a few remarks to the membership.

 **Heather Burkhardt** provided the treasurer’s report on behalf of Dick. The organizations checking account was at $116,564.60. The increase was due to receipt of the grant from Community Catalyst to implement the “Changing the Care Conversation” project, it will allow the organization to empower caregivers to engage in policy reform by providing training and education. New memberships are continuing to come in. Heather reminded the group that some organizations need to renew after the start of their fiscal years in July.

Heather provided additional updates since the Coalition’s last meeting in May:

* During the last Board of Director’s meeting, they approved hiring of a contract person to lead our direct care workforce activities. It is a two-year contract position and we will be seeking applicants by the end of the summer. If f you know of somebody who is passionate about that work, reach to her directly.
* Mary Bethel and Heather had a successful and engaging meeting with **Sec. Kody Kinsley** at DHHS. They were joined by **Carla West** from **Division of Social Services** and **Joyce Massey-Smith**, the director **of Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)**. Topics of discussion included adult protective services, direct care workforce, Olmstead Plan and Medicaid. Heather thanked **Joyce** Massey-Smith for helping to facilitate the meeting.
* The Coalition provided public comment to NC DHHS on **Clifford’s Law** implementation plan, which addresses visitation in residential settings. The Coalition worked closely with members on coordinating comments. On the federal level we provided comments to the Administration for Community Living on the **Older Americans Act**. They supported the continuation the regulation which allows for the transfer of funds between home- delivered meals and congregate nutrition. Comments also supported the continuation targeting low-income persons and minorities.
* Several members recently conducted lobby day/or advocacy events including **FOR**, **NCHCFA**, and **AARP**. Organizations collaborated well and leveraged each other’s strengths. Policy areas focused on increasing Medicaid rates to support direct care workers, increasing PNA for nursing homes residents, and Medicaid expansion. The end of the state fiscal year is fast approaching and Medicaid expansion and the end of the public health emergency and continuation of increased Medicaid rates are still at the forefront of concern.
* Nominations for the **Pioneer Award** are open and will be taken until **September 1st**. Members were encouraged to consider nominating people for the Pioneer Award, which will be announced at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on September 23.
* The **Annual Meeting will be in person on September 26, 2022 at the NC State University Club**. **Dr. Tracy Gendron** from Virginia Commonwealth University will discuss her new book, “Ageism Unmasked.”
* Heather and **Tom Akins** from **NC Adult Day Services Association** have been monitoring the implementation of the elimination of the rate cap for adult day services.
* The new “**Changing the Care Conversation”** grant is off to a great start. Between the **NC Serious Illness Coalition** and the **Complex Care Coalition for Children-** 11 caregiver champions have been identified and are attending advocacy skills training with caregivers from 10 other states. The three partnering groups will host a **Virtual Caregiver Summit in May of 2023,** which will allow the caregiver champions to set the agenda and content.

**Laura Schlabach** provided our “Diversity Moment” and an update on the Health Equity Workgroup. She mentioned that June is **LGBTQ Pride Month** and she highlighted the many resources on the SAGE website and shared a link in the chat. The **next Health Equity meeting is July 8th from 9-11 a.m. on Zoom**. They are creating four workgroups within the committee for Rural;LGBTQ; Blac, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); and Disabilities. She welcomed anyone interested to join a group.

**DAAS Updates and Elizabeth Welsh Award**

**Mary Bethel** introduced **Joyce Massey-Smith** from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services. Joyce thanked **Tom Akins** for his work with adult day services. She is working on how to instruct providers to move forward. She explained that the Rules Review Commission did not approve the proposed rule changes. The Department is regrouping and she will keep stakeholders informed. Joyce also shared the following updates:

* NC is one of 10 states approved to participate in a learning collaborative to develop a master plan for aging. DAAS is partnering with the Division of Health Benefits.
* Work continues to improve Adult Protective Services planning. She will send out letters for stakeholders to join their design teams. The efforts will be focused on consistency of practice across the 100 counties.
* There are just 35 counties with APS multidisciplinary teams. DAAS is working with UNC School of Government to ensure there is one in each county.
* The Division is also beginning the work for the four-year State Aging Plan. It is a document required by the General Assembly and the US Administration for Community Living. The Area Agencies on Aging and other groups will be involved in the process over the next year
* Secretary Kinsley has been an advocate for the ability of all people who want to give blood. and are able medically. To do so. He recently sent a letter to the FDA urging them to allow gay men to give blood. Joyce provided a link to the letter.

 Joyce presented **Bill Lamb** with the division’s **Elizabeth Welch Award** for extraordinary voluntary contributions on behalf of older adults

**Presentation: NC Falls Prevention Coalition**

**Ellen Bail**ey from the **NC Center for Health & Wellness** in Asheville provided detailed information on the prevalence of unintended falls in our states and the cost to the health care system. Ellen was joined by **Toni Chatman from Wake AHEC** and **Amber Chapman from High Country Area Agency on Aging**. After providing information on the work of the NC Falls Prevention Coalition, they invited anyone interested to participate. The Powerpoint presentation provides details. For more information, go to their website at ncfallsprevention.org.

Mary thanked the presenters and said the presentation would be emailed

**NC AOA Awards**

**Juan Jefferson, President of NC Association on Aging (NCAOA)** presented the group’s Excellence in the Field of Aging Award to NC Coalition on Aging’s **Essential Jobs, Essential Care NC** project. It has worked build a coalition of support for leveraging policy reforms to improve compensation, create innovation and advance data systems in the field. Heather thanked Juan for the recognition and stress that the multi-year project would not be possible without the support and leadership with **PHI** and **Dr. Kezia Scales.**

**Legislative Update**

Heather stated the NC House of Representatives committee will consider SB.408- Rural Healthcare Access & Savings Plan Act. It would create a new legislative study committee to consider expanding Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level, with a report due in December.

The House bill doesn’t not contain the same elements as the Senate bill such as Certificate of Need revisions, Advance Practice Nursing or telehealth. The bill could soon be up for a vote in the House Health Committee and the full House.  The next few days are critical for communicating to NC House members about closing the health insurance gap. She sent an email earlier this week urging NCCOA members to let their NC House members know we appreciate their recent efforts to close the health insurance coverage gap by expanding Medicaid. A link to Care4Carolina advocacy alert made the process easy.  It is unknown what the final budget will look like and if the Governor will sign it. It is generally felt that the both the House and Senate want to move the budget process along quickly and adjourn. Heather also stated the Coalition wrote a blog article for Care4Carolina on the impact of Medicaid expansion for those aged 55-64. **Joyce Massey-Smith** said the Department is putting all their support to Medicaid expansion and will provide members a fact sheet on benefits of the initiative.

**Bill Lamb** shared **Friends of Residents in Long-term Care has** had some positive conversations with legislators about raising the **Personal Needs Allowance,** but it’s not known if it is in the budget. I If not, it will remain on the agenda for next year.

**Jeff Horton** from **NC Senior Living Association** discussed the pending rate drop for personal care services when pandemic- related increases end on July 15th. The 18% rate drop will impact home and community-based providers as well as those in adult care homes. The rate will go from $23.84 an hour to $19.56. NCSLA documented that there is a wide disparity in what adult care home providers get paid versus the cost to provide services. Jeff stated is likely Social Security recipients could see at 8.6% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in 2023, which would cause many people getting State County Special Assistance to exceed the eligibility limit. This will create discharges from facilities and prohibit people from qualifying for care in adult care homes.

**Member Updates and Sharing**

**Ellen Schnieder** (**UNC Center on Aging**): NC Brain Health Conference will be held on September 15, at the McKimmon Center at NCSU. Registration ($50) will be opening soon thorough Wake AHEC.

**Rebecca Freeman (DAAS):** NCDHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services is offering a 2-part training series on social isolation, loneliness, and elevated suicide risk among older adults. Part 1 is Belonging & Empathy Training (3 hours, virtual). Part 2 is Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (2 days, in-person). In-person locations will be held in Wilson, Kernersville, and Asheville.  Space is limited and registration is required by Friday, July 8th. Flyer will be sent out follow the meeting.

Members were reminded that there would not be a meeting in July and that our **next meeting would be on August 26th from 10 am – 12 pm at the NC Department of Insurance in Raleigh and online.** Mary adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Burkhardt

Executive Director