NC Coalition on Aging Members' Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2026, via ZOOM

46 Attendees

Mary Bethel, Board Chair, opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. It was noted that ASL and CART Captioning services were available for the meeting.

Minutes from the May 15, 2026, meeting will be posted on the Coalition's website.

Financial Update – Lee Little, Secretary/Treasurer
Lee noted that the Coalition is financially stable with expenses as expected for this fiscal year. Attendees were encouraged to renew their memberships for the 2026 year.

PRESENTATION: ***Housing Programs and Services for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities***

Josh Walker, Olmstead Housing Director – NC DHHS

- Josh discussed the Housing Services Partnership Accelerator 3.0, a national initiative through ACL and HRSA focusing on behavioral health, employment, and housing resources. The program offers 6-week sessions with webinars and peer learning opportunities. Josh invited participants to get engaged, particularly from Area Agencies on Aging and Centers for Independent Living.
- The presentation covered the definition of "at-risk for homelessness," which includes individuals who are couch-hopping or in unstable housing situations, as well as those living paycheck-to-paycheck who could be unable to afford rent.
- **North Carolina's Strategic Housing Plan** was discussed. The Plan has five major work areas: Housing Development, Non-development (barrier removal), Services, Partnerships and Coordination. He explained that the Plan aims to address housing challenges for individuals with disabilities, with work groups reporting quarterly to the Housing Leadership Committee. This plan is available online at https://www.ncdhhs.gov/ncdhhs-strategic-housing-plan/open
- It was noted that Governor Stein has issued Executive Order 36 which addresses increasing housing opportunities for North Carolinians. Among other things, the Order creates a new Senior Advisory for Housing Policy in the Governor's office.

Detra Purcell, Section Chief of Housing and Homelessness – NCDHHS Division of Aging
Detra presented on the **Targeted Housing Program** and the **Emergency Solutions Grant Program**.

- The **Targeted Housing Program** is a permanent supportive housing initiative within the Division of Aging. The program receives approximately $7.2 million annually in key rental assistance funding. There are currently over 2,500 active participants.
- The Targeted Housing Program serves adults 18 and over with disabilities, with eligibility based on income limits and requiring referrals from approved agencies rather than self-referrals. Over half of the program participants are older adults. Detra explained the workflow involves housing assessors and stabilization coordinators working with referral agencies to facilitate housing placement and to address tenancy issues. Persons in the program get to choose where they live.

- The program partners with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to set aside units for people with disabilities.
- The program prioritizes individuals transitioning from institutional settings as part of Olmstead compliance (Transitions to Community Living and Money Follows the Person).
- Upon request, Detra can provide Excel reports of certified providers in specific counties.

- Detra also provided an overview of the **Emergency Solutions Grant Program**, which receives over $5 million annually from HUD. It funds local agencies to provide services to homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness.
- Local nonprofit agencies or government entities can become approved referral agencies by contacting Wanda Teel at NCDHHS who provides quarterly training and manages the referral process. It was emphasized that approved agencies must commit to providing ongoing support services to help tenants maintain their housing, The program involves specific units set aside from Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties.

Coalition Updates/Announcements

- Kay reported on World Elder Abuse Awareness activities, including participation in webinars and events at the North Carolina Health and Human Services headquarters. The Governor's mansion was lit up purple for awareness.
- The Coalition submitted comments on the Social Services Block Grant Intended Use Plan for 2027 and participated in a public comment meeting about the Block Grant.
- Leanne Clarke-Shirley, President and CEO of the American Society on Aging, was announced as the Keynote Speaker for the Coalition's Annual Meeting on Friday, September 25, 2026.
- Coalition Members were encouraged to submit nominations for Coalition Board Members and the annual Pioneer Award. Nominations forms will be available on the website starting in July.
- Sandra presented website and Facebook statistics, showing 1,100 website visitors and 1,186 Facebook followers in the past 90 days, with 51% of Facebook views coming from non-followers. Approximately 52% of Facebook followers are aged 55+.

Coalition Public Policy Committee Update – Lee Dobson, Chair

Updates were provided on public policy priorities, including monitoring the budget process and the following legislation:

- House Bill 1115 and House Bill 349 to update and simplify laws regarding Health Care Power of Attorney and Advanced Health Care Directives.
- House Bill 79 and Senate Bill 110 - North Carolina Work and Save to create a small business retirement savings program.
- House Bill 920 - The bill requires virtual currency (cryptocurrency) to be licensed and to display consumer protection information.
- Senate Bill 595 – Various Revenue Laws Changes – This includes updates to provisions to protect disabled and older adults from financial exploitation.

The Committee will meet in August to begin developing the 2027 Legislative Priorities for the Coalition. The 2027 Legislative Priorities will be presented to the membership in October.

Health Equity Committee Update

- The Committee extended a big thank you to Lindsey Golden and Betsy Barton for being part of the speaker series in May and June. The videos of their presentations are on the Coalition's website along with presentation slides.

- The next Health Equity Committee Meeting is Friday, August 14, at 9:30 a.m. All Committee meetings are virtual. If interested in being part of the Committee, reach out to Sandra Phelps at operations@nccoalitiononaging.org
- The Hot Topic and Speaker Series will begin again in September and October. Issues in rural North Carolina communities is being considered as the focus for an upcoming session.

Membership Announcements

- Demarcus Andrews with AARP North Carolina spoke about the Crypto Currency bill (H 920) - *Virtual Currency Kiosk Consumer Protection Act* - that has been passed by the Senate and sent to the House.
- Diana Baker with the NC Money Follows the Person (NCMFP) program invited meeting attendees to attend the next Quarterly Roundtable Meeting for NCMFP on August 14.
- Casey Miller introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the Council on Aging of Buncombe County
- The July Calendar of Events will be sent out on July 1st.

No Additional Business Identified

There is no July Membership Meeting.
Next NCCOA Membership Meeting (from 10:00 – 12:00): August 28, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.
Respectfully submitted, Sandra Phelps, Operations Director