



Coming Together to Advocate for Older Adults NC Coalition on Aging Updates February 2020

A Message from Tracy Colvard, Chairman of the NC Coalition on Aging Board of Directors



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the NC Coalition on Aging, we thank so many of you who have already renewed your dues for 2020 and have reached out to other organizations who would be a great fit for our organization. As we continue to move forward into 2020, please reach out to Allison with any of your thoughts, concerns, suggestions or even compliments. ☺ We feel like we have a very productive 2020 agenda in store for all of our organizational members and partners as well. Again, never hesitate to reach out to Allison or myself if we can be of service in any way.



A Message From Allison Costanzo, Executive Director

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome over the last month. I have enjoyed getting to speak with so many of you since starting. If you ever have any feedback or would like to share more about your organization please let me know, I would be delighted to connect. As a friendly reminder, we have sent out a Google Form to ask for updated contact information. Please fill that out to ensure you receive communications moving forward. If you need to contact me, you can email executivedirector@nccoalitiononaging.org

Membership Dues are Due for 2020

A friendly reminder that Membership Dues are paid on an annual basis and are due for 2020. If you or your organization has not yet paid, please go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx> to submit your application today.

NC Coalition on Aging has a New Logo (and Upcoming New Website)



The NC Coalition on Aging has rebranded the logo! We are very excited about the change and how it represents our organization. The NC COA is a shortened moniker for our organization, the state represents our scope and reach across all counties in North Carolina, and the circle swoosh represents the whole organization and our membership- the holistic approach to caring for North

Carolina's aging population by for-profit, government, individual and not-for-profit entities. Coming in the next few weeks is a new website design as well to compliment our new logo. Special thanks to the board for their support in this process!

February Coalition Meeting

The February meeting of 2020 was held on February 28th at 1:00pm in Taylor Hall (Room 204) on Dix Campus. Sarah Smith made remarks on behalf of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services about the Division's Healthy Aging Task Force Planning. A presentation from Michelle Reis about the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and their Serious Illness Taskforce shed light on the important work that NCIM is doing. Many Coalition members shared that they were collecting stories for their various

organizations including the Homestead task force, PHI, AARP, among others. The full meeting information will be available at the end of March. There is a new call in number for Coalition meetings: (425)426-6365: passcode 335101.

Additional 2020 Coalition Meeting Dates

- March 27
- April 24
- May 29
- June 26
- August 28
- September 25 (annual meeting)
- October 23
- December 4

Legislative Updates

U.S. Supreme Court Allows “Public Charge” Rule to Move Forward

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court [issued a ruling](#) allowing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) ["public charge" regulation](#) to go into effect, despite lower court rulings in October that had stopped implementation of the rule. The public charge rule allows immigration officials to give greater weight to applicants' medical history, income levels, and dependency on public assistance in determining whether to grant lawful immigration status. It is unclear how quickly DHS will begin implementation of the public charge rule.

Many nonprofits have expressed concerns that the new public charge rule would discourage immigrants from using public benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid and would cause disparate treatment of immigrant families who are at or near the federal poverty level. In August, the [National Council of Nonprofits submitted comments opposing the proposal](#) "because the rule would violate core American principles, operate as an unfunded mandate by imposing billions of dollars of costs onto charitable nonprofits, and negatively affect the operations of charitable nonprofits." (Nonprofit Policy Matters, January 31, 2020)

SECURE Act Takes Effect In 2020

In December 2019, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was signed into law, with many provisions taking effect on January 1, 2020. One of the provisions of the law impacts the age at which individuals are required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from their retirement accounts.

As a result of the law, if you turned 70½ on or after January 1, 2020, your first RMD will not be required until you are age 72. If you fall into this age range, the new deadline for taking your first RMD is April 1 following the year in which you turn 72 or the year that you stop working for your employer, if later. If are you still employed at that time, your employer may allow you to delay your first RMD until the April 1 following the year in which you terminate employment.

If you turned 70½ in 2019, you must still take your RMD by April 1, 2020, and continue to take RMDs no

later than each December 31 after that. If you turned 70½ in 2019 and are still working, you must still take your RMD by the April 1 following the year you no longer work for your employer.

Senior Tar Heel Legislators from Dare County Share Senior Legislative Goals with General Assembly

Priorities for North Carolina's seniors are detailed from Dare County's Senior Tar Heel Legislators. To read more [click here](#). (The Coastland Times, Mary Helen Goodloe-Murphy, January 30,2020)

Federal Proposal Could Change the Face of Medicaid in North Carolina

The Trump Administration is proposing a potentially transformative change to how Medicaid functions in some areas. The proposal would let states opt into a lump-sum funding system to pay for the health care needs of low-income, working-age adults. [Click here to read the full article](#). (North Carolina Health News, Sarah Ovaska and Liora Engel-Smith, January 31,2020)

Senators Propose to Increase Home Care Access for Seniors

U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) have introduced the Homecare for Seniors Act, which will allow individuals over 65 the ability to use savings from their tax-free health savings accounts (HSAs) for qualified homecare expenses that assist seniors with everyday tasks of daily living. This bill is companion legislation to H.R. 2878, which was introduced by U.S. Representatives Katie Porter (D-CA-45), Adrian Smith (R-NE-3), John Larson (D-CT-1), and Jackie Walorski (R-IN-2).

HSAs provide individuals a pre-tax opportunity to save for medical expenses. Currently seniors who retire with an HSA are not allowed to use those savings for home care expenses, like assistance with meals, personal care, or medication. These types of critical services ensure that seniors can remain in their homes and get the assistance they need. The legislation would allow disbursements of health savings account (HSA) funds to be eligible for qualified home care services. Specifically, those services include assistance for activities of daily living.

To be considered "qualified home care" a minimum of three of the specified services must be contracted for.

"Current law keeps seniors from being able to use the money they have saved in a health savings account to access homecare services," said Senator Gardner. "Without homecare support, seniors can be forced to decide to move into a more restrictive, expensive setting. It is critical we give seniors the flexibility to use their savings to pay for invaluable homecare services and ensure they are able to choose to remain in their homes."

"Arizona seniors who've paid into Health Savings Accounts deserve the option to use their money for home care. Ensuring health savings can be used for home care increases access to services our loved ones need to stay safe at home, provides relief to family caregivers, and helps Arizona seniors save money," said Senator Sinema.

"The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) supports this important legislation and encourages Congress to continue to find innovative ways to help people receive care in their homes," said NAHC president William A. Dombi

"With health care costs ever growing, the home is the ideal and most efficient setting for seniors in need of assistance with activities of daily living. Relaxing restrictions on distributions of health savings account funds is a simple way to open up access to these services," said Calvin McDaniel, NAHC's Director of Government Affairs. (NAHC, February 19,2020)

Trump Administration Releases FY21 Budget

On February 10, the Trump Administration released its FY21 budget request. With a few exceptions, services and benefits for older adults are offered up for cuts or level funding. Falls Prevention, Chronic Disease Self-Management Education, and the Senior Community Service Employment Programs are among those singled out for elimination. Preliminary estimates suggest the Administration's recommendations would cut Medicaid by approximately \$900 billion over 10 years, and Medicare by \$500 billion in the same time period. Many believe the vast majority of cuts are unlikely to pass Congress, and aging advocacy groups plan to work with allies in both parties to protect and invest in aging services. To see the final requests, bills, and final budgets for aging needs in 2020 [click here](#).

Election 2020: State Health Care Snapshots

Health care is a top issue for voters in the 2020 election. Polling indicates voter concerns range from the high cost of health coverage and prescription drugs, to protections for people with pre-existing conditions, to women's health issues.

To understand the health care landscape in which the 2020 election policy debates will unfold, these state health care snapshots provide data across a variety of health policy subjects, including health care costs, health coverage—Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance—and the uninsured, women's health, health status, and access to care. They also describe each state's political environment. (Kaiser Family Foundation, February 13, 2020) [Click here to view the snapshots for each state](#).

Protecting Older Americans Against Overpayment of Income Taxes

The Senate Special Committee on Aging is issuing this tax information paper for the tax year of 2019 with older Americans in mind. The committee has included a checklist for itemized deductions such as medical and dental expenses; a standard deduction table; and information on how to ask the IRS for help when filing your returns. [Click here to view](#).

News in North Carolina

With Dementia at Flood Tide in NC, Person-to-Person Support Groups Address Problems

As North Carolina faces an increase in people with dementia, some 300,000 will have it by 2030, many people are turning to support groups to help deal with the difficulty of having dementia or having a loved one with it. (North Carolina Health News, Tommy Goldsmith, February 26, 2020) [Click here to read the full article](#).

Department of Health and Human Services Releases New Thematic Maps to Show Demographic, Social and Economic Characteristics of North Carolina

[Click Here to See the Maps](#) which break down each county in North Carolina

NC Medicaid Celebrates 50 Years of Improving Health for North Carolina

This year marks the 50th anniversary of North Carolina Medicaid, which provides health coverage for low income adults, children, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities. North Carolina will celebrate by collecting stories of people who have benefited from Medicaid as well as providing new research on Medicaid in NC. (NCDHHS, January 2020.) [Click here to read the full article](#).

Department of Justice's Attorney General Josh Stein's Annual Report is Released

The Department of Justice released their 2019 Annual Report from Attorney General Josh Stein. [Click here to read the report](#) about the state of North Carolina

Department of Health and Human Services Noncompliance over Inadequate Housing and Services for People with Mental Illnesses

North Carolina is not on track to meet its mid-2021 deadline for compliance with a 2012 [legal settlement](#) with the U.S. Department of Justice over inadequate housing and services for people with mental illness, according to an annual independent reviewer's report released late last year.

While the state made substantial improvements since the [previous report in late 2018](#), independent reviewer Marti Knisley found that these only addressed some areas. In other areas, the state is running out of time seven years after agreeing to the settlement and may not be able to correct its course before the clock runs out, the report and an accompanying compliance chart show. [Click here to read the full article.](#) (Carolina Public Press, Frank Taylor, January 27, 2020)

NC Roadmap to Improving Serious Illness Care

Since caring for a seriously ill loved one is one of the biggest challenges we face, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM), in partnership with agencies and organizations that provide care and advocacy around issues of aging, palliative care, hospice care, and long-term supports and services, convened a Task Force on Serious Illness Care in 2019-20. The Task Force consisted of over 60 expert members, including health care providers, community members, advocacy representatives, and family caregivers. The Task Force on Serious Illness Care has developed a workable plan to improve the quality of living for individuals (and their caregivers) with serious illness. The final report of the Task Force will be issued this spring. [Click here to read more.](#) (The NC Coalition on Aging is a member of the Serious Illness Task Force)

Mobile Dental Health Comes to Special Needs Patients Including Elderly

Access Dental Care has a mobile dental office that helps people with special needs including the elderly, people with HIV, disabilities, and other special needs. "...But Milner and others with whom he works at Access Dental Care, a non-profit mobile provider, are working to clean and tend to the teeth and gums of the people who, for a variety of reasons, need dentists and hygienists to come to them." Anne Blythe from NC Health News highlights the important work Access Dental Care is doing for seniors and others in need in the community. [Click here for the full article.](#)

State Blueprint Helps Uncover Social Factors Affecting Health

Dr. Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH, the North Carolina's Health and Human Services Secretary shares what led her to understand the importance of social isolation on health and other outlining factors determining health. This helped create NCCARE360 which provides Medicare funding for unifying health and social services in the state. (AMA, Andis Robeznieks, February 10, 2020) [Click here for the full article.](#)

Volunteer Caregiving for Seniors, Already Vital in NC, Gets a \$19M Push from Feds

Volunteer Caregiving, like the Center for Volunteer Caregiving in Cary, NC provide vital services for seniors who are unable to leave their home without transportation support or do certain daily tasks and chores. The Federal Government understands the importance of these community support organizations and is providing grants totaling 19 million dollars across the country. (NC Health News, Tommy Goldsmith, February 10, 2020) [Click here to read the full article.](#)

North Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019 Update

The Executive Committee for Highway Safety, Secretary Trogon (NCDOT) and FHWA have all approved the 2019 update of the NC Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Mary Bethel, Coalition board member, and Neal Davis, Ex. Dir of Senior Services of Johnson County, Inc (Coalition member) as well as others represented the Coalition in a workgroup to update the plan. [Click here to view the plan.](#)

Some NC Senior Services Left in the Dust After Budget Feud Between Governor, Legislature

Senior services in North Carolina have not received the additional funding they hoped for after the budget did not pass due to the legislature and the Governor's unsuccessful compromise. Tommy Goldsmith interviews Brad Allen (Coalition member) and discusses other Coalition programs. (NC Health News, Tommy Goldsmith, February 19, 2020) [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Vital Directions for Health and Health Care: The North Carolina Experience Materials Now Available

Materials from the 2019 symposium, Vital Directions for Health and Healthcare: The North Carolina Experience are now available. The National Academy of Medicine launched the initiative in 2016 which convened more than 150 researchers, scientists, and policy makers to provide guidance on priority issues around the United States. [Click here to read the full materials and listen to remarks from top leaders.](#)

NCIOM Releases Healthy North Carolina 2030 Goals

In parallel with the national Healthy People Initiative run by the US Department of Health and Human Services, the NC Department of Health and Human Services has released the Healthy North Carolina goals for the next decade. The North Carolina Institute of Medicine led the process and has provided a [final report for viewing here.](#)

Attorney General Josh Stein Launches Operation Silver Shield

Earlier this month, Attorney General Josh Stein launched [Operation Silver Shield](#), an effort by the NC Department of Justice to confront scammers who target older North Carolinians. Throughout the year, NCDOJ is looking to host a series of events across the State to highlight the work being done in this arena, much of it by members of this NC Senior Fraud Task Force. If your organization is interested in partnering with NCDOJ on Operation Silver Shield, please reach out to Nazneen Ahmed, nahmed@ncdoj.gov, for more information.

Governor's Task Force Encouraging North Carolinians to Increase Preparedness Measures for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

While there are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina, the Governor and Department of Health and Human Services are preparing the state in the event that the disease spreads. For information on COVID-19 [please click here.](#)

Lifespan Respite Vouchers Still Available

Lifespan Respite Vouchers of \$500 are still available statewide for the 2019/2020 funding cycle. There are 60 remaining awards and NC Lifespan Respite needs support in getting the grants into the hands of caregivers. To access the award application and to learn more [please click here.](#)

Stories Sought on Property Tax Struggles

The Coalition on Aging is part of a diverse workgroup which includes AARP NC, the NC Justice Center, the John Locke Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of North Carolina, Habitat for Humanity programs in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties, and the NC Housing Coalition that is looking at current efforts to assist

homeowners in our state who may be struggling to pay their property taxes. The Coalition is involved in this effort because helping to ensure that older adults and persons with disabilities have safe and affordable housing is a priority issue of the Coalition. Members of the workgroup are particularly hearing that residents across the state, including those in high growth urban areas that are experiencing rising property values as well as those in more rural low-wealth counties that may have a higher tax rate, are experiencing challenges in paying their property taxes which may contribute to their housing instability including their ability to continue to stay in their homes.

Currently, North Carolina offers three property tax relief [programs](#) for the permanent residence of qualified homeowners. (note: The link is for Wake County government. This was used as it provided the most up to date information available, but each county administers the same programs which are statewide in design). These property tax relief programs are the Elderly and Disabled Exclusion (referred to as the Homestead Property Tax Exclusion), the Circuit Breaker Tax Deferral Program, and the Disabled Veteran Exclusion. In order to get a better handle on the extent of the problem faced by older adults and persons with disabilities in paying for their property taxes as well as to determine the adequacy of the current property tax relief programs, assistance is needed to help collect stories of people who are struggling to pay their property taxes or had to give up their home due to their inability to pay their taxes. If you have stories you can share of people in your community, please send their information to Mary Bethel, Coalition on Aging Board member who is serving on the workgroup, at mmbethel72@gmail.com. Information provided will help to put a face on this issue. When submitting a story, it would be helpful to include the following details:

- Identifying information on individual (name and contact information if willing to share, age, location)
- Summary of their situation and why paying their property taxes is/was a problem
- Have they used any of the current property tax relief programs (did they qualify, was relief inadequate, etc.)
- Any other information that will help to shed light on their situation

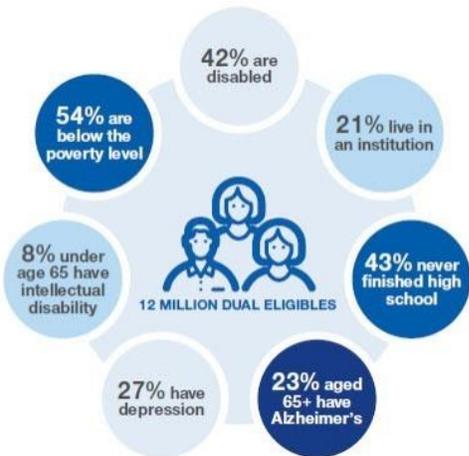
PHI Seeking Stories Regarding Direct Care Workforce

PHI is seeking stories to enhance the visibility of the direct care workforce and ensure that real workers and their clients are engaged in highlighting the importance of direct care for older adults and people with disabilities. In general, the interviews take 30-45 minutes, and there is an option to have a photo taken as well. For more information on this project contact Arielle Altman (aaltman@phinational.org) or Kezia Scales (kscales@phinational.org) [Click here to learn more](#)

Partner's Corner:

(This year we begin a new feature for our *Update*. Each month our partner agencies/organization will share a message)

Thank you to our 2020 partners! If you are interested in learning how to become a partner and have a message to the Coalition's membership in the newsletter, please email executivedirector@nccoalitiononaging.org



United Healthcare- Premium Sponsor

Serving those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid:

Individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid (“duals”) represent a small but medically complex population, often with functional limitations and unmet behavioral health needs. In many instances, this population must navigate an uncoordinated set of benefits, eligibility criteria, providers, and cost-sharing requirements. This fragmentation can lead to stress for the individual and their caregivers, poorer health outcomes, and individuals receiving incomplete care in inappropriate settings. While these individuals represent only 20% of the Medicare population and 15% of the Medicaid population, they make up 34% and 33% of each program’s costs, respectively. In

2012, Medicare spent \$194 billion on this population and Medicaid spent \$119 billion, with 41% of the Medicare dollars spent on outpatient care and 50% of the Medicaid dollars spent on institutional long-term services and supports.¹

Dual Special Needs Plans (DSNPs): Aligning the Medicare and Medicaid programs continues to be a challenge for states and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); however, a key tool that states can use to facilitate this alignment and contain costs is a Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (DSNP). Tailored to the unique needs of duals, DSNPs provide an opportunity for managed care organizations to offer enhanced benefits and streamline the experiences of duals as they navigate through multiple, complex programs. Additionally, DSNPs provide states with flexibility to implement programs based on the degree of Medicaid integration desired and state priorities, as DSNPs can meet states “where they are” along the continuum of integration and assist states in reaching their integration goals.

States can leverage the unique plan of care provided through DSNP contracts to improve care management and provide a single source of care coordination, simplify program experiences of duals, improve provider-patient relationships, and reduce program costs. As of April 2017, nearly 2 million individuals were enrolled in DSNP products across 43 states and territories.

UnitedHealthcare currently serves over 900,000* dually eligible individuals through our DSNP and FIDE SNP** products. In 2019, we offer these specialized plans across 37 states and Washington, DC, and in 27 of these states we enroll more duals than any other organization. In North Carolina alone we serve over 57,000 dually eligible individuals. We pride ourselves on our high-touch care delivery models for this vulnerable population and focus on closing gaps in care, including leveraging face-to-face community health workers and community supports to address the socioeconomic needs of our members, as well as the development of an individualized care plan that is shared with a member’s interdisciplinary care team. This high-touch care extends to the home through our call team as well as a nurse practitioner House Calls program we provide to individuals identified as not accessing their primary care provider. Because of our in-depth experience serving both the Medicare and Medicaid populations, we are able to successfully coordinate care across the full spectrum of needs for our dual members, including acute, behavioral health, and long-term services and supports to meet functional needs. Should you have additional questions please reach out to Melissa Church at melissa.church@uhc.com.

¹Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. (2017). Joint Databook: Beneficiaries Dually Eligible For Medicare and Medicaid. ²CMS Medicare Advantage/Part D Contract and Enrollment Data, SNP Comprehensive Report. April 2017. *This number is inclusive of enrollees in both UnitedHealthcare Community & State and Medicare & Retirement DSNP markets. ** FIDE SNP is a Fully Integrated Special Needs Plan.

Transitions LifeCare and The Association for Home and Hospice Care- Champion Sponsor

NC COA Champion sponsor, [AHHC of NC](#), is a nonprofit trade association representing providers of home health, hospice, palliative care, personal care, private duty nursing and companion/sitter services. Since 1972, AHHC's membership has grown to over 750 provider agencies and business partners. AHHC's mission is to provide Resources, Education, Advocacy and Leadership. Services include technical assistance, monthly newsletters, quality educational programs, annual directory, email alerts, and political lobbying. AHHC strongly advocates for their members and the many patients they serve, and is recognized by colleagues, regulators, and legislators as one of the most active and effective home care & hospice associations in the US.

North Carolina Assisted Living Association and Poyner Spruill- Champion Sponsor

Thank you to our sponsors North Carolina Assisted Living Association and Poyner Spruill for their involvement in the NC Coalition on Aging.

People of Note

Lisa Hoskins Named New DAAS Lifespan Respite Project Specialist

Lisa Hoskins, LCSW has been named the new Lifespan Respite Project Specialist for the Department of Aging and Adult Services. Previously, Lisa worked at the ALS Association for 9 years. Please join us in welcoming Lisa and reach out to her with any Lifespan Respite needs at Lisa.Hoskins@dhhs.nc.gov

North Carolina Health News Wins 15 N.C. Press Association Awards

Congratulations to NC Health News for the 15 Press Association Awards. NC Health News provides important news coverage for the state and it was recognized for their excellent work and coverage by taking home the most award of any online publication. Tommy Goldsmith, who writes generational pieces and regularly covers senior issues took home multiple prizes as well. To read their full article about the awards [click here](#).

Former Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan Passes

Former Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan passed away peacefully at 87 years old surrounded by his family and friends. Jordan served as Lt. Gov. from 1985-1989 and served in the NC Senate from 1977-1985. Jordan was well respected and admired for his support of education and the difference he made for North Carolinians.

Rep. Linda Johnson Passes

Representative Linda Johnson passed away after a brief battle with cancer the week of February 11th. Johnson, who was currently serving in the NC House, and had been for 19 years, will be missed by many. Her support of North Carolina was praised by both parties of the House and her spirit and charisma will be missed.

NC PACE Association Names New Executive Director

NC PACE welcomes Lynette Tolson as the new Executive Director of their organization. Lynette most recently served as the Executive Director of the NC Public Health Association, NC Association of Local Health Directors and NC Alliance of Public Health Agencies. Lynette will begin working on March 5, 2020.

National Updates and News

US Medical Panel Thinks Twice About Pushing Cognitive Screening For Dementia

A leading group of medical experts from the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force said it could neither endorse or oppose cognitive screening, citing insufficient scientific evidence. This is in response to the country's continuing concern over Alzheimer's disease and screening for the disease as the population with the disease continues to grow. (Kaiser Health News, Judith Graham, February 2020.) [Click here for full article.](#)

Patients Want To Die At Home, But Home Hospice Care Can Be Tough On Families

As more American's are desiring to die at home, patient advocates think that home hospice may be tougher on families than they anticipate. [Click here to read the full article from NPR.](#) (NPR, Morning Edition, January 21, 2020)

"It's Pretty Brutal" The Sandwich Generation Pays a Price

The New York Times looks into parents who are emotionally and financially supporting both their children and their older relatives at the same time, and the burden that plays on the individual. [Click here for the full article.](#) (New York Times, Jessica Grose, February 11, 2020)

Retirement Funding Gap Disproportionally Affects African Americans

The National Council on Aging discusses why funding retirement issues are disproportionately affecting African Americans and what can be done to combat it. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

New HCBS Business Acumen Toolkit Modules Available

ADvancing States has rolled out a new toolkit for Home and Community Based Services. The how-to guide is designed to help evaluate, plan, develop, implement and monitor strategies to help build and sustain organizations in the community. [Click here to view the toolkit.](#)

Hearing Healthcare is a Global Priority

World Hearing Day is March 3. [Click here to read a statement](#) honoring World Hearing Day from NIDCD Director Dr. Debara Tucci.

Social Security Launches Campaign to Fight Scammers

Due to an uptick in scam phone calls targeting seniors, and the vast use of Social Security, the Social Security Administration launched a new campaign aimed to show the public what scammers are trying to do to target them. [Click here to read the full article and transcript](#) of the PSA.

Aging in the Workforce Continues to be a Discussion about Generations, Communication, Discrimination

Recent articles and studies from AARP, and the Juanita C. Grant Foundation find that older Americans still struggle in the workplace with generational communication, and in some cases, discrimination. [Click here to read the AARP report](#) and [here to read the report from the National Council on Aging.](#)

Supporting Black Futures During Black History Month by Ending Diabetes Disparities

African American older adults are disproportionately affected by diabetes, which affects more than 10% of African American adults. Without proper management, diabetes may increase the risk for other

diseases including cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. (NCOA Blog, Ocean Le, February 20,2020) [Click here to read the full article.](#)

Important Dates

- March 5: Brain Health (Part of the 2020 Cameron Commons Forum Series)
 - 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Alexander Family YMCA, at 1603 Hillsborough Street.
 - Dr. Kim G. Johnson, Division Chief of Memory Disorders Duke University Dr. Johnson is affiliated with the Bryan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and is interested in the development of medications and lifestyle strategies to prevent or delay the onset of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease as well as MRI/PET imaging and biomarkers in dementia and neurodegenerative diseases. Presentation topics to include: typical aging versus onset of dementia, proactive measures, roles of exercise and nutrition, and risk factors.
- March 10: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
 - 9:30-10:30am
- March 10: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice Meeting
 - 1:00-2:00pm
- March 11: Everybody Counts: Community Engagement Resources for the 2020 Census
 - Webinar hosted by Advancing States
 - [Link to register](#)
- March 27: Older Adults Late Life Issues: Mental Health First Aid
 - 8:00am-5:00pm in Raleigh, NC
 - Hosted by Addiction Prevention
 - [Link to register](#)
- March 24: Aging in American Conference
 - Atlanta, GA
 - Nearly 3,000 attendees from across the nation and abroad attend the annual ASA Aging in America Conference to learn, network and participate in the largest multidisciplinary conference covering issues of aging and quality of life for older adults. The theme for the 2020 conference is Aging 2020: Examining the Needs of Today's Diverse Older Adults. The conference will focus on issues impacting our increasingly diverse and multicultural older adult population. ASA will examine current policies and explore challenges for the future. The 2020 conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from March 24-27.
 - To learn more: <https://www.asaging.org/general-info-aia>
- May 20: NCPAAA (NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse) Annual Meeting and Conference "Focus on Solutions"
 - 9:00am-4:00pm at Wake Tech Community College in Raleigh, NC
 - [Link to register](#)
- August 30-September 4 : Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference
 - Asheville, NC
 - www.se4a.org
- August 31-September 3 : Advancing State's Home and Community-Based Services Conference
 - Washington, DC
 - www.hcbsconference.org
- Ongoing : Senior Games
 - Click here to find a game near you: www.ncseniorgames.org

- Ongoing: Nonprofit Town Halls
 - The NC Center for Nonprofits is hosting a series of nonprofit policy discussions
 - Click here to find a session near you: <https://www.ncnonprofits.org/events/nonprofit-town-halls>