



Coming Together to Advocate for Older Adults NC Coalition on Aging Updates July 2020 Distributed July 31, 2020



A Message from Allison Costanzo, Executive Director

As I wrap up my last few days with the Coalition, I just want to make sure I thank you all for the warm welcome, helpful information, and support you've provided me over the last several months. This has been a great opportunity for me and I am excited to see how the Coalition continues to grow. Please stay safe and healthy, and keep up the good work! Our state's seniors need advocates now more than ever, and I am confident that this group can continue to provide that service, along with the multitude of others you provide. If you ever need me please don't hesitate to reach out. My personal email is allisonnalley@gmail.com. Thanks again and best of luck!

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.

Save the Date: Virtual Annual Meeting September 25

The Annual Meeting has gone virtual! Save the date for **September 25th** from **10:00am-12:00pm**. This year's **Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Don Taylor**. Dr. Taylor is a Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, the Director of the Social Science Research Institute and a Founding Faculty Member of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Registration will be **\$10 for Members** and **\$20 for non-Members**. To check your membership status email executivedirector@nccoalitiononaging.org

Call for Nominations for this year's Pioneer Award Winners

The nomination is open for 2020's Pioneer Award Winners. The Pioneer Award was established in 2016 by the NC Coalition on Aging to recognize individuals who have made long-time outstanding contributions to the field of aging in North Carolina. [Click here to access the nomination form.](#)

Additional 2020 Coalition Meeting Dates

- August 28
- September 25 (annual meeting)
- October 23
- December 4

COVID-19 Updates

Please note that the most up-to-date information and questions regarding COVID-19 can be found by calling 2-1-1 or going to <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

The Coalition would like to honor and acknowledge the life lost to COVID-19 this year. Our thoughts are with the families, friends and loved ones for all those who have passed due to the Coronavirus.

North Carolina to Stay in Phase 2 and Masks Required Across State

On July 14 Governor Cooper announced that North Carolina would remain in “Phase 2” for another three weeks, revisiting the state’s restrictions due to the Coronavirus on August 7. With this continued phase 2, the mandatory mask mandate continues with the exception of health and religious reasons. For more information on phase 2 [click here](#).

Nursing Home Mandatory Testing Continues to Stall

With more coronavirus outbreaks occurring in nursing homes and other congregate living facilities, Rep. Billy Richardson called on fellow lawmakers Wednesday to revisit his legislation to fund mandatory weekly staff testing at such facilities. Richardson, D-Cumberland, said on Twitter that North Carolina “can’t protect our vulnerable citizens without current testing data.” Richardson’s House Bill 1196 would allocate \$12 million for testing supplies and personal protective equipment at the facilities, and facility operators would be required to test all staff members at least once a week. Richardson’s bill was filed in late May, and while 18 other Democrats signed on as co-sponsors, the bill was sent to the House Appropriations Committee and never got a hearing. The latest coronavirus funding bill did, however, include \$5 million for COVID-19 protective measures for group homes that serve people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. (The Insider, July 24)

AARP Highlights the Impact the Pandemic has had on Nursing Homes, Technology and Isolation

The Pandemic has had a disastrous impact on nursing homes and congregate living facilities. The impact will resonate in likely long-term changes. A session recently hosted by AARP highlights perspectives on policies, tactics (such as virtual visitation via technology) and legislation that will help protect nursing home residents and staff and how the increased spotlight on nursing homes helps us to become cognizant of an underlying issue of social isolation that can occur in a long term care setting. With panelists including Steve Fleming (Well-Spring CCRC), Victor Orija (NC DHHS State Ombudsman), Paige Henline (caregiver of mother in an LTC facility), and Catherine Sevier, AARP NC State President.

[Click here for video](#)

3 Million Seniors Live with School Aged Kids

Roughly 3.3 million Americans age 65 or older live in households with school-age children, potentially complicating efforts to safely reopen schools in the fall, a [Kaiser Family Foundation analysis](#) found. Those older adults make up about 6 percent of all U.S. seniors, and live with 4.1 million children overall — with people of color far more likely to be among those living in households with kids.

About one in five Asian and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander seniors and 17 percent of Hispanic seniors live with school-age children, according to the analysis, as well as 13 percent of Native American and 11 percent of Black older adults.

Only about 4 percent of older Americans who are white, by contrast, live with children. Click the link above to read the full article. (Kaiser Family Foundation)

NCBAM (Baptist Aging Ministry) Hope Hotline's Great Work Featured on WRAL

<https://www.wral.com/hotline-helps-nc-seniors-isolated-at-home-during-covid-19/19185991/?version=amp> NCBAM is a member of the Coalition. Kudos for supporting seniors during this time!

Nursing homes mostly immune from COVID-19 liability due to NC relief bill

Measure in COVID-19 relief bill granted nursing homes and other health care providers immunity from liability if they can blame staffing issues. [Click here for full article](#) (Carolina Public Press)

Legislative Updates

Department of Health and Human Services Secretarial Order Restricts Visitors at Nursing Homes

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services put forth the following on July 24:

“To prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 in nursing homes, federal authorities recommended restricting visitation. Ensuring the health and safety of residents has been challenging and required tremendous work on the part of facility management and frontline staff.

Nursing homes are at risk of experiencing outbreaks of COVID-19 and the residents of these facilities are often in a high-risk category for serious complications from COVID-19. As we continue to see outbreaks in our nursing homes, we must maintain our vigilance and continue to restrict visitation to compassionate care situations. The continued use of technology to keep families connected as much as possible is still highly encouraged.

Based upon the foregoing and pursuant to the authority delegated to me by Governor Cooper in Executive Order No. 152, I find that the following restrictions for certain long-term care facilities are required to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives and therefore order the following:

This Order applies to nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities, including combination skilled nursing/adult care assisted living facilities. Separate guidance is available for other larger residential care facilities including adult care homes, behavioral health/IDD, intermediate care facilities, and psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF) with 7 or more beds, available here. (Facilities with 6 or fewer

beds should refer to “Guidance for Smaller Residential Settings Regarding Visitation, Communal Dining, Group and Outside Activities” available here).

Section I. Restrictions on Visitation. Nursing Homes or skilled nursing facilities, including combination skilled nursing/adult care assisted living facilities shall restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations, including end-of-life situations. These facilities shall also cancel communal dining and all group activities, including internal and external activities.

Section II. Distribution. This Secretarial Order shall be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and (2) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Secretarial Order. Section III. Effective Date. This Secretarial Order is effective immediately. This Secretarial Order shall remain in effect for sixty (60) days unless rescinded or replaced with a superseding Secretarial Order. An Executive Order rescinding the Declaration of the State of Emergency will automatically rescind this Secretarial Order.”

News in North Carolina

NC Center for Nonprofits Offers Roundtables and Sessions on Racial Equality in the Nonprofit Sector

Building Movement Project's Race to Lead series illustrates that the percentage of people of color in nonprofit executive leadership roles has remained under 20% for the last 15 years, even as the country becomes more diverse.

Rooted in the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits' guide, Principles & Practices: Best Practices for North Carolina Nonprofits, and building on our Walking the Talk initiative, we've launched the [EDI Roundtables for Nonprofit Executives: Practical Strategies for Dismantling Racism within North Carolina Nonprofits](#).

Through a series of virtual, interactive roundtable discussions, this program will facilitate ideas, actions, and practical strategies that nonprofit leaders can implement within their organizations to recognize and eliminate systemic barriers and practices around:

- The nonprofit sector's racial leadership gap;
- The nonprofit sector's generational leadership gap; and
- The policies, practices, and organizational cultures in nonprofits that exacerbate these gaps.

Executive directors/CEOs, board chairs and other board leaders, human resources staff, and other nonprofit decision makers will benefit most from this program. [Click here to register](#)

Temporary Waiver for Notarizations Set to Expire but Emergency Video Notarizations for Wills and Health Care Power of Attorney Continue Through May

A temporary waiver approved in May giving people additional flexibility in preparing Living Wills and Health Care Powers of Attorney is set to end on July 31, according to a news release from the Office of

Secretary of State. These two directives have traditionally required notarization and the signatures of two witnesses. Senate Bill 704 was signed into law on May 4, giving people the additional flexibility of waiving the two witness signatures. Filers now have through July 31 to prepare their directives with only a notary acknowledgment.

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall said in the news release that advance directives are more important now than ever. "We've long known how important it is for each of us to have directives such as Living Wills and Health Care Powers of Attorney, and the COVID pandemic has sadly made that need more urgent. If you're in a nursing home or being admitted to the hospital it's more difficult now for your loved ones to visit, making advance communication of your wishes vital." Emergency video notarizations will be available to people preparing their advance directives until March 1, 2021. (News and Observer)

NC Senior Fraud Taskforce, in conjunction with AARP and Attorney General Josh Stein Record and Release Elder Scam PSAs

<https://www.facebook.com/AARPNC/videos/279185519833394/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AARPNC/videos/569433403768735/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AARPNC/videos/4428016067224609/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AARPNC/videos/4428016067224609/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AARPNC/videos/258547062188926/>

DSDHH Part of Effort to Improve Communication in Health Care Settings

DHHS' Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was part of a N.C. Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) task force that developed a [report](#) with 14 recommendations for assuring more accessible communication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in health care and long-term settings. The report calls on health care providers, state agencies, advocacy organizations, professional associations, and health care payers to collaborate in educational, self-assessment, and evaluation efforts across health care settings to increase access to effective communication for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in North Carolina. The Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a Member of the Coalition. (NCDHHS)

Partner's Corner

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

UnitedHealthCare- Premium Sponsor

Thank you to our sponsor UnitedHealthCare for their involvement in, and support of, the NC Coalition on Aging.

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

Thank you to our sponsors Transitions LifeCare and the Association for Home and Hospice Care for their involvement in, and support of, the NC Coalition on Aging.

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, and support of, the NC Coalition on Aging.

People of Note

Representative Debra Conrad Resigns

Representative Debra Conrad (R-Forsyth) resigned effective today, July 31. She did not disclose a reason for her resignation but is excited for the opportunity to return as a lobbyist after the required “cooling off” period of 6 months.

National Updates and News

North Carolina has Opportunity to Grow Total Census Numbers

North Carolina has a total census response rate of 58% right now, which is below the national average of 62%. Census workers are scheduled to start going door-to-door next month to raise the census count for NC. Please make sure you share with your constituents about the census workers to keep them informed and safe.

Advancing States Celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Advancing States celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark civil rights legislation that has improved the lives of people with and without disabilities could not have been achieved without the leadership and advocacy of those seeking inclusion, opportunity, and independence for themselves and others. Congress passed this milestone legislation with strong bipartisan support and it was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. In the 30 years since its enactment, the ADA has had a significant and positive impact on the quality of life of individuals and society as a whole.

The ADA both solidified the rights of individuals with disabilities and also created clear expectations on government, businesses, and communities to provide reasonable accommodations that enable people with disabilities to live integrated lives in the community. Things that we take for granted today, like curb cuts, buttons to automatically open doors, and many other structural changes are because of the ADA. People with disabilities are also provided opportunities for interpreters, TTY services, or other

assistive technology through the ADA. Importantly for our field, the landmark Supreme Court decision in Olmstead vs. L.C. in 1999, which established the right of individuals to live in the most integrated setting possible according to their needs and preferences, was made because plaintiffs with disabilities filed suit under the ADA.

Despite the progress that has been made during this time, there is still much to be done. Long-term services and supports expenditures for older adults and individuals still skews towards institutions even though overall national Medicaid spending on home and community-based services exceeds the amount spent on institutional services. We also know that individuals with disabilities experience lower employment rates, higher incidence of poverty, and experience more social isolation than those without disabilities. (Advancing States, July 2020)

Administration of Community Living Releases 2019 Profile of Older Americans

The Administration for Community Living has released the 2019 Profile of Older Americans. The Profile summarizes data from the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics to highlight the changing demographics of older Americans. This annual summary includes statistics on income, living arrangements, education, health, caregiving, and special sections on obesity, aerobic activity, and muscle-strengthening activities.

[Click here](#) to access the 2019 Profile of Older Americans. (Advancing States, July 2020)

Fiscal Year 2021 Senior Corps RSVP Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Corporation for National and Community Service announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year 2021 Senior Corps RSVP Competition. The purpose of the competition is to provide funding to programs that increase the impact of volunteers who are age 55 and older and provide service in response to local community needs. Eligible applicants include public and private nonprofits organizations, educational institutions, state government entities, and other groups. Senior Corps funding priorities include:

- Evidence-Based Program Implementation
- Access to Care - Opioid Abuse
- Aging in Place - Elder Justice
- Aging in Place - Independent Living
- Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development
- Education - Intergenerational Programming
- Disaster Services
- Veterans and Military Families

Applications must be submitted by Tuesday, September 1, 2020 by 5:00pm ET.

[Click here](#) to learn more. (Advancing States, July 2020)

New Home Modification and Repairs for Older Adults Report Available from Advancing States

Advancing States, in conjunction with 56 states and territories in the US released a new report on the state of Home Modifications and Repairs for Older Adults. The report, [Home Modification and Repairs for Older Adults: Challenges and Opportunities for State Units on Aging](#), is now available online.

An additional resource is the new [Home Modification Information Network](#), a state-by-state inventory designed to provide details about each state's home modification policies, funding sources, and programs.

To view the archive of the explanatory webinar, The Role of State Units on Aging in Home Modification and Repair: Lessons from a National Survey, visit [ADvancing States](#).

Important Dates

- August 30-September 4: Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference
 - Asheville, NC
 - www.se4a.org
- December 8-10: NC Center for Nonprofits Conference
 - Save the date
 - Durham Convention Center
- December 8-11: Home and Community-Based Services Conference (NEW DATE)
 - Washington, DC
 - www.hcbsconference.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>

Thank you to everyone who is working to help take care of North Carolina during this pandemic. If there is ever anything we can do to support you, please let me know. If you have not renewed your membership this year and would like to continue to be a part of the Coalition please let us know.

If you have any *questions about the newsletter or would like to be featured in the next update*, please email Executive Director, executivedirector@nccoalitiononaging.org Be well!