**GENERAL MEMBER MEETING  
1.19.22 via ZOOM**

**TOPIC:** “Improving North Carolina’s Adult Protective Services”

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** *Joyce Massey-Smith*, Director of NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)  
*Karey Perez*, Adult Services Section Chief for North Carolina’s Division of Aging and Adult Services  
*Sarah Maness-Smith*, Adult Services Program Coordinator for the Division of Aging and Adult Services for the NC Department of Health and Human Services

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:** 45 Attendees

**PRESENT.** Laura Cockman, Kevin Robertson, Nancy Warren, Ann Elmore, Tadra Martin, Pam Palmer, John Maron, Stephanie Bias, Laura Schlabach, Autumn Cox and Allison Crossman, Mercedes Restucha-Klem, Sara Richardson, April Black, Barbara Pastirik, Brittany Hughes, Carolyn Pennington, Daunita Maennle, Denyse Leake, Elizabeth Kressmann, Hannah Vaughan, Heather Burkhardt, Heather Magill, Janella Lee, Jennifer Stuart, Joanne Otonye, Joyce Massey-Smith, Karen Steen, Kathi Graham, Kim Johnson, Lara Gurganus, Lisa Jones, Lisa Riegel, Marjorie Brown, Marlenne Soto, Mary Bethel, Paula Marn, Rosalyn Pettyford, Sandra Deutsch, Shana Barnes, Sharrone Robinson, Stacy Ferrell,

**CALL TO ORDER**. Our meeting was called to order by Laura Cockman, Chair.

This meeting was hosted via Zoom, scheduled by Allison Crossman. We are thankful for her help setting up this virtual meeting and posting the meeting agenda for us.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.** The minutes from the general meeting held November 17, 2021 were presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by John Maron and seconded by Ann Elmore. With no further discussion the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

**TREASURER’S REPORT.** Pam Palmer presented the treasurer’s report. The current remaining balance for today’s meeting (after the $3,000 reserve), is $15, 897.45. A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made and John Maron was made with a second by Kevin Robertson. With no further discussion the motion carried to approve the report.

Joyce Massey-Smith, Director of NC DAAS

* APS improvement services are needed to increase workforce capacity, bridge gaps between state & federal resources, and increase education to inform local communities about needs of vulnerable adults & APS services
* APS services are needed because NC ranks 9th nationally in total population & in the number of people 65 +
* APS needs assistance in lobbing and advocating, groups like the Partnership can help with that as work arises.

Sarah Maness-Richardson, Adult Services Program Coordinator for DAAS

* Total number of APS referrals expected to dramatically increase over the next three to five years
* APS improvements are needed because almost 72% of APS reports involve individuals age 60 and older
* APS services help keep individuals in their homes to prevent unnecessary institutionalization

**COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORTS -**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE.** Ann & Tadra shared that the Partnership’s meeting on March 16th will discuss affordable housing, presented by Jessie McCoy, a Duke professor. Ann reminded the group about the Annual Conference in May with more details to come as the speakers are finalized.

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE.** Nancy Warren shared an update from the Build Back Better Act, in addition to information from the 2021 EJCC meeting regarding: Covid, Equity, and Partnership. She will also will be sharing some information related to advocacy for the website, and included the following link: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/acl-blog/highlights-2021-ejcc-meeting-covid-equity-and-partnerships>

**AWARENESS COMMITTEE.** Stephanie shared she and John continue to stress the importance of the Partnership’s mission. She recently met with folks, “in-person,” and shared that it was a really great experience. John reminded us the NC Consumer Fraud Task Force meeting virtually and is happy to include anyone on the meeting, who is interested. AARP has accommodated the group in hosting the meeting on Microsoft Teams. Please email John, if interested [jmaron@sosnc.gov](mailto:jmaron@sosnc.gov)

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.** Autumn shared to please continue sending learning opportunities and she and Allison can include and promote them on the website. The website will be housing all information for the annual conference so please make sure you are familiar with it and the resources available to you.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.** Kevin reminded the group to join the Partnership, if you have not already done so. He also shared we continue to seek additional members of the Executive Board. Please contact him, if interested. Kevin also shared he is seeking recommendations from the group, regarding any additional membership benefits for consideration. Contact him at [kevin.robertson@ncdoi.gov](mailto:kevin.robertson@ncdoi.gov), for more information.

There were no member updates at this time.   
  
  
Laura C. reminded the group that the next general meeting is Wednesday, March 16th, at 9:30.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by  
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Laura Schlabach, Secretary