

**2020 ANNUAL UPDATE**

**The mission of the North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse (NCPAAA) is to promote safe communities for older adults and adults with disabilities in NC through prevention, recognition, protection and prosecution of abuse, neglect and exploitation.**

**NCPAAA raises awareness about adult abuse, is a resource for education, offers a voice for advocacy and provides access to a network of other professionals.**

**Membership:**

The Partnership is comprised of individuals, agencies and businesses that support the purposes of The Partnership and pay annual dues. ​Your membership and active participation strengthens our ability to meet our mission “to promote safe communities for older adults and adults with disabilities in NC through prevention, recognition, protection and prosecution of abuse, neglect and exploitation.”  A key goal for the coming year is to strengthen member benefits including access to tools to help you help others address elder abuse. In the 2019-2020 year there were twelve (12) individual members and twelve (12) organizational members. Each organizational member can designate two (2) individuals as voting members.

**Budget:**

The anticipated revenue and expenses for the year 2019-2020 were $6,400.00 and $6,134.00 respectively. A year-end report will be available in July 2020.

**Education:**

NCPAAA is committed to providing training and technical assistance about abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities.  It does so at the bi-monthly General Meetings.  The Partnership held four meetings-of-the-whole between July 1st, 2019 and March 30th, 2020. Experts and their topics consisted of the following:

·         July 17th - Kenneth Wilkins, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, Atlanta Regional Census Office, detailed the “2020 Census.”  He covered census community impacts, information being collected (and not sought), and fraud prevention.

·         September 18th - Lewis R. Fadely, an attorney in private practice, explained Department of Social Services versus Non-DSS Adult Protective Services Guardianship cases from a Guardian ad Litem Perspective.

·         November 20th - Gregory Olley, PhD., a psychologist at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities and Clinical Professor at the School of Medicine at UNC Chapel Hill, described "Interviewing Individuals with Intellectual Disability: Key Issues and Challenges."

·         January 15th- Colin Austin, an attorney with Hillsborough Will & Trusts, discussed "Preventing Elder Abuse through Strong Estate Planning."  Also, he touched on determining capacity to sign and options under a financial Power of Attorney and health care decision making.

A fifth, scheduled for March 18th, had to be cancelled due to Governor Cooper’s March 10th Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency.   Coronavirus pandemic restrictions also prompted cancellation of the 2020 Annual Conference.

Presentation materials can be found at the website, <http://www.ncp3a.org/meetings.html>, and streamed on Facebook Live[**https://www.facebook.com/ncpartnership**](https://www.facebook.com/ncpartnership)**.**

**Advocacy:**

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of the NCPAAA. It is responsible for activities related to advocating for public policy and legislation that enhances the safety and well-being of older adults and adult with disabilities who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Anyone with interest in advocacy is welcome to participate.

The Partnership joined with the NC Senior Tarheel Legislature, NC Social Services Consortium, AARP NC, NC Coalition on Aging, NC Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging, and Friends of Residents of Long-Term Care to support legislative action to make needed improvements to North Carolina’s Adult Protective Services (APS) system. A partnership was forged with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services to gather APS case scenarios from local APS programs to share with state legislators.

There is a profound, statewide, historic lack of resources needed to meet the needs of a growing number of abused, neglected and financially exploited vulnerable adults as required by NC G.S. 108A, Articles 6 and 6A. Resources needed include (but are not limited to) funding for trained APS line staff and services to remediate abuse; support to modernize NC’s Adult Protective Services (APS) statute and data system; requirements for mandated training and caseload size for APS staff.

This year the Partnership joined the newly formed National Network of State Elder Justice Coalitions https://www.elderjusticecal.org/national-network.html

**Awareness:**

John Maron, Director, Investor Education Program with the Securities Division of the NC Department of the Secretary of Stateand Stephanie Bias, NC Department of Insurance, SMP Program Coordinator, make many presentations across the state each year regarding financial fraud and abuse and Medicare fraud.  At each of those presentations they raise awareness of NCP3A and its work to expand public understanding of the issue of victimization of older adults and adults with disabilities.

Between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020, the Investor Protection and Education Services team, of the NC Department of the Secretary of State, which includes Ann Elmore, conducted 114 educational outreach events. Approximately 4200 people either attended, listened to and/or viewed the events. Anti-fraud events were conducted in 52 different cities across 38 different counties. The Partnership is promoted in appropriate settings and whenever the NC Consumer Fraud Task Force is convened.

Stephanie Bias conducted 116 Group Education, Outreach and Media efforts for the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol Program (NCSMP) which included awareness of the mission and partnership of NCP3A reaching a total of 18,247 citizens comprised of Medicare beneficiaries, caregivers, valued aging and social service professional partners as well as the public. These opportunities occurred in all of North Carolina’s 100 counties including media efforts.

**Communications:**

The Partnership utilizes its website nc3pa.org and Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ncpartnership to educate and inform. Tabletop displays, palm and business cards are used at events to promote the Partnership.

**Bylaws:**

No changeswere recommendedduring this year.

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