



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 17.

DATE OF REQUEST: December 16, 2008

REQUESTED BY: Rick Benton, County Manager

SHORT TITLE: Discussion Items from County Manager, County Attorney & County Commissioners.

BACKGROUND:

1. Items from County Manager
 - a. Information from Atkinson Fire Department
 - b. Information from Sloop Point Fire Department
 - c. Information from Cape Fear COG – Area Agency on Aging
 - d. Information from NCACC – Proposed Legislative Goals/Policy Statements
2. Items from County Attorney
3. Items from County Commissioners

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: No specific action is requested unless recommended during discussion.



Atkinson Fire Department

Post Office Box 159 • 110 North First Avenue • Atkinson, North Carolina 28421 • 910-283-7911

December 5, 2008

Pender County Commissioners,
C/O Mr. Rick Benton, Manger
PO Box 5 Burgaw, NC 28425

This is to inform you of up-coming purchase for Atkinson Fire Department and Town of Atkinson in the next few weeks. We have been working on a set of specs. for a new pumper/tanker with 1250 gpm pump and 1800 gallons of water for the last year. We had set a budget of \$250,000 for the new truck. In final stages of getting ready to submit request for bids, we happened to find a demo 2008 4-Door International pumper/tanker 1500 gpm pump and 1000 gallons of water at a cost of \$218,000. This is the similar type of truck that Maple Hill has recently purchased.

According to some fire truck companies that we have talked with, the truck that we were getting a bid on would cost in the neighborhood of \$275,000 to \$300,000 come the first of January 2009. This is due to safety requirements required by the National Fire Protection Association for new fire trucks and the cost materials to build the trucks.

We have signed a contract to purchase this truck at a cost of around \$235,000 and are acquiring a loan through the USDA-RD at a interest rate of 4.5% for 20 years. The increase in cost from \$218,000 is due to us having to add some equipment to make the truck fully functionally as a pumper/tanker. We felt this was the best option for purchasing a new truck due to the economic times we are facing and saving the taxpayers of our fire district around \$50,000 if we moved on this purchased prior to January 1, 2009.

The purchase of this truck will accomplish several goals for this department, which are to upgrade aging equipment, help improve our insurance rating for our community, improve our water supply capabilities by pumping and hauling, to safely transport firefighters to and from fire calls, and supply a mutual aid apparatus that can serve dual functions if needed.

Since this department has the largest fire district in the county and no fire hydrants for water supply it is critical that we upgrade to this type of apparatus to supply adequate fire protection to our growing community and surrounding areas.

Thank you for your time and effort in supporting the fire departments in Pender County. If you have any questions about this purchase, please feel free to contact me at 910-231-1947.

Sincerely,
Cary Rivernbark
Cary Rivernbark
Atkinson Fire Chief



Sloop Point Fire Dept.

19470 US HWY 17 N
Hampstead, NC 28443



December 30, 2008

TO: Mr. Eddie King
Pender County
EM Coordinator

This is to inform you that the Sloop Point fire department is purchasing a Demo fire truck from C. W. Williams. The 2008 Rosenbauer Engine is on a Spartan custom chassis with a 1500 GPM Pump with 1000 gallons of water. This truck holds more equipment, pumps more water, and incorporates more safety standers which will better serve the members and citizens of the Sloop Point Fire District.

The truck it is replacing is a 2000 Pierce that our department has out grown due to the increase of personnel and increasing services to the district, including medical response, and extrication. With the sale of the unit, we have paid off the only vehicle we owed money on, a 2004 Hackney Service Truck. The current building payment is \$34,584. The yearly payment on this new unit will be \$50,154. This will keep the department below our 25% debt ratio from collections last year.

Mr. King, if any more information is needed for yourself or the County Commissioners please contact me at the station any time,

Scott Sills
Chief
Sloop Point Fire Dept.
910-367-6336 cell
910-270-3267
Scott_sills@slooppointfire.com



Area Agency On Aging

Cape Fear Council of Governments

December 12, 2008

Pender County Commissioners
Chairman Jimmy Tate and Commissioners
Post Office Box 5
Burgaw, NC 28425

Re: The Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community
Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Tate and County Commissioners:

Annual and quarterly reports are provided to you on the activities of The Pender County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Their duties are outlined in NC General Statutes 131-D and 131-E.

You will find enclosed:

- A brief summary of the activities of The Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee
- Copies of the Facility Visitation Reports for the quarter of July, August and September 2008, and a sample agenda from their required Quarterly Training.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I may address any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

H. Harvin Quidas, Regional Ombudsman
Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging

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**Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home
Community Advisory Committee**

Annual Report to the County Commissioners

Pender County has three nursing homes and four adult care homes to meet the needs of Pender County's aged and disabled citizens (Nursing Homes provide 24/7 nursing care. Adult Care Homes provide bed, board and supportive services.). They provide a combined total of 368 licensed long term care beds. Pender County has no Special Care / Alzheimer Units. A recent Adult Care 'Certificate of Need' was awarded for 100 new adult care beds (including a proposed Special Care Unit). Construction has not begun.

The Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee is currently comprised of seven members with three vacancies. The members are appointed by the County Commissioners, trained and supported by The Regional Ombudsman. Their purpose is to understand and support The Rights of Residents in Long Term Care.

In addition to making their required facility visits, members address issues, encourage positive living for our disabled and aging residents, and attend required quarterly trainings.

Many of the Committee members live on fixed incomes; consequently they are relieved to see the prices of gas beginning to decline. Currently no travel allowance is provided to Community Advisory Committee members in Pender County.

The Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee is involved with aging issues both in and out of long term care. They are well positioned to continue their appointed duties due to their excellent volunteer commitment.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mickey King, Chairman of Pender County Nursing Home and Adult Care Home
Community Advisory Committee*

H. Harvin Quidas, Regional Ombudsman
Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging

December 2008

Pender County
Nursing Home and Adult Care Home
Community Advisory Committee

Quarterly Visitation Reports
(July, August and September 2008)

Sample Agenda for Required Quarterly Meeting / Training

Contact Person:
H. Harvin Quidas, Regional Ombudsman
Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging
1480 Harbour Drive – Wilmington, NC
(910) 395-4553

Community Advisory Committee

Quarterly Meeting Agenda for July 2008

Welcome and Review of the Minutes

Brief Discussion of Resident's Right:

"To receive at the time of admission and during stay, a written statement of services provided by the facility and of related charges. Charges for services not covered under Medicare and Medicaid shall be specified."

Quarterly Training:

- **Communication – Listening is more than hearing.**
- **Digital TV Transition – Sept. 8, 2008**
- **Protecting yourself from Fraud and Scams**

Facility Visitation Reports

CAC Facility Visitation Schedules

For July, August and September

Please notify

Your CAC Chairmen, or Harvin Quidas, Ombudsman at (910) 395-4553,
If you are unable to attend your required CAC Quarterly Meeting.

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Woodbury Census: 98
Visit Date and day of the week 7-14-08 Monday	Time spent in facility 1 hours 10 minutes	Arrival time 1:30 PM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Judith Libonatie		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Harvin Quidas, Diane Lyons, Marge Ciardella, Mickey King, Hazel Wells, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 23		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible Yes (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted):	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	Yes	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	On one hall, there was a drippy shower and a broken area on wall
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Out	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	Yes	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

Facility / date: Woodbury, 7-14-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	25 residents were playing BINGO
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	Yes	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs).	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	Yes N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
<p>Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit?</p> <p>Check on repairs to shower room</p>	<p>Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address?</p> <p>Good positive visit with residents and staff.</p>

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Pender Memorial Census: 36
Visit Date and day of the week 7-21-08 Monday	Time spent in facility 0 hours 45 minutes	Arrival time 11:30 AM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Kim Jones, DON and David Long, Admin.		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Harvin Quidas, Diane Lyons, Marge Ciardella, Pauline Lewis, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 11		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible N/A (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted) :	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	Yes	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	One family of resident stated the staff was very good but facility was understaffed, so the resident had to wait to receive needed attention.
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	Wallpaper loose in rooms. Facility continues to redo room as scheduled.
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	No	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)		
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	No	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

*** N/A equals not applicable, not asked, not observed

Facility / date: Pender Mem., 7-21-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	Residents were being prepared for lunch.
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	N/A	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs)	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	Yes N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
<p>Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit?</p> <p>Staffing</p>	<p>Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address?</p> <p>Good positive visit with residents and staff.</p>

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Huntington Census: 101
Visit Date and day of the week 7-24-08 Thursday	Time spent in facility 1 hours minutes	Arrival time 11:30 AM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Emily Pahel, Admin. and Melinda Garrison, RN		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Pauline Lewis, Marge Ciardella, Mickey King, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 25		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible Yes (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted): N/A	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	One resident reported mix-up with personal laundry. One resident reported delay in tube feedings.
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	Yes	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	One Nourishment Room floor was dirty.
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Both	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	Yes	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

*** N/A equals not applicable, not asked, not observed

Facility / date: Huntington 7-24-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	Residents were being prepared for mid-day meal.
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	Yes	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs)	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	Yes N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
<p>Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit?</p> <p>Staff were to make immediate corrections stated in Comments.</p>	<p>Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address?</p> <p>Good positive visit with residents and staff.</p>

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Dayspring Census: 34
Visit Date and day of the week 7-21-08 Monday	Time spent in facility 1 hours minutes	Arrival time 10:00AM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Fannie Pate, Business Admin.		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Harvin Quidas, Diane Lyons, Marge Ciardella, Hazel Wells, Pauline Lewis, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 19		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible N/A (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted):	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	A few residents and their rooms, on one hall, had not been cleaned up.
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	Yes	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	On one hall, shower was out-of-order and tub was dirty.
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	Area of hall was dirty and sticky.
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	No	Several names on residents doors did not correspond to occupancy of room,
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	Padding on wheel chairs ragged and needed to be replaced.
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Out	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	Yes	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

Facility / date: Dayspring, 7-21-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	Listed on Activity Calendar
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	No	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs)	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	Yes N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
<p>Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit?</p> <p>Check on repairs to wheel chairs, shower room, and general cleanliness of facility and residents.</p> <p>Check Residents names on doors.</p>	<p>Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address?</p> <p>Good positive visit with residents and staff.</p>

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Pendu Census: 13
Visit Date and day of the week 7-24-08 Thursday	Time spent in facility hours 30 minutes	Arrival time 2:30 PM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Marci Morgan		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Pauline Lewis, Marge Ciardella, Mickey King, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 12		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible N/A (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted): N/A	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	No	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Out	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	Yes	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

*** N/A equals not applicable, not asked, not observed

Facility / date: Pendu 7-24-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	No	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs)	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	N/A N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
<p data-bbox="81 1202 812 1270">Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit?</p> <hr data-bbox="81 1288 812 1292"/> <p data-bbox="81 1332 812 1373">None</p>	<p data-bbox="812 1202 1531 1400">Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address?</p> <hr data-bbox="812 1400 1531 1404"/> <p data-bbox="812 1404 1531 1444">Good positive visit with residents and staff.</p>

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Karon's Census: 3
Visit Date and day of the week 7-24-08 Thursday	Time spent in facility hours 25 minutes	Arrival time 1:30 PM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Karon Brice		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Pauline Lewis, Marge Ciardella, Mickey King, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 3		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible Yes (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted): N/A	Staffing information clearly posted? Yes	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	No	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Out	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	Yes	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

*** N/A equals not applicable, not asked, not observed

Facility / date: Karon's 7-24-08

Resident Services	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
15. Were residents asked their preferences or opinions about the activities planned for them at the facility?	Yes	
15a. Was a current activity calendar posted in the facility?	Yes	
15b. Were activities scheduled to occur at the time of your visit actually occurring?	Yes	
16. Do residents have the opportunity to purchase personal items of their choice using their monthly needs funds?	Yes	
16a. Can residents access their monthly needs funds at their convenience? (#16 and 16a pertain only to residents on Medicaid/Special Assistance. NHs \$30 per month. ACHs \$66 minus medication co-pay and full cost OTC drugs)	N/A	
17. Are residents asked their preferences about meal & snack choices? (Adult Care Home residents should receive snacks 3X per day. Nursing Home residents should be offered snacks at bedtime.)	Yes	
17a. Are they given a choice about where they prefer to dine?	Yes	
17b. Did residents express positive opinions regarding their dining experience (the food provided)?	Yes	
17c. Is fresh ice water available and provided to residents?	Yes	
18. Do residents have privacy in making and receiving phone calls?	Yes	
19. Is there evidence of community involvement from other civic, volunteer or religious groups?	Yes	
20. Does the facility have a functioning: Resident's Council? Family Council?	N/A N/A	

Areas of Concern	Exit Summary
Are there resident issues or topics that need follow-up or review at a later time or during the next visit? None	Discuss items from "Areas of Concern" Section as well as any changes observed during the visit. Give summary of visit with Administrator or SIC. Does the facility have needs that the committee or community could help address? Good positive visit with residents and staff.

**Community Advisory Committee
Quarterly/Annual Visitation Report**

County Pender	Facility Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Care Home <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home	Facility Name: Forrest Lanel Census: 3
Visit Date and day of the week 7-24-08 Thursday	Time spent in facility 0 hours 30 minutes	Arrival time 10:15 AM
Name of person(s) with whom exit interview was held Josie Evans, Admin..		Interview was held <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in person
Committee members present: Mickey King, Marge Ciardella, Pauline Lewis, Jeannine Smith		
Number of residents who received personal visits from committee members 3		Report completed by: J. Smith
Resident Rights information is clearly posted? Yes	Ombudsman contact information is correct and clearly posted: Yes	
The most recent survey was readily accessible N/A (Required for NHs only – record date of most recent survey posted) :	Staffing information clearly posted? N/A	

Resident Profile	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
1. Do the residents appear neat, clean and odor free?	Yes	
2. Did residents say they receive assistance with personal care activities? (i.e. brushing their teeth, combing their hair, inserting dentures or cleaning their eyeglasses)	Yes	
3. Did you see or hear residents being encouraged to participate in their care by staff members?	Yes	
4. Were residents interacting with staff, other residents & visitors?	Yes	
5. Did staff respond to or interact with residents who had difficulty communicating or making their needs known verbally?	Yes	
5a. Did staff members wear nametags that are easily read by residents and visitors?	No	
6. Did you observe restraints in use?	No	
7. If so, did you ask staff about the facility's restraint policies? (note: Do not ask about confidential information without consent)	N/A	

Resident Living Accommodations	Yes No N/A	Comments/Other Observations (please number comments)
8. Did residents describe their living environment as homelike?	Yes	Goat droppings on outside steps and porch. (One Resident later was sweeping area.) The Common sitting area was less crowded than usual.
9. Did you notice unpleasant odors?	No	
10. Did you see items that could cause harm or be hazardous?	No	
10a. Were unattended med carts locked?	N/A	
10b. Were bathrooms clean, odor-free and free from hazards?	Yes	
10c. Were rooms containing hazardous materials locked?	N/A	
11. Did residents feel their living areas were kept at a reasonable noise level?	Yes	
12. Does the facility accommodate smokers?	Yes	
12a. Where? (Outside / inside / both)	Out	
13. Were residents able to reach their call bells with ease?	Yes	
14. Did staff answer call bells in a timely & courteous manner?	No	
14a. If no, did you share this with the administrative staff?	N/A	

*** N/A equals not applicable, not asked, not observed



Area Agency On Aging

Cape Fear Council of Governments

December 15, 2008

Ms Brenda D. Rivenbark
P.O. Box 151
Burgaw, NC 28425

Dear Ms Rivenbark:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the Region O Aging Advisory Council selected you as the Pender County Alternate for the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL). The delegates and alternates are selected by January 15th in the odd years for a two-year term. Therefore, your term will expire January 2011, and you will be eligible for re-selection at that time if you so choose.

I have enclosed a packet of materials for your review that includes bylaws and rules, job description, a list of the Region's delegation, 2009 priorities, a listing of previous priorities, and Area Agency on Aging information. I have scheduled an Advocacy & Orientation session for the new STHL members on February 6, 2008 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Brunswick Community College – Leland Campus, 2050 Enterprise Blvd., Leland, NC. Please review these materials prior to the orientation/advocacy session. More details on this orientation session will be forthcoming in January.

I am looking forward to working with you on the issues affecting older citizens in our region and State. Please call or email me at jjones@capefearcog.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jane S. Jones, Director
Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging

Enclosure

CC: Wes Davis, Pender Co. Dept. of Aging (letter only)
✓ Rick Benton, County Manager (letter only)

Serving Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties

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Area Agency On Aging

Cape Fear Council of Governments

December 15, 2008

Mr. Bill Marshburn
14171 NC Hwy 53E
Maple Hill, NC 28454

Dear Bill:

I am pleased to inform you that on December 9, 2008 the Region O Aging Advisory Council reappointed you as the Pender County Delegate for the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL). The delegates and alternates are selected in January in the odd years for a two-year term. Therefore, your term will expire January 2011, and you will be eligible for re-selection at that time if you so choose.

I have enclosed a revised listing of the Region's delegation. In addition, I have scheduled an Advocacy & Orientation Training that will be conducted by Mary Bethel, NC AARP for all delegates and alternates on February 6, 2008 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Brunswick Community College – Leland Campus, 2050 Enterprise Blvd., Leland, NC. It would be helpful for the experienced members to attend this orientation to meet and answer any questions the new members may have. More details on this orientation will follow in January.

The AAA is very excited about working with the reappointed and newly selected STHL in Region O. I feel we have a very committed group and am looking forward to working with each of you on the issues affecting older citizens in our region and State. Please call or email me at jjones@capefearcog.org if you have questions.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Jane S. Jones, Director
Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging

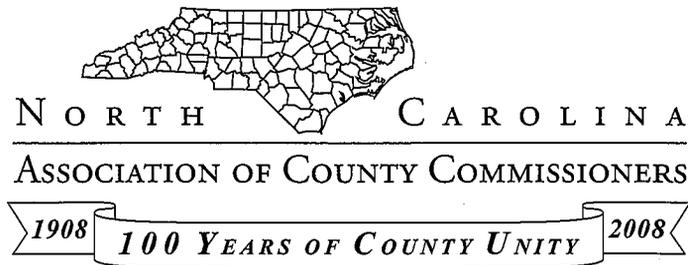
CC: Wes Davis, Pender Adult Services
✓Rick Benton, County Manager

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Memorandum

To: County Commissioners, County Managers, County Attorneys,
County Clerks to the Board

From: David F. Thompson, Executive Director
Jim Blackburn, General Counsel

Date: December 19, 2008

Subject: Proposed Legislative Goals and Association Policy Statements

Enclosed are copies of Association Policy Statements and proposed goals. Both sets of documents will be considered at the Association's Legislative Goals Conference to be held January 15-16, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in Raleigh.

The process through which these have been reviewed and approved is intentionally cautious and inclusive. The Association's seven steering committees reviewed policy statements and goals in their policy areas. Goals approved by steering committees were forwarded to the Legislative Goals Committee. Policy statements were reviewed, in some cases amended, and forwarded directly from steering committees to the Board of Directors.

The Legislative Goals Committee, chaired by Commissioners Bobby Greer of New Hanover County and Mike Cross of Chatham County, reviewed all goals forwarded by the steering committees and forwarded recommendations to the Association Board of Directors. The Board met December 10 and approved the enclosed 37 goals as well as seven policy statements – all to be considered at our Legislative Goals Conference.

The thoroughness of this multi-tiered analysis and the Legislative Goals conference itself represent a process we believe to be unique among organizations that present agendas to the General Assembly. By the time we conclude our process, after the Legislative Goals Conference, we believe between 85 and 90 percent of our members will have participated in our goal-setting process. We are proud of this inclusiveness and we believe it strengthens our grassroots efforts.

We ask that you and your boards review the enclosed materials. Each county has already received information relating to registration at the Legislative Goals Conference, choice of voting delegates and rules of procedure. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

Justice and Public Safety

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **E-911 Funds** – Support legislation to preserve county revenue from E-911 charges and allow counties greater flexibility in the use of the funds; and restructure the 911 Board created by G.S. 62A-41 to add additional local government representation.
2. **Reimbursement, state inmates in county jails** – Seek legislation to increase the daily reimbursement rate for housing state inmates in county jails.
3. **Gang Prevention** – Support additional funds for gang prevention, intervention and suppression activities.
4. **Methamphetamine Labs** – Support legislation and appropriations to mitigate the prevalence of methamphetamine production and use through the state.
5. **Court Facilities Fee** – Support legislation to allow counties to collect additional facilities fees to help fund capital, operational and other needs associated with ever-increasing judicial activities.
6. **Criminal Justice Information** – Support legislation to allow greater sharing of information between the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal system.

Taxation and Finance

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **Revenue Options and Protection** - Seek legislation to allow all counties to enact by resolution any or all revenue options from among those that have been authorized for any other county, including local option sales taxes, prepared food taxes, impact taxes and real estate transfer taxes; and to preserve the existing local revenue base.
2. **Motor Vehicle Property Taxes** - Support continued appropriations from the Combined Motor Vehicle and Registration Account to insure that the previously ratified motor vehicle taxation legislation is implemented according to the existing timetable and without any additional delay.
3. **Impact Analysis** – Support efforts to analyze the fiscal impacts of tax relief programs and exemptions enacted by the General Assembly, to provide transparency on a county-by-county basis with respect to the local effects of such tax breaks.
4. **Definition of Charity** – Support legislation to clarify the definition of “charity” for hospitals, including facilities financed through bonds issued by the Medical Care Commission, and continuing care facilities, and require that any property valuation exclusion formula provide for a higher test of “charity,” to include a calculation of the cost of non-reimbursed care delivered.
5. **Manufactured Home Taxes** – Support legislation to require all taxes levied on a manufactured home to be paid before the home may be moved, repossessed or sold on site.
6. **Central Listing and Assessing of Cellular and Cable Companies** – Support legislation to centrally list and assess cellular companies and cable companies as public service companies.
7. **Reimbursement, In Rem Foreclosures** – Support an increase in the reimbursement rate for local government collection efforts related to in rem foreclosures.

Environment

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **Water and Sewer Infrastructure** – (a) Support legislation providing the necessary capital for the maintenance, upgrade, installation, and expansion of public water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, with encouragement for water reclamation facilities; and (b) Seek legislation to create a study of the rules and procedures for evaluating the available capacity of pump stations.
2. **Funds for Regional Water Resource Management** - Support funding for regional councils to develop and implement multi-jurisdictional water resource management planning and programs in every region through the cooperation of local governments, water users, and other stakeholders.
3. **Private Well Testing** – Seek legislation limiting state mandated contaminant testing of private wells to naturally occurring chemicals, and authorizing local control over well testing for named petroleum based pollutants.
4. **Water Capacity/Reservoirs** – Seek legislation to streamline the permitting of local water supply reservoirs.
5. **Yard Waste Facilities** – Seek legislation clarifying that runoff from yard waste staging areas at county landfills does not require wastewater treatment.
6. **Watershed Pollution Rules** – Seek legislation eliminating required retrofitting of existing development under rules impacting nutrient levels in existing watersheds.

Human Services

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **Mental Health Funding** - Seek legislation to ensure that state funded mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services are available, accessible, and affordable to all citizens.
2. **Health and Social Services Funding** - Support state funding to provide adequate health and social services, specifically
 - Assist each school system in reaching the school health nurse:student ratio of 1:750 and incorporate into the allocation formula a criterion that recognizes the level of county effort in funding school nurses. The Legislature should examine the appropriateness of the target ratio for small school districts and consider whether a target of nurse hours per day per school is a better measure of nurse availability;
 - Restore the financial incentives for counties who opt to be "Electing Counties";
 - Restore funding of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Regulatory Compliance within the County Health Departments to previous levels;
 - Support additional funding for child-care subsidies and increase the administrative limit from 4% to 5% to enhance program integrity and eligibility review;
 - Increase the "general aid to county" funding for local health departments to build necessary infrastructure and support the capacity to provide essential public health services; and,
 - Support funding for the NC FAST automation initiative in social services.
3. **Local Discretion, Inspection Fees** - Support legislation that would provide greater discretion at the county level to establish fees for the inspection of food and lodging facilities.
4. **Records Sharing, Communicable Diseases** - Support legislation to provide immunity from civil or criminal liability for persons required to respond to requests for records in connection with communicable disease investigations.
5. **Allocation Formulas, Health and Human Services** - Support a study with representative stakeholder participation to examine the county allocation formulas applied by the Department of Health and Human Services to determine the sufficiency, equity and efficiency of each formula, assuring that formulas fairly respond to the needs of all counties.

Intergovernmental Relations

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **Transportation Funding** – Oppose legislation shifting the state’s existing responsibility for funding transportation construction and maintenance projects to county governments.
2. **Annexation** – Support legislation modernizing the annexation laws as follows:
 - Requiring the development of joint utility service plans for urbanizing areas;
 - Requiring cities to reimburse counties for the loss of sales tax due to an annexation;
 - Increasing the degree of urbanization required to annex property;
 - Requiring a referendum on proposed involuntary annexations in areas where public services – water and sewer and solid waste – are already in place; and
 - Requiring the direct provision of municipal water and sewer services to customers within five years of an annexation.
3. **Collective Bargaining for Public Employees** – Oppose legislation authorizing local governments to enter into collective bargaining agreements with public employees, or mandating dues check off programs.
4. **Workers’ Compensation Reform** – Support legislation to reform North Carolina’s Workers’ Compensation system to reduce disability findings and open-ended streams of payment, to address the trend in favor of long-term disability findings, to diminish control over these findings on the part of claimants and their legal representatives, and to curtail adoption of rules that limit return-to-work efforts.
5. **Rural Transportation Planning Organizations** – Support legislation providing continued funding of rural transportation planning organizations (RPOs), enabling increased participation in transportation planning for the state’s non-urban areas by local governments. Long-range transportation plans drafted by RPOs or MPOs should be submitted to member Boards of County Commissioners for review and comment prior to being submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.
6. **Second Primary** – Seek legislation to reduce the cost of administering second primary elections, such as instant run off ballots.

Agriculture

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

- 1. Fund Agricultural Research and Extension Services** – Support legislation to increase funding for Agricultural research and Extension services offered through North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University and to assure that existing research stations are maintained at the current level of service.

- 2. Support Conservation of Working Lands and Farmland Preservation** – Support efforts to promote and conserve working lands, including 1) legislation that includes horticulture, forestry and farmland as part of the state recreation and tourism plan, with emphasis on the protection and support of private working lands, 2) legislation that retains the present use value tax break for working agricultural, horticultural and forestry lands but does not further dilute its status by expanding the tax break to non-agricultural, non-working lands including non-working conservation properties, and 3) legislation to expand funding of the Agricultural Development and Farm Land Preservation Trust Fund and to create a dedicated revenue source to assure continued and stable fund maintenance.

Public Education

2009-10 NCACC Legislative Goals As Recommended by the Board of Directors

1. **Distribution of Lottery Proceeds** – Support an Average Daily Membership distribution in the School Capital Fund formula applying to lottery proceeds. Counties should be allowed to supplant local funds with lottery proceeds and these proceeds should be distributed on a regular quarterly basis.
2. **Public School Construction and Community College Funding** - Support legislation to provide state assistance to meet public school and community college construction needs caused by increased enrollment, mandated reduction in class size, and other factors through a statewide referendum on a bond issue and/or through authority for counties to raise additional revenues to meet facility needs, and to fund expansion budget requests of the community college system to meet demands resulting from increased enrollment and to train and retrain workers responding to a changing economy.
3. **Education Current Expense Funding** - Support legislation to assure that the state define and support an adequate basic education in all local school systems and appropriate adequate operating funds to fully fund its education initiatives with revenue that is earmarked to pay the costs of those initiatives. The state should fund programs that continue to engage young people, provide individualized options that eliminate arbitrary barriers and provide students a range of opportunities through which they can gain the credentials, skills and education they need to function in the modern economy of the 21st century. Specifically, the state should:
 - continue to fully fund the Low Wealth School Fund, and
 - appropriate funds for school resource officers on the basis of one position allotment for each middle school and high school building for all school systems across the state.
4. **Public School Capital Building Fund** - Support legislation to assure that the Public School Capital Building Fund remains intact and to direct the State Treasurer to report on long-term commitments that are dependent on this Fund. Counties and schools should not be deprived of these resources as they were deprived of state support for school utility costs in 1991-92.
5. **Community College Governance** - Support legislation to review the process through which members of the various boards of trustees of the several community colleges are appointed, to determine whether the system provides for adequate representation from counties responsible for supporting multi-county campuses.

NCACC Agriculture Policy Statement

Introduction

North Carolina's diverse agricultural community is helping meet the challenge of furnishing consumers around the world with food, agricultural, horticultural and forestry products. As North Carolina's top industry, agriculture and agribusiness account for nearly 25% of North Carolina's Gross State Product and total employment. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of agriculture within North Carolina's diverse economic base.

The constitutional purpose of the Association is "to provide the legislature and the public with information necessary for the passage of sound legislation beneficial to the administration of county affairs and to oppose legislation injurious thereto." Therefore the Association will not utilize its resources advocating solely on behalf of agricultural interests, but instead will advocate for or against legislative and regulatory policies that address agricultural concerns, while simultaneously benefiting the administration of all counties' affairs.

Relationship of Agriculture and Environmental Policy

Agricultural issues related to the environment transcend governmental boundaries and therefore require close coordination of policy and action by federal, state and local governments. Powers delegated to the counties for the protection of the public health are important tools for carrying out measures to protect the land and water resources vital for current and future agricultural endeavors. The Association will support and encourage policies that call for the efficient and safe use of natural resources, helping North Carolina's counties remain safe and healthy places in which to live and work.

Agriculture and Tax Policy

Historically, public policy concerns controlled the method of taxation of agricultural property, as with the taxation of other land uses. Accordingly, the Association will continue to study the impact of various financing mechanisms for the assurances of efficiency, equity, and diversification. Whenever possible, the Association will advocate for tax policies advantageous to both agricultural interests and the maintenance of a broad and equitable county tax base.

Agriculture - County Land Use and Local System Initiatives

As North Carolina's urban centers expand into agriculturally oriented land areas, public policy questions emerge as to the regulation of development patterns. The Association believes strongly in flexibility of form and function, and therefore supports local control over land-use decision-making, and its impact on the agricultural community. Furthermore, the Association supports state policies providing local options and tools as to the preservation of farmland if they, in fact serve the best interest of all counties.

Finally, the Association will support research, education and outreach with various public and private partnerships resulting in agricultural development opportunities, sustainable initiatives producing low-cost food and energy that will in turn create healthy local economies.

NCACC Environmental Policy Statement

Introduction

Environmental issues transcend governmental boundaries and therefore require close coordination of policy and action by federal, state and local governments. The aim of public policy addressing environmental issues should be to assure the public health, protect vital natural resources and enhance sound development while protecting individual property rights.

County governments in North Carolina must play a key role in the development and implementation of environmental policy. Powers delegated to the counties for protection of the public health and regulations of development are important tools for carrying out measures to protect land, air and water resources.

State and Local Responsibilities

Protection of the environment must be a shared effort between the state and local government. State government should not neglect its responsibilities, nor overly burden local government in its attempt to regulate activities impacting the environment. The Association believes that the following principles should guide the relationship between the state and local governments in the area of environmental protection:

- State agencies charged with the responsibility for developing administrative rules to implement federal and state environmental policies should involve local governments in the process at the earliest stages of development and should proceed only after thorough analysis of health risks, environmental impacts, and fiscal impacts.
- If state agencies issue permits for activities affecting the environment, affected local governments should be given ample opportunity to comment on all proposed permits in terms of consistency with local plans and policies.
- If state law delegates responsibility for implementation, monitoring and enforcement of environmental policy to local governments, the state should provide, through law and regulation, for optimum flexibility at the local level in carrying out these responsibilities.
- State law and administrative rules should allow local governments maximum discretion in setting fees for such services as inspections, issuance of permits, monitoring activities and enforcement.
- If state law mandates that all local governments assume new or expanded responsibilities for protection of the environment that previously were considered to be discretionary activities at the local level, the General Assembly should provide funding for expenditures resulting from the mandate. If state law mandates that state agencies undertake environmental monitoring activities, the General Assembly must provide state resources necessary to undertake these monitoring responsibilities in a timely manner.

Balancing Development and Environmental Protection

All human activities have an impact on the environment. County governments believe that public policy on environmental protection must recognize this fact and provide a rational balance between these interests. To that end, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners believes that it is imperative that all initiatives to protect the quality of our natural environment be carefully evaluated in terms of relative costs and benefits and actual risks posed to human health. Enhancements to the environment laws of North Carolina should be justified by sound natural science and based on a clear rationale and purpose for regulatory change.

NCACC Human Services Policy Statement

Guiding Principles

- Essential human services should be financed through state or federal revenues to ensure statewide availability and consistency.
- Counties must be actively engaged in setting human services policy and program requirements.
- Human services programs should encourage responsible behavior and should be targeted to those citizens least able to care for themselves.
- County human services programs should function as a coordinated, unified system with sufficient automation to support efficient service delivery.

Introduction

Comprehensive and efficient human services, including social services, health and mental health, are essential to human well-being in our present society. These services must be clearly defined and adequately funded. State mandated services delivered at the county level should be financed from state revenue sources in order for every citizen of North Carolina to receive a substantially similar degree of service. Federally mandated services should be financed from federal revenue sources. Counties should not participate in the financing of Medicaid services.

State & County Fiscal Relationship

County commissioners have a significant role in the funding of the human services network. For this reason, policy changes affecting the counties should be preceded by good faith negotiations in a process that is fair and equitable. New program initiatives should allow adequate lead time for implementation within the county budget schedule. The state should consider a county's resource limitations when implementing new state and federal programs.

Local Authority

Since the counties are the level of government closest to the people, the Association supports strengthening of local decision-making to respond to local needs. To enhance this principle, members of all county human service agency boards should be appointed by the boards of county commissioners. All block grants should be allocated as non-categorical funds. The Association will oppose earmarking of block grant funds. The Association supports increases in funding for mandated services, provided that the increases do not require additional expenditures of county funds.

Service Priorities

Human service programs should be targeted to those citizens least able to care for themselves. These programs should encourage families to be responsible supporters of their children. To accomplish this, the programs should focus on helping individuals find sustainable long-term employment. County resources should be targeted toward helping individuals become self-sufficient, helping families remain together and rewarding responsible behavior. The needs of children should be the primary focus.

NCACC Human Services Policy Statement (continued)

Human service programs should be flexible and be designed to accommodate the state's changing demographics, such as the increasing elderly and Hispanic populations.

Intergovernmental strategies for economic development should be encouraged. These efforts are critical to ensuring that work is available for individuals making the transition from public assistance to employment. All local government institutions, including municipalities and school boards, should be involved in developing and coordinating services to meet the needs of low-income individuals.

Service Delivery

The county human services programs should function as a coordinated, unified system. Automation of program administration should be focused toward service integration, program integrity, client satisfaction, and efficient operation. The Association supports county and state collaborative efforts in developing strategies for enhancing local agency automation. The state should take a lead role in financing, implementing, maintaining, and supporting statewide-automated systems. Automation efforts undertaken by the state should connect and integrate with county automation initiatives.

NCACC Intergovernmental Relations Policy Statement

Basic Governmental Philosophy

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners affirms the following as its basic governmental philosophy:

- Leave to private initiative the functions that citizens can perform privately while encouraging public-private partnerships and governmental entrepreneurship when these are in the interest of citizens and taxpayers.
- Use the level of government closest to the people for all the public functions possible, and provide local governments with the resources necessary to carry out these functions.
- Utilize intergovernmental agreements where appropriate to attain efficient performance as determined by local elected officials.
- Reserve national action for those areas where state and local governments are not adequate and where continuing national involvement is necessary, e.g. national defense, provided resources are made available by the national government.

The Intergovernmental System

The state plays a vital role in the economic well being of the counties. In recognition of this partnership, the state should provide alternatives to enable the counties to meet their basic infrastructure needs.

By statute the counties of North Carolina are agents of the state; however, county governments are more than local branches of state government. As representatives of the local government that touches all the people, county commissioners accept responsibility for strengthening and improving county government and will continually strive to lead effectively.

The Association believes strongly in flexibility of form, function and finance. Counties should be free to organize for the efficient and effective delivery of services as deemed appropriate by each county. They should be free to determine the scope and extent of governmental service they will render subject to the need for uniformity in delivery of services of national or statewide import; to this end, the Association will continue to oppose unfunded minimum service levels and maintenance of effort requirements. Counties should have the authority to employ a variety of means of financing county government.

To provide equity among the counties, and to relieve counties of fiscal burdens that cannot adequately be funded by county revenue sources, services mandated by the federal government should be fully funded by the federal government, and those services mandated by the state should be fully funded by the state.

NCACC Intergovernmental Relations Policy Statement (continued)

The Association recognizes the kinship of cities and counties in the family of local government and urges member counties to act affirmatively to strengthen their partnerships with cities. There must be recognition of issues that cross city and county lines. These issues must be dealt with cooperatively. Local general purpose governments are the building blocks for solving regional problems; therefore, any regional approach must be based on the need to strengthen and support local governments.

The Association generally supports the policy positions established by the National Association of Counties, but retains the right to establish its own policy positions on specific issues as deemed appropriate by its membership.

The Importance of Unity

The constitutional purpose of the Association is "to provide the legislature and the public with information necessary for the passage of sound legislation beneficial to the administration of county affairs and to oppose legislation injurious thereto." The Association affirms that its resources will not be utilized on behalf of individual counties seeking legislative remedy for problems that are not statewide in nature. Its lobbying efforts will be directed toward the support of sound legislation beneficial to the administration of all counties' affairs, and to the opposition of legislation injurious to the counties as a body.

NCACC Justice and Public Safety Policy Statement

The Association recognizes that the state and counties are partners in the operation of the criminal justice system and will support policies and laws that contribute to this partnership being an equitable one.

County jails should be reserved exclusively for pre-trial detainees, and adjudication should be swift in order to minimize overcrowding in county jails. Bonds should be reasonable, and effective pre-trial screening and population management efforts should be encouraged. Criminals should pay a greater portion of the cost incurred by the counties and the state as a result of their crimes through increased jail fees, service of process fees, and court facilities fees.

The statewide judicial system should be adequately funded and staffed in order to provide an efficient environment for judicial process and to instill public confidence in the justice system.

NCACC Public Education Policy Statement

Introduction

The Association believes that every child should have equal access to a sound basic education designed to prepare students for successful living, work and good citizenship in a modern society. Recognizing that the responsibility for public education in our country is that of the states, the Association believes that adequate state resources must ensure a sound basic education for all North Carolina children. We believe that improved public education is imperative to the future of North Carolina's citizens, and we encourage the state to place higher priority on increased support for the necessary improvements.

The Association supports a continued federal role in the funding of educational services. The Association further believes that citizen control of public schools is essential to guarantee continued widespread understanding and support for this major responsibility of government: the education of its people. The Association acknowledges and accepts the traditional responsibility of boards of county commissioners to provide adequate facilities in which to meet our students' need for a sound basic education.

Clarifying State and County Financial Responsibility

The Association recognizes the importance of new approaches to education in the effort to improve our public schools. Such innovations as alternative schools and charter schools are intended to introduce greater choice into the state's public educational system. When the General Assembly authorizes changes to introduce greater choice and/or improve education, these changes and flexibilities should be equally available to all existing public schools.

The Association will support efforts by state policy makers that, in the view of county commissioners, will lead to substantive improvements in the state-supported basic elementary and secondary education programs available to the children of North Carolina. Elementary and secondary public education should be a clear priority to ensure that North Carolina citizens are well served by our schools.

The state should define and support an adequate basic education in all local school systems and appropriate adequate operating funds to fully fund its education initiatives with revenue that is earmarked to pay the costs of those initiatives. The state should fund programs that continue to engage young people, provide individualized options that eliminate arbitrary barriers and provide students a range of opportunities through which they can gain the credentials, skills and education they need to function in the modern economy of the 21st century.

The division of responsibility between the state and counties for financing public school needs, which was established by the General Assembly in 1933, became blurred during the years that followed. The Association supports efforts to clarify state and county responsibility through legislation that reflects and recognizes the following realities:

- the rightful guarantee of equal access to high quality basic education opportunities for every child in North Carolina;
- the limitation of county government revenue sources and the need for additional sources of revenue at the county level;

NCACC Public Education Policy Statement (continued)

- the impacts of changing technologies on basic educational needs and the job market in the future;
- the impact of changes in the state-supported education program on the facility needs of local school systems;
- the need, if county governments are to remain responsible for school facility needs, for county commissioners to have the authority to assure that funds appropriated to meet these needs are used accordingly; and
- the problems experienced by counties, particularly suburban counties in areas surrounding metropolitan areas, in which growth in school population is not matched by growth in county revenue.

Further, the Association believes that county commissioners together with the state must be diligent in carrying out their financing responsibility for school facilities. Adequate capital financing arrangements will necessitate strong attention to long-range financial planning. School building needs of necessity must be considered in the context of all facilities that commissioners are required to finance.

County Commissioners and Local Boards

As local officials, commissioners and local school board members can be more effective by acting cooperatively to promote improvements in public education, especially in the area of sufficient state financing for a quality basic education.

Joint cooperative action between boards of county commissioners and local school boards is essential to the successful delivery of excellent public education. The free exchange of information and ideas among the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the North Carolina School Boards Association and the North Carolina Department of Public Education is likewise necessary to promote understanding of the variety and complexity of issues related to public education.

The Association strongly urges the General Assembly to support counties in their efforts to fund no more than one school system per county in order to better utilize school facilities and financial resources. Taxation for local support of public education should be vested exclusively with boards of county commissioners.

Community Colleges

The Association believes that North Carolina's community colleges are critical components in the state's integrated efforts to prepare students of all ages for constructive participation in a constantly changing economy. We support state assistance to meet community college construction needs caused by increased enrollment as well as state funding for programs to train and retrain the most effective workforce possible.

NCACC Taxation and Finance Policy Statement

Guiding Principles

- The level of government most capable of delivering public services should provide them.
- Counties must have sufficient revenue authority to meet public service needs.
- Counties must have access to a broad and balanced revenue base.
- The state should not mandate programs requiring county financial participation, and state-generated revenues should fund basic state services.
- The state should provide timely and tailored information to sustain county revenue, budget and financial management integrity.

Introduction

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners believes that the level of government most capable of delivering essential public services should be responsible for providing them. In order for counties to be effective partners with the state and federal governments, counties must have the authority to generate optional local revenues that are sufficient to meet public service needs while being responsive to economic change. The county revenue base should be broad and balanced, permitting counties to raise revenues from various sources rather than being overly dependent on any single revenue source or overly burdensome on any one group of taxpayers.

A proper balance of service responsibility and revenue-raising authority is imperative for effective county governance. Any restructuring of county responsibilities should be coupled with a restructuring of local revenue sources to meet those responsibilities.

County Revenue Authority

The property tax system is the mainstay of the county revenue base and the Association will continue efforts to make the property tax system more efficient and equitable. The Association will also seek to broaden and diversify the county revenue base to include appropriate optional sources that are responsive to economic change and equitable in terms of impact on residents.

The Association believes that county revenue authority should reflect the following:

- Counties should have authority to generate optional revenues sufficient to meet their responsibilities, especially for those programs already mandated by the state and federal governments.
- New taxing authority should not be seen as encouragement for new state and federal mandates.
- The Association opposes the redistribution of existing revenues, and no redistribution of new tax sources should be implemented without assessing taxpayer equity as reflected by local needs, local funding efforts, and local funding capability.
- The General Assembly should reimburse from state sources individual county and city losses if statewide policy objectives necessitate reductions in local tax bases.
- The General Assembly should recognize that county funding obligations do not diminish when local revenue base exemptions and exclusions are granted to specific groups and

county revenue generation is reduced, with the result that the tax burden is shifted from one local constituency to another.

NCACC Taxation and Finance Policy Statement (continued)

- The General Assembly should evaluate existing local revenue base exemptions and exclusions to determine if they have achieved their intended tax policy objectives. New or extended exemptions and exclusions should include a “sunset” date in their authorizing legislation.
- Local government tax revenues should not be earmarked for specific programs, functions or services.

Financing Mandates

County officials recognize their responsibilities for carrying out policies formulated by the General Assembly. State policy makers should recognize county revenue base limitations and variations in revenue-producing capabilities among counties and should not mandate programs requiring county financial participation.

The Association believes that mandated programs should be financed as follows:

- Where the state has mandated county financing in broad terms, permitting county discretion in service levels, counties should have the primary financing responsibility.
- Where the General Assembly has set a minimum of basic service to be available equally to all state residents, the state should have financing responsibility. County financial participation should be limited to sharing the programs’ administrative costs.
- Where the federal government has initiated services to provide income maintenance for all citizens, the federal government should have financing responsibility.

Fiscal Integrity of Counties

Counties need timely information from the legislative and executive branches of state government regarding budgetary decisions that affect county taxation, budgeting, and fiscal management. In order to enhance the fiscal integrity of counties, the Association will continue to support improvements in financial management practices and reduction of inconsistencies in fiscal procedures among programs administered by county governments.

The Association believes that the continued fiscal health of county government depends upon the following:

- State laws and guidance that provide for sound financial management practices that are adaptable to the special needs of each county.
- Appropriate state agencies should guide necessary improvements in consistent accounting, reporting and auditing procedures.
- State agencies monitoring county programs should not require practices that are redundant, duplicative, or inconsistent with generally accepted principles of budgeting and accounting.