

VA Caregiver Support Program: Lessons Learned and Opportunities

FACILITATED BY

NCSI Coalition Caregiver and Patient Engagement Work Group

November 14, 2023 @ 8:30am

The North Carolina Serious Illness Coalition is a partnership of health leaders, providers and citizens that oversees and coordinates the implementation of the recommendations from the NC IOM Task Force on Serious Illness Care.

Introduction

Topic	Speaker
Overview and Welcome	Karen Appert, MSG Chair, Caregiver and Patient Engagement Work Group, NC Serious Illness Coalition
Why Caregiving Matters in NC	Sue Deaton, MSN, RN, FABC Moderator
VA Caregiver Support Program Panel Discussion	Jenny Thompson, MS, OTR/L Kate Miller, PhD Charlotte Sweeney, MD
Questions and Answers	Attendees
Next Steps: Caregiver Support in NC	Karen Appert

Caregiving in NC

The Realities

- The demographic shifts in NC are creating unprecedented demand for paid and family caregivers
- Many caregivers cannot (or do not have) access to needed services and there are long wait lists for existing caregiving resources
- The pandemic reduced access to social support and in home services, creating added stressors for patients and their caregivers
- Caregivers are often left out of the conversations with patients and not acknowledged as essential care partners
- NC does not have a task force or council dedicated to collecting and analyzing caregiver data and advocating solely for the needs of caregivers
- Several organizations have education materials and online services for caregivers, yet, not all caregivers can access online resources
- The national momentum and innovative models in other states provide a unique opportunity to act

How Can We Support Caregivers*

It is not when, but how

- Establish a NC Caregiver Task Force to analyze state data, legislative solutions, and financing options and promote best practices and strategies for supporting caregivers in the state
- Look for ways to develop mutual aid systems of caregiver support across counties
- Identify costs and burdens associated with caregiving, incorporating input from diverse stakeholders
- Study the needs of care recipients and care provided by family caregivers
- Examine the impact of enhanced resources directly to caregivers (e.g., direct pay/reimbursement to caregivers).
- Study disparities in availability of and access to caregiver services
- Develop the serious illness care and special needs health sector workforce
- Study ways the state and private sector employers can support employees with caregiving responsibilities
- Engage the North Carolina General Assembly, the governor, and other constituents

Vision for Caregiver Support in NC

Become a top-ranked state relative to support for caregivers of citizens with serious illness and disabilities across the lifespan.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Jenny Thompson, MS, OTR/L

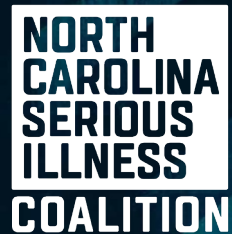
Kate Miller, PhD

Charlotte Sweeney, MD

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Thank you.



Learn more at NCSICoalition.org

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