

North Carolina has a number of groups and organizations whose members actively study and represent the views of older adults in helping shape public policy. The views of three bodies are presented below. The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature, and the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging, have authority under state law to offer recommendations for improving the well-being of seniors.

Created in 1973, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GAC) is charged by NCGS 143B-180 to recommend to the Governor and the DHHS Secretary ways to improve services to older adults. For SFY 2011-12, the GAC has seven recommendations.

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) was created by the General Assembly in 1993 with the passage of S.B. 479. With one delegate, and often an alternate, 60 years of age or older from each of North Carolina's 100 counties, the STHL assesses the needs of older citizens and establishes annually up to five priorities for consideration by the General Assembly. They chose five priorities for SFY 2011-12.

NCGS 120-21 charges the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging to study and evaluate the existing system of delivery of state services to older adults and to recommend an improved delivery system to meet their current and future needs. With a membership of 17, the Study Commission on Aging met two times to develop its report to the Governor and the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Their report includes 12 recommendations.

| Items | Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GAC) | Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) | Study Commission on Aging |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Funding for Home and Community Care Block Grant | X | X | X |
| 2. Support Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) | X | X | X |
| 3. Funding for Senior Centers | X | X | X |
| 4. Sustain funding for Adult Protective Services | X | | X |
| 5. Sustain the Community Alternatives Program | X | | |
| 6. Sustain adult dental services as part of the Medicaid Program | X | X | |
| 7. Funding for Senior Games | X | | |
| 8. Mandate drug testing for employees of NF and ACH's | | X | |
| 9. Baby Boomer Preparation – extend annual reporting for five years | | | X |
| 10. Nurse Aide Training – transition nurse aide training from task performance to patient focused care | | | X |
| 11. Direct Care Worker Wage and Benefit Study- establish a study of wages and benefits and ways to increase supply and retention | | | X |
| 12. Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adults | | | X |
| 13. Co-Location Task Force- Adult Care Home to Independent Supported Housing | | | X |
| 14. Co-Location Task Force- Appropriation to Increase Housing Options | | | X |
| 15. Co-Location Task Force – Appropriation for Standardized Preadmission Screening, Assessment, and Care Planning | | | X |
| 16. Co-Location Task Force – Adult Care Home Direct Care Worker Training | | | X |
| 17. Co-Location Task Force –Support the recommendations contained in the report from the Task Force on the Co-Location of Different Populations in ACHs and urges designated entities to undertake them | | | X |
| 18. Extend the Task Force on Guidelines for Consumers with Hearing Loss | | | X |

Full recommendations are available at the listed websites

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging- <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/gacrcm.htm>

Senior Tar Heel Legislature- <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/sthl.htm>

Study Commission on Aging-

<http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/NCSCA/Reports%20to%20the%20Governor%20and%20the%20General%20Assembly/2011%20Study%20Commission%20on%20Aging%20Report.pdf>