

**North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition Minutes
 Tuesday, March 15, 2011
 Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC
 4307 Emperor Blvd., Suite 110, Durham, NC**

Time	Topic	Leader(s)
10:45-11:00	Networking	All
11:00-11:10	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping	Sharon Rhyne NC Division of Public Health
11:10-11:30	Carolina Geriatric Education Center Falls Practice Improvement Network Update	Tiffany Shubert UNC Institute on Aging (IOA)/CGEC
11:30-11:45	CDC Falls Expert Meeting	Leslie Allison East Carolina University
11:45-Noon	CDC Core Injury Grant/Falls Grant	Jennifer Woody, NC Division of Public Health
Noon-12:15	Lunch	
12:15-12:45	Coalition Member Falls Prevention News	All
12:45-1:00	Coalition Work Plan/Workgroup Updates	Ellen Schneider, UNC IOA/CGEC Workgroup Co-Facilitators
1:00-1:50	NC EMS Falls Data	Sharon Schiro NC Institute on Medicine
1:50-2:00	Next Steps/Next Meeting	Sharon Rhyne, NC Division of Public Health
2:00-3:00	Coalition Workgroup Breakouts	All

Attendees

Leslie Allison East Carolina University	Mary Moss Master's Student at UNC
Jane Armstrong Triangle J AAA	Walter Palmer UNC-CH Doctoral Student
Kim Bailey Duke University Hospital	Jan Parker, NC Dept. of Insurance
Shannon Barkwell UNC Health Care Trauma Program	Kate Queen Physician/Rheumatologist/Med West
Lynn Barringer Metrolina Falls Prevention Coalition/Duke University NP/CNS	Christa Ann Rhodes Liberty Home Care and Hospice
Sue Blalock UNC School of Pharmacy	Sharon Rhyne NC Division of Public Health
Craig DeBussey NC Physical Therapy Association	Lesley Richmond Be Active NC
Alan Dellapenna NC Division of Public Health	Ellen Roberts Division of Geriatric Medicine, UNC-CH
Richard Duncan Universal Design Institute	Sharon Schiro NC DPH Consultant

Pam Duncan, Wake Forest University	Ellen Schneider UNC Institute on Aging
Audrey Edmisten NC Division of Aging and Adult Services	Lori Schrodtt (via phone) Western Carolina University
Sandra Jean Evans Duke Raleigh Hospital Wellness Center	Vicki Seals Geriatric CNS, Student Duke University
Phillip Griffin The Hearing Clinic, Inc.	Tiffany Shubert, UNC Institute on Aging
Dee Hatch AARP	Carol Siebert North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association
Rebecca Hunter Center for Aging and Health, UNC-CH	Rachelle Strachar, AARP
Jennifer Lanier Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation	Nick Turkas Arthritis Foundation
Joyce Loebstack Triangle Senior Services	Mary Warren Triangle J Area Agency on Aging
Vicki Mercer Allied Health Sciences at UNC Chapel Hill	Christina Weaver Moses Cone
Brenda Moore Liberty Home Car and Hospice	Jennifer Woody NC Division of Public Health
Cindy Morgan Association for Home & Hospice Care of NC	

Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Rhyne, NC Division of Public Health. Sharon reported that the growing public health issue of falls was listed as a priority objective for the first time in three major statewide plans: [Healthy North Carolina 2020: A Better State of Health](#) (page 12), the [NC Institute of Medicine Prevention Action Plan](#) (page 208), and the [2011-2015 NC State Aging Services Plan](#) (page 24). All three of these plans help to set statewide policy objectives and actions to move forward in the identified priority areas. Falls prevention was also featured in a recent issue of the [North Carolina Medical Journal](#). IOA Scientists Tiffany Shubert and Ellen Schneider wrote an article on “Addressing the Escalating Public Health Issue of Falls” and Sharon Rhyne co-authored an article with Ellen Schneider on “The North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition.”

Our grant from the NC Department of Insurance that pays for our lunches at Coalition meetings will run out of funds soon. We sincerely thank the Department of Insurance for its support. If organizations are interested in sponsoring lunch at a meeting, please contact Ellen Schneider (eschneider@schsr.unc.edu). Be Active NC has graciously offered to sponsor lunch for our June meeting.

Carolina Geriatric Education Center Falls Practice Improvement Network Update

Tiffany Shubert, UNC Institute on Aging, reported that the Carolina Geriatric Education Center is collaborating with most of the Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) in the state to conduct various aspects of falls education and training. Results to date show positive practice change.

The Greensboro AHEC is creating falls training videos. These videos will be available online, and there will be a manual to accompany the videos. Area L AHEC will be converting the National Council on Aging/PHI CNA training to an online version. Last fall, the Mountain AHEC trained community providers to screen older adults for falls and is now taking the content and converting it to online training that will take place in conjunction with face-to-face training.

CDC Falls Expert Meeting

Leslie Allison, East Carolina University, attended a falls experts meeting held at the CDC in Atlanta on December 14-15. Tiffany also attended. Sectors represented at the meeting included health care (physicians, OT, PT, exercise specialists, etc.), government (aging, health, safety), and non-government agencies (aging, health, safety). Outcomes from the meeting will be used to help share national direction around falls prevention. For additional details, see the CDC meeting report (sent with the minutes).

CDC Core Injury Grant/Falls Grant

Beginning in 2011, the CDC will be funding state public health department core injury prevention programs via new 5 year grants. Approximately 18-25 states will be funded in this cycle (previously, 30 states were funded); North Carolina applied for the grant, and is hoping to be one of the awardees.

The CDC is also offering falls prevention grants to three states. The three states chosen for the falls grant must first receive the core injury prevention grant to be eligible for the falls grant. North Carolina submitted a proposal for the falls grant to fund Otago and Stepping On in the western part of the state; the three programs that were eligible for funding included Otago, Stepping On, and Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance. We will be notified if we won the grants in April or May.

Coalition Member Falls Prevention News

Members shared falls prevention news from their organizations. A few highlights:

- Dick Duncan, Universal Design Institute, is giving presentations to builders, remodelers, realtors, and others on home design, marketing and sales techniques, and myths. He would like to partner with others who may be interested in collaborating in that effort.
- Philip Griffin, The Hearing Clinic, Inc., is hoping to offer Paul Lamb's version of Tai Chi.

- Nick Turkas, Arthritis Foundation, is promoting the evidence-based “Walk with Ease” program.
- Lesley Richmond, Be Active NC, is managing the database for A Matter of Balance in the state. All data will now be done electronically online. Thus far, over 1,000 participants have attended MOB workshops in the state.
- Jan Parker, NC Department of Insurance, reported that “Operation Medicine Drop” will be taking place around the state during March 20-26. Operation Medicine Drop is a “take back” initiative to provide safe and secure ways for people to dispose of unwanted medications.
- Ellen Schneider, UNC Institute on Aging, announced that Falls Prevention Awareness Week will be held September 19th -24th this year.
- Kim Bailey, Duke University Hospital, announced that UNC and Duke are holding a joint injury prevention conference April 7th.
- Sharon Rhyne, DPH, reported that the theme of National Public Health Week (April 4-10) this year is “Safety is No Accident.”

Coalition Work Plan/Workgroup Updates

Ellen Schneider discussed progress on the 2009-2010 NC Falls Prevention Coalition plan (see attached). Significant progress has been made in many of the goals. The steering committee will be meeting in May to draft an updated plan, and Coalition workgroups are asked to write new goals for 2011-2012.

NC EMS Falls Data

Sharon Schiro presented data on NC EMS falls data. This is the first time that EMS falls data have been compiled and analyzed on a statewide basis. Sharon’s presentation was sent with the meeting minutes. Coalition members are encouraged to contact Sharon with additional ideas for analyzing the data.

Next Steps

The next NC Falls Prevention Coalition meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23rd. Other meeting dates this year are September 1 and December 7th. All meetings this year will be held from 11am-3pm at the Triangle J Council of Governments. Many thanks to Jane Armstrong and Triangle J for donating the meeting space.