



# Care4Carolina

Expanding access. Enhancing prosperity.

## More about Farmers in NC

Care4Carolina talks a lot about uninsured farmers and their need for affordable quality healthcare insurance. Farmer Alex Hitt from Alamance County attended a coalition meeting and told the group about his experiences with farmers and their insurance challenges. Mr. Hitt also spoke at the news conference introducing Carolina Cares (HB662) in April. We will continue to tell stories about various people in North Carolina that are not able to get healthcare coverage, including farmers, so this article spoke directly to this group. More information can be found [here](#).

## Veterans and Health Insurance

Recently with the discussion of the new health care proposals in Washington there have been several articles written to bring attention to the fact that many veterans are not covered by VA benefits. There are several reasons why veterans don't qualify for VA benefits as also some may live too far from a VA facility to easily get primary care. In fact, there are a sizeable number of veterans who receive health care coverage from Medicaid. The Care4Carolina coalition is keenly aware of the health insurance challenges of our veterans in North Carolina as outlined in a report by Mark Hall and Katherine Booth from Wake Forest University's School of Law, "Can Medicaid Help Military Veterans?", October 2016. During coalition meetings and throughout the legislative session C4C staff have used the report as a point of discussion on how important finding a solution for the uninsured is in our state. A national focus on veterans with Medicaid of late confirms our information and lends additional support to our concerns. Should Medicaid funding be limited or cut, the number of uninsured veterans in our state will most likely rise. I would like to find a veteran that is in the insurance gap or on Medicaid so if you have any ideas of where I could start please send an email to me at [Carla.Obiol@heart.org](mailto:Carla.Obiol@heart.org). For more information on this issue you may refer to [this link](#).

## Federal Update

Congress delayed the vote on the Senate's healthcare bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), until after the July 4<sup>th</sup> break. The CBO report was not favorable, estimating 22 million people will be uninsured by 2026, predicting cuts to Medicaid totaling \$772 billion and caps on Medicaid that will likely force states to cut services. Passage of BCRA could result in more North Carolinian's having difficulty accessing affordable, quality healthcare. This is a time folks are speaking to lawmakers and voicing their concerns. State legislators are watching and waiting to see what happens in Washington. The basic principles which serve as the foundation for C4C; accessibility, affordability, accountability, and economic growth, remain critical to our state's wellbeing. Our work is just beginning, the time is now.

## Care4Carolina Meeting

Our next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be served at 12:30 am and the Steering Committee will meet from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. We do not plan to meet in July!

## A Big Welcome to New Supporters!

We are pleased to welcome new C4C supporters to our membership. Thanks to the NC Psychological Association, led by Executive Director Sally Cameron and the North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, led by Executive Director Randy Jordan. Sally and Randy provide invaluable expertise and support to our membership and we are thrilled to have their support! A pressing need for C4C is to continue to grow the coalition and build the influence need to successfully achieve our mission. Please join with us!

