

For Immediate Release

April 2, 2007

## NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Releases New Report Regarding Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors

At a meeting in Raleigh today of the NC American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) released a new report on Medicare Part D and Access to Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors.

In November 2006, HWTF commissioned the *Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina* to explore strategies to improve access to prescription drug coverage for North Carolina seniors. This report highlights recommendations developed as a result of two public forums hosted by the *Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina* on this issue.

The report features five core recommendations:

1. Improving outreach and enrollment for federal “extra help” low income subsidy (LIS) premium subsidies and NCRx
2. Strengthening NCRx
3. Navigating the gaps in Part D coverage
4. The design of NCRx Care and managing out-of-pocket drug costs
5. Improving the coordination of health care delivery for seniors

The full report is posted at [www.HealthWellNC.com](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).

### **Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina**

#### **Co-Chairs:**

**Bill Purcell**, North Carolina Senator, 25<sup>th</sup> District  
**Verla Insko**, North Carolina Representative, 56<sup>th</sup> District  
**Carole Bruce**, HWTF Commissioner, Attorney, Smith Moore LLP

#### **Members:**

**Bill Farmer**, VP of Corporate Development, Time Warner Cable (*new member as of Mar 07*)  
**Dr. Olson Huff**, HWTF Commissioner  
**Dr. Jim Jones**, Medical Director, Black River Health Services (*new member as of Mar 07*)  
**H. Kel Landis III**, Principal, Plexus Capital  
**Valeria Lee**, President, Golden LEAF Foundation  
**Vernon Malone**, North Carolina Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
**Daniel McComas**, North Carolina Representative, 19th District  
**Dr. Karen McNeil-Miller**, President, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
**Norma Mills**, Lecturer, University of North Carolina, School of Government  
**Dr. Daniel Gitterman**, Director (Ex Officio), Assistant Professor of Public Policy, UNC-CH

### **About the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund**

*The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$143 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit [www.HealthWellNC.com](http://www.HealthWellNC.com).*

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