



# The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research

*Your source for nonpartisan research and analysis*

## Accomplishments in 2013

### Improving Public Policy

In a year with a new Governor and 97 of 170 legislators new in the last three years, the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research continued to affect public policy and improve the lives of citizens of North Carolina.

■ **New Law Based On Center’s Research Will Prevent, Report on, and Prosecute Fraud Committed Against the Elderly** – Schemes to rip off unsuspecting seniors are not new, but we now have many more older adults in North Carolina, more sophisticated scams using the Internet, and an international scope for this crime. For example, in Burke County, scam artists based in Jamaica targeted older adults, and one woman lost \$52,000. In Raleigh, a 92-year-old former Army colonel was bilked out of more than \$227,000 by home repair con artists. In Clinton, the caretakers of an elderly man took \$16,000 worth of jewelry, charged \$14,000 on his credit cards, stole his trailer, and hauled off his computer, refrigerator, and washing machine.

The Federal Trade Commission’s most recent data ranks North Carolina 24th of the 50 states in the number of fraud complaints per capita and 23rd in the number of identity theft complaints per capita. The FTC says that people over 50 account for almost one-half of all consumer fraud complaints, and more than a third of all identity theft complaints. These figures are likely to go up quickly since the huge Baby Boom generation started turning 65 in 2011.

The Center conducted research on this important issue in *North Carolina Insight* in 2010. In 2011, we presented our research and recommendations to the Legislative Study Commission on Aging. The legislature then created a new Task Force on Older Adults.

Co-chaired by Sen. Stan Bingham (R-Davidson) and Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), it included representatives from the financial industry such as the NC Bankers Association, State Employees Credit Union, and Commissioner of Banks; from state agencies such as the Division of Aging and the State Treasurer’s Office; from advocacy groups such as AARP and the Senior Tar Heel Legislature; from law enforcement groups such as the FBI, NC Conference of District Attorneys, and NC Chiefs of Police; and two of us from the Center.



**Sen. Stan Bingham**  
R-Davidson



**Rep. Hugh Blackwell**  
R- Burke

Sen. Bingham used the Task Force’s recommendations to sponsor Senate Bill 140 to protect older adults from financial exploitation. It passed the Senate 47-0, and Rep. Blackwell shepherded it through the House with a 111-1 vote. Gov. Pat McCrory signed it into law as Session Law 2013-337. This new legislation is designed to prevent fraud on the front end with the help of the banking, savings and loan, and credit union community; to increase reporting on fraud by local government agencies; and to step up prosecution of fraud on the back end with the help of the NC Conference of District Attorneys and Attorney General’s office. It also continues the work of the Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adults.

*“As Co-Chair of the Task Force on Fraud Against Older Adults, I worked directly with the Center’s staff. They were enormously valuable members of that Task Force, keeping it on track and offering helpful insights and solutions which I understand were based directly on their research. Because of their efforts, North Carolina’s seniors and their families can feel safer from these types of crimes.”*

**Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), N.C. House of Representatives, 2009-present**

*“The Center is a rare entity these days: it is independent, research-based, nonpartisan, and offers an important perspective. I see legislators from both parties using their research, whether it is on fraud committed against the elderly, changes in voting laws, or an evaluation of the state’s efforts in mental health reforms.”*

**Sen. Josh Stein (D-Wake), N.C. Senate, 2009-Present**

■ **Legislation Enacts Center Recommendations To Improve Mental Health Services in North Carolina –**

One of the state’s newest strategies in mental health reform is to use 3-way contracts between the state, local managed care organizations, and local hospitals. The purpose is to buy bed space for mental health patients in short-term crisis at local hospitals, and also to keep those patients out of hospital emergency rooms and out of state psychiatric hospitals.

The Center published its evaluation of this program in 2012. Our research found that the state was not making timely payments to the local hospitals. For example, Cannon Memorial Hospital in Linville waited 7 months for payment. We also found that the local bed contracts were not available in all areas of the state, so we suggested that they be spread more evenly across the state. We found that hospitals had a financial incentive to take patients that were the easiest to stabilize and discharge, so we noted that a tiered payment structure would provide more money to hospitals for taking the patients with tougher or more severe problems. Finally, we recommended evaluation of the results under these contracts. All four of the Center’s recommendations and insights were included in 2013 legislation. The legislature appropriated \$38 million this year (FY 2013-2014) for contracts in 26 hospitals.

■ **Preventing and Reducing High School Dropouts –** In response to our 2007 study of ways to prevent and reduce high school dropouts, the legislature appropriated \$13-15 million each year for four years for dropout prevention grants. And, as we recommended, the legislature has *evaluated* the results of the previous years’ grants. As a result, the *statewide dropout rate now has declined for 5 years in a row, and the graduation rate has increased 7 years in a row.* Based on new data in 2013, the graduation rate now has reached an all-time high of 82.5 percent in North Carolina.

The 2013 General Assembly also adopted a pilot program that implements another Center recommendation – experimenting with raising the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 in two pilot school districts in Catawba County – Hickory and Newton-Conover. This pilot program may provide yet another vehicle for increasing North Carolina’s graduation rates and decreasing its dropout rates even further.

■ **Progress in Eliminating Disparities in Health Outcomes by Race –** Since our 2004 study, the legislature has appropriated funds for 9 consecutive years to combat disparities in health outcomes by race and ethnicity and to measure the results of these efforts. In 2013, the N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$3.6 million for this purpose through 12 grants-in-aid of up to \$300,000 each to eliminate health disparities.

**Center Wins Another National Award**

For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Center won a prestigious national award from the Governmental Research Association (GRA), a nonpartisan group of 33 public policy nonprofits in 22 states. GRA organizations promote transparency in state and local budgets and provide information to citizens about the performance of government programs. The Center’s evaluation of the state’s efforts in mental health reform won an award for **Most Distinguished Research**.



**Mebane Rash**, Director of Law & Policy at the NC Center for Public Policy Research, accepts the 2013 national award for **Most Distinguished Research** from Kirstin Pryor, Chair of the GRA Awards Committee

*“Over the last 16 years of covering state government and the N.C. General Assembly, the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research has proven to be invaluable. The information and publications that the Center produces are great resources in tracking trends affecting the General Assembly and understanding the public policy history of the state.”*

**Scott Mooneyham, Editor, N.C. Insider and Business North Carolina Columnist**

## Enhancing Government Accountability

**A New Citizens' Guide to the Legislature – We enhanced government accountability and**

educated voters by publishing *Article II: A Citizen's Guide to the 2013-2014 North Carolina Legislature*. This guide is available in print, online, and via smart phones. *Article II* has profiles and photos of all 170 members of the General Assembly with their business and home addresses, phone and fax numbers, counties in their districts, number of terms served, educational and occupational backgrounds, and committee assignments. For members who served in the 2011-2012 session, the guide lists five bills they introduced in that session and their votes on 12 bills of statewide interest. It also includes past rankings of each returning legislator's effectiveness, attendance, and roll call voting participation.

## Conducting Nonpartisan Research on Key Public Policy Issues Facing North Carolina

### ■ Identifying Critical Gaps in the Mental Health

**Work Force** – In a 2008 report, the state acknowledged that it did not have basic information about the mental health work force in North Carolina. As a result, the state has been unable to evaluate whether its pipeline of workers is adequate. This is a critical problem because of the aging of the work force and the state's nursing shortage.



In 2013, the Center released data that will begin to fill that gap. This research is an analysis of the 10,564 employees in the NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services and 14 state-operated facilities. These facilities include three state psychiatric hospitals, three alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers, three developmental centers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, two residential programs for children, and three neuro-medical treatment centers.

### Nearly Half of the Workers Are Near Retirement

Perhaps the Center's most important finding is that the state's mental health work force is aging, with Baby Boomers accounting for 48 percent of the work force. This means that almost half the state's mental health workers are nearing retirement.

Nursing jobs are the single largest category of employees, comprising 58 percent of the workers in state-operated facilities (excluding employees in the state central office).

Females comprise 70 percent of employees in the state-operated facilities. When gender and race are combined, the single largest group in the work force is African-American women (36 percent). More than half of the employees in state-operated facilities (excluding those in the state central office), or 52 percent, have only a high school diploma.

### Not Enough Psychiatrists for Most Counties

Twenty-eight of North Carolina's 100 counties do not have a single psychiatrist, and an additional 18 counties only have one psychiatrist. Seventy counties do not have a child psychiatrist, and an additional 14 counties have only one. And, only six counties have a geriatric psychiatrist, only five counties have addiction psychiatrists, and only 13 counties have any physicians specializing in addiction and chemical dependency.

**Rep. Rick Glazier**  
Democrat, 44th District  
Cumberland County  
Date of Birth: 6/16/55

2003, 2005, 2007,  
2009, 2011, 2013



**Counties in District:** Cumberland (part)

**Business Address**  
1200 Murchison Ave.  
Fayetteville, NC 28301  
**Business Phone**  
910-672-2194

**Home Address**  
2642 Old Colony Pl.  
Fayetteville, NC 28303  
**Home Phone**  
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**Occupation**  
Attorney  
Visiting Professor, Fayetteville State University  
Adjunct Professor, Campbell University School of Law  
Former Cumberland County School Board Member

**Education**  
B.A. Penn State U. 1977  
J.D. Wake Forest U. 1981

#### **Selected Bills Introduced 2011-2012:**

Bill No.	Bill Subject or Title	Action
H 139	Limit Campaign Contributions by State Vendors	S
H 234	Disabled Persons and Jury Duty	R
H 247	Enhance Charter School Accountability	H
H 514	Adopt Military & Overseas Voter Act Provis.	R
H 622	Reduce # of Food Inspections in Nursing Homes	R

**TOTAL Introduced Adopted Ratified**  
79 2 11

#### **Where He/She Stands Votes in the 2011-2012 General Assembly:**

Bill No.	Issue	Senate Vote	House Vote	His/Her Vote
S 8	No Cap on Number of Charter Schools (R)	33-17	68-51	N
S 416	Limit Stats Re: Racial Bias in Death Penalty (VO)	31-11	72-48	N
S 514	Const. Amend.: Def. of Marriage/Ban Gay Unions (R)	30-16	75-42	N
S 727	Elim. Payroll Deduction for NCAE Dues (VO)	30-18	69-45	N
S 781	No NC Envir. Rules More Stringent Than Feds (VO)	48-0	76-42	N
S 820	Allow Drilling and Fracking for Natural Gas (VO)	29-13	72-47	N
H 7	Comm. Colleges Can Opt Out of Fed. Stu. Loans (VO)	31-16	71-46	N
H 200	2011 State Budget (VO)	31-19	73-46	N
H 351	Require Photo ID Before Voting (VETO)	31-19	67-52	N
H 854	Ultrasound & 24 Hr. Wait Before Abortion (VO)	29-19	72-47	N
H 937	Redistricting of NC House of Representatives (R)	28-19	66-53	N
H 950	2012 State Budget (VO)	31-10	74-45	N

#### **Effectiveness Rankings:**

2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993	1991
24 of 120	5	4	19	44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>2011 Attendance Ranking</b>										74 (tie) of 120
<b>2011 Roll Call Voting Participation Ranking</b>										27 (tie) of 120

## Board of Directors in 2013

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## Looking Ahead to 2014

continuing our research to prepare North Carolina for this huge shift, we'll look at how our state can train an adequate number of health care workers. We also will analyze policy options for providing effective and efficient in-home care, and we'll examine the impact of this fast-growing aging population on the state budget.

**Financial Aid and Tuition Policy for Students in Colleges, Universities, and Community Colleges** – Early in 2014, the Center will release a groundbreaking study that builds on our previous research on financial aid and tuition policy for students at North Carolina's public and private colleges and universities and community colleges. Later in 2014, we will expand our research to all 50 states, looking for ways to improve our state's *college-going rates* and *college completion rates*.

**New Rankings of Legislators and Lobbyists** – We'll continue our efforts to enhance government accountability and educate voters by publishing the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of *Rankings of Effectiveness, Attendance, and Roll Call Voting Participation for Members of the N.C. General Assembly* and the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Most Influential Lobbyists* to help citizens understand which key interests and organizations have clout with legislators.

**Evaluating the State's Efforts in Mental Health Reform** – We'll continue our work by (1) examining the use of telepsychiatry to provide services in rural areas, (2) analyzing how to produce and retain enough workers to treat and serve those with mental illnesses, and (3) evaluating how mental health reform has worked or not worked in other states. We already have visited three states with better mental health systems (Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Kansas), and three states with worse systems (Georgia, Michigan, and Nevada).

**State Water Policy** – So far, our research is finding a hodgepodge of local and regional water policies. We will undertake an in-depth examination of state water policy, including water quantity and water quality, inter-basin transfers from one river basin to another, and how to move from crisis management in times of drought to a long-term state water policy.

### **Your Legacy: Have You Thought About Making a Planned Gift to the Center?**

Including a charitable gift in your will and estate planning is a simple way to make a lasting gift to the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research and your community. Your legacy gift will help us continue to use independent, nonpartisan research to tackle key public policy issues facing North Carolina. For more information about how your charitable gift can benefit the Center, please contact Aisander Duda at (919) 832-2839 or [aduda@nccppr.org](mailto:aduda@nccppr.org). We also recommend that you consult with your tax advisor or estate planning professional.

## Your Ideas

We welcome your suggestions for topics on which the Center's independent, nonpartisan research could make a difference. Send ideas to **P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602**, call us at **(919) 832-2839**, fax to **(919) 832-2847**, or visit our Website at **www.nccppr.org**. Thank you for caring about improving public policy and enhancing the quality of life in North Carolina.

## Our Mission

*The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the goals of a better-informed public and a more effective, accountable, and responsive state government. The Center identifies public policy issues facing North Carolina and enriches the dialogue among citizens, the media, and policymakers. Based on our research, the Center makes recommendations for improving the way government serves the people of this state.*