

# **Governor's Eugenics Compensation Task Force Minutes**

**(The Governor's Task Force to Determine the Method of Compensation for Victims of North Carolina's Eugenics Board, Henceforth Referred to as 'The Task Force')**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2011**

## **Authorization of the Task Force:**

The Governor's Task Force to Determine the Method of Compensation for Victims of North Carolina's Eugenics Board, henceforth referred to as 'The Task Force' was created and authorized by Executive Order 83 on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. According to the Governor's Executive Order 83, the primary duties of the Task Force are:

1. Recommend possible methods or forms of compensation to those persons forcibly sterilized under the North Carolina Eugenics Board program,
2. Evaluate recommendations from previous commissions regarding the North Carolina Eugenics Board program and sterilization victims, and
3. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Governor.

The Task Force will meet monthly or upon the call of the Chair. It is required to submit its preliminary report to the Governor by August 1, 2011 and its final report by February 1, 2012. The Departments of Administration, Cultural Resources and Health and Human Services are required by the Executive Order to collaborate and support the efforts of the Task Force.

## **Task Force members:**

Physician: Dr. Laura Gerald, *Chair*  
Attorney: Demetrius Worley Berry, JD  
Historian: Dr. Lenwood G. Davis  
Retired Judge: Fetzner Mills, JD  
Former Journalist: Phoebe Zerwick

## **Minutes**

The Governor's Task Force to Determine the Method of Compensation for Victims of North Carolina's Eugenics Board convened for its first meeting on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10am. The meeting was held at the Governor's Crime Commission Conference Room located at 1201 Front Street, Suite 200 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair, Dr. Laura Gerald at 10:05 a.m., and the five-member panel introduced themselves followed by introductions from Foundation staff and Department staff. All Task Force members were present at the meeting and the meeting was also attended by the following:

- Don Akin                      State Center for Health Statistics
- Dick Lankford              Department of Cultural Resources (DCR)
- Sarah Koonts                Department of Cultural Resources (DCR)
- Megan Brown                Office of the Governor
- Irene Clark                 Member of the Public & Retired Professor from St. Augustine College
- William Zeke Creech      Department of Administration (DOA)
- Moses Carey                Department of Administration (DOA)
- June Michaux               Department of Administration (DOA)
- Emery Dalesio              Associated Press
- Jennifer Song               OSBM
- Dalisha Vickers Johnson    DOA-NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
- Charmaine Fuller Cooper    DOA-NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
- Rep. Larry Womble         NC General Assembly

**Chairwoman Laura Gerald** opened the meeting to **Moses Carey**, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, to offer his opening remarks. **Secretary Carey** thanked **Chair Gerald** and began by stating the purpose for gathering together is to determine the nature of compensation to be considered for the victims of sterilization under the authority of the Eugenics Board program in North Carolina. **Secretary Carey** explained how other U.S. States will watch what we do and North Carolina can pilot how other states may choose to compensate victims in their states. **Secretary Carey** stressed how North Carolina can be pioneers for the process of how to compensate victims and encouraged the Task Force members to take their responsibilities to this task very seriously. **Secretary Carey** encouraged the Task Force members to realize that this process should be considered as a marathon rather than a sprint. **Secretary Carey** concluded his opening remarks by reiterating that he wants the Task Force members to take full responsibility for their duties as stated in Executive Order 83 and present solid recommendations to the State and the Governor.

### **Overview of Executive Order 83 establishing the Task Force**

**Megan Brown** representing the Office of the Governor gave the overview of Task Force responsibilities per Executive Order 83 and the three duties of Task Force. Task Force duties shared by Ms. Brown are previously under the Task Force's authorization. After stating the Task Force's duties, **Megan Brown** notified the Task Force that preliminary recommendations are due to the Governor by August 1, 2011 and the final recommendations are due to the Governor February 1, 2012.

### **History of NC Eugenics and the Role of the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation**

Next on the agenda, **Charmaine Fuller Cooper**, Executive Director of the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation – A Division of the NC Department of Administration, gave a historical overview of North Carolina Eugenics and the role of the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation (*See PowerPoint A*). **Charmaine Fuller Cooper** discussed the following topics:

- Eugenics in America
- North Carolina's Eugenics Laws
- The Eugenics Board of North Carolina

- Repeal of North Carolina's Eugenics Laws
- State Efforts to address past Eugenics practices
- Establishment of the North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation

**Fuller Cooper** informed the Task Force that she aimed to give them an overview of the history of Eugenics both in the U.S. and North Carolina and the role of the Foundation in the aftermath of North Carolina's now abolished Eugenics program. She began by informing the Task Force that Eugenics was created in the late 1800s as a form of population control and in the early 1900s as U.S. immigration control. The founder of Eugenics imagined a society with only the 'most fit' human beings and thought that if Eugenics could be practiced by creating thoroughbred horses with only the best qualities than it certainly could be used with humans. **Fuller Cooper** shared the definition of Eugenics as the 'selective breeding of humans and animals to rid the population of characteristics deemed unfit.' She also explained that sterilization means 'medical procedures that leave a person unable to conceive children.'

Next, **Fuller Cooper** shared with the Task Force that while Indiana was the first state to pass Eugenics laws in 1907 that the U.S. Supreme Court case of Buck versus Bell in 1927 provided the justification for more states to implement Eugenics programs and/or laws. While other U.S. Supreme Court cases have challenged and chipped away at the decision, the decision that allowed Virginia to sterilize Carrie Buck, a young lady labeled 'feebleminded' and institutionalized after a pregnancy from rape, has never been overturned. This case in fact encouraged a landslide of sterilization programs and by 1935, twenty-five states had Eugenics laws and at the height of the Eugenics movement in the U.S. more than thirty states had similar laws.

**Fuller Cooper** explained that North Carolina's first sterilization law was actually implemented in 1919 although many historians and policymakers have typically stated 1929's sterilization law as first. While no documentation exists to show that anyone was sterilized under the 1919 law and while the words 'sterilization' and 'eugenics' were omitted from the bill, the intent of the 1919 law was sterilization. The second sterilization law in 1929 resulted in 49 sterilizations in North Carolina but was struck down by the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1933 due to its lack of notice of hearing and lack of right to appeal. **Fuller Cooper** informed the Task Force that the legislature worked swiftly in 1933 to address the errors with the 1929 sterilization law and developed a revamped law in 1933 that also created the Eugenics Board of North Carolina to oversee sterilization petitions and to provide hearings to those who appealed such petitions. But the legislature was not done with looking at sterilization, **Fuller Cooper** shared that another sterilization law was implemented in 1937 that allowed for the temporary admission of individuals to state hospitals for the sole purpose of sterilization.

After sharing North Carolina's Eugenics laws with the group, **Fuller Cooper** stated that the Eugenics Board of North Carolina was composed of five members – the Commissioner of Public Welfare (modern-day Department of Health and Human Services), the Secretary of the State Board of Health, the Chief Medical Officer of a State Hospital, the Chief Medical Officer of an Institution for the Feebleminded and the Attorney General of NC. The Board reviewed petitions for sterilizations and authorized sterilization procedures. This body also heard appeals for people who did not want to be sterilized. It operated from 1933 until it was abolished by the state legislature in 1977 after two sterilization victims sued the state. The Tuskegee Syphilis experiments were just coming to light in the U.S. around the same time that North Carolina's Board was abolished.

**Fuller Cooper** briefly explained graphs highlighting the number of sterilizations in North Carolina. She explained to the group that **Don Akin**, the next presenter, would focus on the demographics of sterilization victims. However, she informed the group that nearly 7,600 people were sterilized under the authority of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina and that sterilization cases peaked in the 1950s with nearly 3,000 procedures being authorized in that decade alone. She also noted that over 80% of victims were female – white females primarily before the 1950s and then a dramatic focus on black female sterilization in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Fuller Cooper** explained that while the Eugenics Board was abolished in 1977 that sterilization laws remained in state statutes until 2003 when researchers and the media highlighted Eugenics cases in the state. Once the Eugenics Board was abolished, courts heard sterilization appeals.

In 2003, Governor Michael Easley issued an apology on behalf of the state to victims like some other state Governors and established a Gubernatorial Task Force to evaluate Eugenics practices. Post 2003 efforts to address the state's sterilization history included a traveling Eugenics Exhibit and Eugenics Board Historical Marker installed on the corner of McDowell and Jones streets in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2008, the NC House of Representatives also established a legislative study committee to address compensation issues for victims. The legislative committee recommended that victims be compensated \$20,000 each. Compensation was never formally approved or adopted by the legislature after the report from the study committee was submitted to the legislative leadership in 2009. The Office of Minority Health will present at a future meeting to discuss in more depth post 2003 to 2009 efforts. (Note: The Office of Minority Health's director was on the original Gubernatorial Task Force established in 2003. The Office of Minority Health along with the Department of Cultural Resources and the Department of Health and Human Services collaborated significantly in the post 2003 years to implement some of the recommendations from previous examinations).

While compensation for victims has not passed the legislature, **Fuller Cooper** shared that Governor Bev Perdue included \$250,000 in a non-recurring appropriation to implement the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation in her first 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. Foundation staff was hired in the spring of 2010 and the new division was established in the Department of Administration 'to provide justice to victims of North Carolina's Eugenics Board.' The Department recently shared with the General Government committee that funding has been stretched while a decision is reached to compensate victims. The Foundation is currently serving as a Clearinghouse that accepts and process victims' verification inquiries and requests for their patient files to prove that they were impacted by NC's Eugenics program. The Clearinghouse hotline was officially launched in fall 2010 and 70 phone inquiries were received in the four months that followed. These inquiries resulted in the Foundation submitting 26 completed verification requests to the Office of State Archives for verifications that resulted in five victim matches. A few other verification requests were received but lacked documentation needed to move forward with a records search. (Correction: The Foundation Director notes that the correct number of new victim matches made by the Foundation from the start-up of the Foundation through the first Task Force meeting on April 27, 2011 is actually eleven plus four other more public victims who were previously matched).

**Fuller Cooper** shared that some legislators assumed that the original Foundation appropriation would be used for victim outreach. Outreach is conducted through the media with help from our Communications Director. However, the appropriation was to establish the Foundation and develop a plan to compensate victims which includes staffing this Task Force. The Foundation

currently has one full-time Director and one part-time temporary assistant and relies heavily on collaborations with other agencies and divisions to maximize current outreach. Field outreach is very limited due to the need for office staffing. **Fuller Cooper** shared that the Foundation has sought to be efficient with current resources and has already sent posters and other materials announcing the Foundation's efforts to every Social Services entity in the state and is currently sending information and posters to over 1,500 other local agencies that seniors frequent throughout the state. The Senior Project of Legal Aid of NC has also offered to assist victims who made need assistance showing proof of guardianship for some victims and other issues.

### **Victim Demographics and Estimate of Living Victims**

Next, **Don Akin**, Statistician with the State Center for Health Statistics, presented the demographics for victims impacted by the decisions of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina and also an estimate of potential living victims as of Fall 2010 (See PowerPoint B). **Don Akin** discussed the source of his data, characteristics and demographics of victims including race, age and gender, the estimation procedures using actuarial tables, use of census data, characteristics of expected survivors and some possible limitations to his data.

**Don Akin** noted that he used the Biennial Reports from the Eugenics Board for 1934 through 1966 to base his research. Since the Board stopped issuing reports in the late 1960s, **Akin** said that he used a cd with scanned pdf images of index card files that direct Archives staff to the patient records. He displayed an example of a card file in his presentation and noted that most cards contained the race, age and gender of victims which was helpful to his research. He shared that unfortunately the Biennial Reports do not cross tabulate the data for race, age and gender in the different ways that he would like. He shared that one would have to manually go back through all the patient files to gather more demographic information to provide more information and more detailed cross tabulations. For example, he could not currently show Task Force members victims sterilized by race and age together. However, he could show sterilizations by age and gender. He noted that age and race alone are not a good predictor of life expectancy and that other social factors could play a role in his estimation.

**Mr. Akin's** presentation noted that the majority of people sterilized under the state's Eugenics program prior to the 1950s were white females and that a dramatic shift in the demographics of people sterilized occurred after the 1950s. The vast majority of people sterilized after the 1950s were 'non-white' females. He noted that sterilizations peaked in the 1950s with nearly 3000 sterilizations being performed during that 10 year period. Another 1,600 sterilizations were performed during the 1960s. People impacted by the abolished Eugenics program were as young as ten years of age and people impacted would have been born either in 1961 or before 1961. The conclusion of **Mr. Akin's** presentation highlighted that an estimated 2,944 people impacted by the decisions of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina could still be alive as of 2010 when he conducted his research.

Task Force Journalist **Phoebe Zerwick** questioned if the life expectancy of the 2,944 figure was an overestimate? **Don Akin** replied 'yes' because the mortality rates are not calculated for individual characteristics. **Mr. Akin** noted that his estimate could be high considering that the life actuarial tables could not take into account the lifestyles of the focus group. The life spans of this group may have been shortened by poor health, poverty, and other lifestyle factors. These shortened life spans may actually result in a significantly higher number of people who have already passed away. **Phoebe Zerwick** asked how many victim sterilizations were truly involuntary? **Sarah Koontz** replied that there were appeal hearings and sometimes it was hard to

judge. Ms. Kootz went on to explain that once victims were far along in the process that appeals were typically not effective and that sterilization procedures rarely to nearly never halted.

**Don Akin** asked if there were any further questions. Being none, he thanked the Task Force for their time and recognized **Jennifer Song**, the State Demographer, for her assistance with his research.

Following **Don Akin's** presentation, an open Task Force discussion followed.

### **Task Force Follow-up**

**Attorney Demetrius Worley Berry** questioned what have other states done for their victims? **Charmaine Fuller Cooper** explained that very few states have sought to go beyond a verbal apology to victims. Outside of the U.S., some efforts have been taken. **Fuller Cooper** highlighted the case of Leilani Muir in Alberta, Canada where the victim received compensation and a similar Foundation was established but indicated that no U.S. states have compensated any victims of Eugenics laws and/or programs. She also shared that North Carolina was different from other states since North Carolina sterilized the majority of its victims after World War II. Most other U.S. states abolished and/or halted their Eugenics programs after the horrors of eugenics carried out during World War II were realized and Holocaust tribunals were held. So, North Carolina potentially has more living victims than other states. Many victims have probably already passed away outside of our state. North Carolina falls third in overall sterilizations only behind California and Virginia who halted their programs earlier.

**Phoebe Zerwick** questioned how you can differentiate Eugenics in NC from other sterilization processes that were going on in NC. **Charmaine Fuller Cooper** and **Dick Lankford** made it clear that it is difficult to hear from people who were clearly sterilized but by programs outside of the state's authority but stated that the Task Force is charged with determining compensation for those sterilized under the authority of the Eugenics Board of NC in the Executive Order and that the Foundation is tasked with providing justice to those impacted under the state's Eugenics program. It's very difficult for individuals coming forward about their sterilizations to see or understand any difference between sterilizations by the state versus having a sterilization procedure performed at their local doctor's office or hospital without documentation coming through the state. However, our charge is focuses on victims of the state's program only and at the moment we are only aware of patient files and program records of the state's Eugenics Board as proof of state mandated sterilizations.

**Phoebe Zerwick** wanted to know where the actual records are located. **Dick Lankford** indicated that the Eugenics Board program records and patient files are located in a climate controlled space in Cultural Resources. **Phoebe Zerwick** followed up with 'why are they not public record?' **Dick Lankford** explained that the state has classified the records as 'not public records' since many records are patient files or minutes that list the names of victims. Fuller Cooper also shared that calls have been received by the Foundation by individuals who are hesitant to share their names and who are also very concerned about their name being released without their permission. She stated that one woman called anonymously to share that she has been married forty years and that her husband does not know she was sterilized. These records have been painful and opened up old wounds for those who access their own records each month. The notes contained in the patient files are highly revealing and sensitive. **Lankford** stated that many of the records and all the patient files come under HIPAA laws since they are medical records and owned by the Department of Health and Human Services. **Fuller Cooper** also noted

that whether the patient narratives were accurately written or not, the patient files highlight painful issues and ‘family secrets’ of incest, sexual abuse, sexual promiscuity, teen pregnancy, alcohol dependency, poor nutrition, poor health, low education, poverty, mental illness including depression resulting after childbirth, lack of knowledge and sensitivity to the needs of people with disabilities, violence and more.

**Dr. Gerald** wanted to know if there are there current policies that would identify how records are searched? **Dick Lankford** and **Sarah Koonts** stated that there are cards associated with each victim and that lists each person’s name, address, and sometimes race, age and gender. **Fuller Cooper** noted that these cards can best be compared to the cards in the Dewey Decimal system card file used in school libraries to locate a book before many libraries automated to computer search systems. **Lankford** and **Koonts** continued that these cards direct Archives staff to the individual folders that contain patient files. When individuals submit verification forms to the Sterilization Victims Foundation, the forms include their current name and contact information, their birthdate and their identifying information around the time of their sterilization procedure including the estimated time that the procedure occurred, their age at the time of the procedure and/or location of the procedure. Some individuals are unaware of all or some of this information and some individuals were listed incorrectly in program records by the surnames of other guardians or family members. Some individuals were also referred to by nicknames in patient files and not their legal names. Patient files do not include any information that can be connected or electronically linked to current identification systems such as social security numbers or drivers’ license numbers. The latter was a previous recommendation of other commissions.

**Representative Larry Womble** requested permission from **Dr. Gerald** to address the members and the public and his request was granted. **Representative Womble** explained that the work of the Task Force is serious and comes with much responsibility. He stated how he felt that restoring the Eugenics Board Exhibit would be beneficial when showing the victims some sort of justice and raising awareness to the issue. He also thanked the Foundation Director, Charmaine Fuller Cooper, for a thorough and professional job in presenting the history of Eugenics and the role of the Foundation to the Task Force.

**Representative Womble** stated that sterilization is part of North Carolina’s history and although “it is an ugly truth of our state; we have to accept the good and the bad.” He requested that Task Force members serve with “compassion and take this charge given to them by the Governor to heart.” **Representative Womble** explained how this has been a ten year process - and for two ladies who sued the state in the seventies and a gentleman who came forward a little while later a lifetime process – “and the victims need to feel justification sooner than later.” He stated that he and his colleague from Winston-Salem, Representative Earline Parmon, had worked on this issue for many years and without people like Dr. Johanna Schoen, John Reilly and the media, it would have been forgotten except to the victims who still suffer. He recommended and encouraged Task Force members to speak to the victims and hear their stories before they all pass away.

**Representative Womble** stated that previous efforts to provide justice have been slow and many efforts lack support needed to give compensation like the state should have given long ago. He also shared that he had personally paid for victims to come testify to previous commissions and for them to attend the unveiling of the Historical Eugenics Marker and to travel with the Eugenics exhibit and that it wasn’t cheap. He stated that he had to pay because the state was too unwilling to even provide a small amount of money to pay for victims that they had sterilized, that they had castrated and taken their ability to have children. He stated that he could not

understand how it feels for a woman to have her womanhood removed or for a man or little boy to be castrated but that the state must remember that we did this to little boys and little girls. This state was too cheap to even pay for their bus ticket or plane ticket or hotel so they could just share their story. But I did because it was the right thing to do. He stated that he wasn't sharing this to brag but because the Task Force needs to know how victims have been treated by this state.

**Representative Womble** also suggested that in addition to compensation for victims that the Task Force members make a recommendation for recurring appropriations for the Foundation because one full-time staff person cannot appropriately tackle this task alone and that victims need a point of contact because they have gotten the run around for too long before the Foundation was created. **Representative Womble** informed the Task Force members that North Carolina has done more than any other states by issuing an apology and setting up a foundation, however, indicated that North Carolina can do more because government has the power to impact change.

**Representative Womble** hopes the Task Force members and the Governor "will bring closure to the issue and not continue to hide from the issue, not continue to ignore this issue, and not continue to distort the issue." **Representative Womble** reminded the Task Force members that the surviving victims are ultimately relying on closure and compensation. No amount of compensation can replace what they have lost but it is a start for recognizing what this state has done. **Representative Womble** offered to share his records on Eugenics in his office with the Task Force and congratulated the Task Force members for their service. He apologized that he had to leave early to return back to the legislature since they were voting on the House budget and thanked the Chair for giving him the time to share his concerns for people that have waited too long for justice.

**Dr. Gerald** thanked **Representative Womble** for his comments and opened the meeting to further comments by the Task Force and the public.

### **Task Force Address and Future Agenda Recommendations**

At 11:30 **Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** opened the meeting for questions/comments/concerns/clarity to the Task Force members. She also said that the Task Force has a lot to accomplish in a short time. **Megan Brown** indicated that the preliminary report to the Governor can be as short as "we have some ideas but do not have any definites right now." Task Force members turned to the Foundation for input as well and **Charmaine Fuller Cooper** added that the Task Force members should aim to make the report as detailed as possible despite the time to highlight their preliminary and later final recommendations and not allow the report to be so ambiguous as to leave questions or lack of depth in the minds of those reviewing the report to prepare for next steps.

**Phoebe Zerwick** wanted to know how they (Task Force members) will have some sense that the reports made to the Governor will be heard and carried out. **Meghan Brown** stated that the Task Force members' recommendations will be reported to the Governor.

**Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** wanted to know if they were being charged with determining whether or not a sterilization procedure was involuntary or voluntary. **Dick Lankford and Sarah Koonts** made it clear that in looking through the files it is almost impossible to make a definite determination about involuntary versus voluntary sterilization consents because of the 'times'



and possible duress the victims were under and added that some victims were threatened with losing their welfare benefits and so on.

**Attorney Demetrius Berry** questioned if they (Task Force members) are charged with determining compensation based on how a victim was sterilized such as castration or some other method. **Charmaine Fuller Cooper** explained that would be something the Task Force would have to determine and reminded them that they have the lead in developing a set of recommendations for the Governor's review and consideration.

**Attorney Demetrius Worley Berry** requested more information as it relates to the exhibit, where it is located, and when did the exhibit travel? **Fuller Cooper** shared that Lisa Hodges with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities designed the exhibit and put a lot of time into it and that staff from the Office of Minority Health would present at an upcoming meeting.

**Phoebe Zerwick** asked what measures would be employed to reach the victims and is it reasonable to be proactive in reaching victims? Ms. Zerwick made a suggestion as to using public service campaigns. **Fuller Cooper** stated that could be a great idea and added that the Task Force may decide and can decide to include an outreach plan along with their compensation recommendations. She also shared that the Foundation has designed and ordered over 3,000 posters and began to mail out posters to every local social service agency, county hospitals, nursing homes, nursing assistant firms, community hospital clinics and more in an effort to reach and receive feedback from anyone that feels they are a victim of sterilization through the North Carolina Eugenics Board. Victims have been very helpful in making suggestions on how to reach more of them. Since many people impacted resided in rural areas, community and local newspapers will be crucial to the outreach process. Since the patient files are incomplete, the Task Force may decide that other resources are needed and may recommend recruiting the expertise of private marketing firms or other consultants to help expand outreach after a compensation package has been recommended and finalized. Right now, some in the community may be hesitant to come forward and not understand the point of coming forward for a copy of their patient files if a compensation or services package has not been approved by the legislature. It's also a balancing act to be proactively forthcoming without jeopardizing individual rights to privacy. **Phoebe Zerwick** offered her assistance on newspaper outreach and encouraged Task Force members to help raise awareness.

**Zerwick** wanted to know if the focus can be on public outreach through distribution by county? **Don Akin** explained that victim distribution by county or basically identifying the number of victims per county is possible from the records. He agreed to provide that information when requested and offered his resources while the Task Force continues its efforts.

**Fuller Cooper** added that the Task Force may want to also address the issue of how to preserve the files needed to justify any compensation plan and for historical purposes since some are tissue paper thin and many others are on old film. These files date back to the beginning of the program in 1929.

**Phoebe Zerwick** feels it's very important for the State to make its best efforts to reach victims and to do more than provide financial compensation and also rely on the victims to contact the State. Ms. **Zerwick** questions what more can be done? **Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** suggested that notification has any number of additional issues from costs to ethical issues related to identifying

victims. Dr. Gerald would like to see what has been recommended in the past and any ethical, legal, and financial constraints.

**Phoebe Zerwick** added that there needs to be a strategy in how to organize the agendas. Ms. Zerwick questioned whether or not the Task Force members have a role in contributing to the agenda to achieve recommendations? **Fuller Cooper** stated that Task Force members are the leaders of this process and that the Foundation is here to provide assistance and guidance as needed. She encouraged Task Force members to plan and make contributions to the agenda and encouraged the Task Force members to contact the Task Force Chair or the NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation for any agenda related matters.

**Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** explained that this meeting was a lot to absorb and that the Task Force is faced with a heavy challenge but they are prepared collectively to make recommendations once they have future meetings and have clear understandings of what the Governor has charged them to do.

### Public Comments

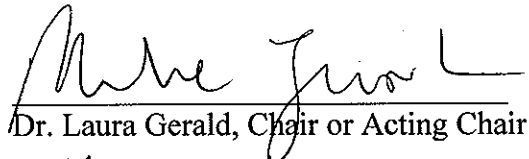
**Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** opened the meeting to the public for discussion, questions, and/or clarity. Ms. Irene Clark, a retired professor from St. Augustine's college who loaned numerous artifacts and literature to the traveling Eugenics exhibit, echoed some of **Phoebe Zerwick's** previous comments and concerns. She shared that she has followed this issue for years and loaned her own collection of artifacts to the state in previous years. She asked that the state listen to the stories of the victims, wondered if it is too late to add compensation to the current legislative budget that is now being debated or if victims will have to wait until next year and wondered what other solutions could be offered. She shared that some benefits may be more beneficial than others to victims now that so much time has passed and victims have aged.

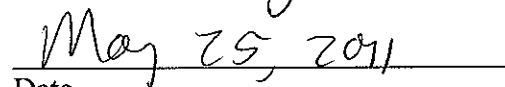
**Chair Dr. Laura Gerald** adjourned the meeting at 12:03p.m. Task Force members were directed to contact the Foundation to share their availability for a future meeting date at the end of May 2011 prior to Memorial Day.

<END>

**Official Meeting Recorder:  
Dalisha Vickers Johnson, Program Associate  
NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation**

Respectfully Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair or Acting Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**APPROVED**