



**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, June 22, 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 Governor's Eugenics Compensation Task Force' or 'The Task Force' was created and authorized by Executive Order 83. The primary duties of the Task Force according to Executive Order 83 are to 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 is required to submit its preliminary report to the Governor on August 1, 2011 and its final report on February 1, 2012. The Departments of Administration, Cultural Resources and Health and Human Services are required to collaborate and support the efforts of the Task Force.

Task Force Members:

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

Foundation Staff:

Charmaine S. Fuller Cooper, Director
Dalisha Vickers Johnson, Program Asst.
Tequila Peele, Program Asst.

Special Thanks to our Volunteers:

Kristy L. Daughtry
Michelle Moore
Laura Gonzalez
Battista McNeal
Katrine Middleton
Harriett Southerland
Alexis Davis
Anne Bander, Chief Operating Officer
June Michaux, Deputy Secretary
Jill Lucas, Communications
Joe Newberry, Communications
Helen Chestnut, Executive Officer
Mark Johnson, Communications
Angella Dunston, Faith-based/Outreach

Department of Non Public Education
Department of Non Public Education
Council for Women
North Carolina Central University, MPA Student
Human Relations Commission
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office
Governor's Office
Department of Administration
Department of Administration
Department of Administration
Department of Cultural Resources
State Agronomics Division
Governor's Office
Governor's Officer

Recommendations from Victims, Family Members, Victim Representatives and Citizens

Speakers	*Verified State Eugenics Board Program Victim	Relationship	Recommendations
Willis C. Lynch	*Willis Lynch	Self	'Hurry and do something'
Tony Riddick	*Elaine Riddick	Son	Compensation \$20,000 just a number Victim Representative on Task Force
Australia Clay	*Margaret Cheek	Daughter	Compensation Compensate victims and their families
Melissa Hyatt	*Charles Holt	Adopted Daughter	Compensation \$1 million
Karen Beck	*Flossy Bates & *Dorothy Bates	Granddaughter & Great-niece	Compensation The state can 'say it's sorry in a way that's meaningful. '.....it can make restitution.'
Lela Dunston	*Lela Dunston	Self	Compensation "reward or something or some kind of compensation"
Naomi Schenck <i>(Verification as state program victim is Pending)</i>	_____	Self	Compensation Waiting for legislature to fund compensation after writing former Governor Easley
Corey Dunn (Disability Rights NC)	_____	_____	Public Benefits Protection Protect public benefits for clients of Disability Rights NC as compensation conversation progresses Extend Access to Records Maximize access to records so Disability Rights NC clients can use them for other purposes other than this Foundation's work
Anne Russell <i>(Victim – Margaret Ann Pridgen not verified under State Eugenics Board Program)</i>	_____	_____	Gubernatorial Pardon for Samarcand 16 Issue Gubernatorial pardon to the sixteen Samarcand girls who burned two buildings down at Samarcand in 1931. Samarcand Exhibit Archive Have State Archives obtain artifacts from Samarcand Do an Archive Exhibit
Mary English <i>(Not a victim of State Eugenics Board Program)</i>	_____	Self	Medical Compensation

Official Minutes

The Governor's Eugenics Compensation Task Force (Governor's Task Force to Determine the Method of Compensation for Victims of North Carolina's Eugenics Board) convened for its third meeting on Wednesday, June 22th, 2011 at 10am. The meeting was held at the NC Department of Agriculture's Eaddy Agronomics Building-Conference Room located at 4300 Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Task Force meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair. This was a public meeting for the victims and their families to address the Task Force and tell their stories of being NC Eugenics Board sterilization victims. The hearing was streamed live online at www.wral.com and the meeting was also attended by the following individuals: **(Please See Page last pages for attendee names and affiliations)**

At 10:00 **Dr. Laura Gerald** called the meeting to order and reminded the public of the role of the Task Force and its creation by Governor Beverly Perdue in March of 2011. Dr. Gerald outlined the responsibilities of the Task Force per Executive Order 83 and mentioned that their preliminary report is due to the Governor by August 1, 2011 and their final report is due to the Governor by February 1' 2012.

Dr. Gerald introduced herself as well as allowed the other four members of the Gubernatorial Task Force to introduce themselves. Dr. Gerald also gave notice to several elected officials that were present at the meeting (Rep. Larry Womble, Rep. Earline Parmon, Rep. Pat Hurley, Rep. Marilyn Avila) and asked that they stand so they could be recognized and thanked them for attending. Dr. Gerald also stated that she is aware and it has been announced that Governor Beverly Perdue will join the meeting at 12:15 p.m. today. In addition to that Dr. Gerald stated that Representative Larry Womble should be recognized for his tireless efforts as an advocate towards this issue and his for support of the NC Eugenics Board program sterilization victims.

****All attempts have been made to accurately and respectfully transcribe the words and language detailed in the following narratives to truthfully represent every speaker during this public meeting****

SPEAKERS:

State House Representative Larry Womble:

"First of all let me say good morning to you individually and collectively. A gracious good morning! I'm Larry Womble and I represent the 71st district in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Let me start off first of all by having my other colleague who helped me on this legislation Representative Parmon to join me so you can see we been fighting on this for eight,

nine to ten years. We been fighting for the victims of this terrible program. Let me give accolades to and thanks not only to my colleague whose been sponsor to this but also to this panel. Your chair Dr. Gerald is one who has been very compassionate and very cooperative and very understanding on the situation and the other panel members too. We thank you for serving and giving this service not only to the state of North Carolina but also to the victims.”

“I also wanna thank all the people who were first exposed to this especially Mr. John Riley and he is around here somewhere. There he is right there; Mr. John Riley called me and told me and asked me to sit down because he had something earth shattering to share. Long story short, I told him that’s okay I didn’t need to sit down I’ve heard all kind of bad news. But eventually when he told me I did have to sit down and take that in and that’s been about nine ten years ago I think or pretty close to it. So I want to give accolades to him. I also want to give accolades to Johanna Schoen who is the first one who discovered this. So there are a whole lot of accolades, thanks, and appreciation Representative Parmon and I could give. I wanna give thanks and appreciation to the legislature especially those legislatures that are here. You saw them a minute ago stand up, Representative Avila and also Representative Hurley who stands; who seat is diagonally right behind mine and the legislature-thank both of you all.”

“The administration, we wanna give thanks to the Governor’s Office on down to through everybody from in the legislature. So it’s good to give thanks and appreciation because we did not do this by ourselves. We had a whole lot of help, matter of fact, if we done this by ourselves we would not be as far as we are now. So you all have helped us and we’re here to thank you we appreciate the help that you’ve given us and you will continue to give us help in the past-in the future. Also, the ones who were brave enough to step forward when we could not get anybody else to come forward and step put and say this atrocity committed here in North Carolina was committed on them and that was Ms. Elaine Riddick and she been here with her son bout every time and that’s Tony and also Ms. Rimeraz. Rimeraz is one of those faithful ones who stepped out on faith.”

“I guess my preacher used to say sometimes you have to step out on faith. And so my preacher was right and Ms. Ramirez, whose not here, but her daughter Deborah Chesson, is here whose been a constant representative of her mother. Ms. Ramirez came to every event. Her health is failing her now but her daughter is carrying on that legacy. And also to Mr. Lynch, Mr. Willie Lynch is here and he’s been here all the time. If it had not been for those people stepping out and others too, too many for me to call by name but those were the initial ones when nobody else would they came forward. And at the same time we have many others so those are just some of the accolades. We have Ms. June Michaux whose here from the Governor’s Office in administration and long story short, as I said Mr. Railey contacted me.”

“We’re the only state in this nation and possibly the only one in the world right here in North Carolina whose trying to do something to address this ugly chapter in North Carolina’s history. North Carolina has a wonderful history but there’s a chapter in there that’s not so wonderful and we need to address that so that we from now on can move forward once people know we can move forward and after that then I had spoken to at that time the Governor was Governor Easley. I asked could I sponsor a bill and will he sign the bill if I could get it passed. He said essence if you could get it passed that’ll be the first time it was ever done in this nation if you could do that I would be glad to sign it. He did sign the bill; it’s taken off the books you can no longer legally do this in North Carolina and I’m happy for that. Also, he’s one of only five or six Governor’s in this nation that offered a formal apology. Sometimes you have to apologize for what you do to people even if there’s other things you have to apologize. And then next, we set up a blue ribbon commission thank him for that.”

“But the Governor of today has really been a heron of mine. She has stepped in and done the things that we’re supposed to do. She stepped in and created this Foundation, which is a first for anybody and then only formed the Foundation you have to fund stuff to get the work done. She funded this Foundation over a quarter of a million dollars to get the Foundation started. And also the first director that we have, Charmaine is a wonderful person. I can’t find of anybody who would be another director besides Charmaine. We’re glad of that. Ms. Mary English whose

been a victim is here and she's been a constant support and help to us all. And hopefully we can address those things that not only concern her but concern all of you."

"But the biggest accolade-the biggest thanks and the biggest appreciation goes to these the victims. And I call em' victims because most them were children as young as ten, eleven, and twelve years old. That the state of North Carolina did something like that to children. They were not criminanls, they had not broken any laws but yet and still we talk about third world countries, we talk about communist countries, right here we have done some things that we should have never done before and I'm glad that some of them are living long enough to see that something is being done. You are not forgotten and you will not be forgotten long as Representative Parmon and myself are there to speak for you and to and to stand up for you. And that's what we're supposed to do represent the people of North Carolina. You are people and we're supposed to represent you and I am offering my apology like I have done before so many times things have happened to you."

"I'm hoping out of this and I'm sure that Dr. Gerald and her committee will be listening to you all. Not only listening but hearing your story. I can tell it and Representative Parmon can tell it, but no one can tell your story better than you can tell it and I want you to tell your story. This is your day, the day we been fighting for for a number of years. So it's here now and sometimes to Lord ordains things as he ordained for us to be here today. So tell your story, hopefully we can get some things done. Now I passed some of the Bills, some of the laws that's related to sterilization but I still have some laws out there I still need to get passed and need to get acted on. One is #70, number seventy has to do with compensation. Some people call it reparations, I don't call it reparations, I call it compensation because compensate people for what you have done to them when they did not deserve it. The other bill out there is Bill 73. Bill 73 is these people should be offered professional counseling and also they should be offered professional healthcare. Free at the state's expense because the state did it."

"Those two Bills and the other thing I'm hoping to accomplish out of this get that display up and running again. That display is very important to us so we can take it around the state and

so we can let people know what's going on. Thank you again chairman, thank you members serving and we appreciate all that you're doing. Thank you we appreciate all that you're doing we appreciate your compassion. Beyond compassion is we have to do some action. We have to start implementing so things. Thank you so very much and I appreciate you all for coming in and I appreciate you all for coming out. And let me give a thanks to the media. Sometimes we don't thank the media but if this media wasn't here your story would not get out. And I thank you."

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair steps up to the podium so that the audience can hear her speak. Dr. Gerald states that purpose of the meeting is to be that of a listening session for the victims because it is important to hear their recommendations. Dr. Gerald indicated there was a sign in sheet for those who wish to speak and that she appreciated their attendance. Dr. Gerald reminded the audience that the meeting was public and the media would stream the meeting live. Dr. Gerald informed the audience that she wanted to maintain respect for victims emotions and their stories and to mute or silence cell phones. Dr. Gerald opened the meeting to Willis Lynch.

Mr. Willis C. Lynch:

"My name is Willis C. Lynch I'm from Wilmington, North Carolina. I'm 77 years old and I was operated on in 1948 when I was 14 years old. Sixty-three years ago and uh cause I loved kids I married a woman in 1960. She had two kids and she had just got out the hospital with the youngest one she was eight days old. We stayed together till the two kids were eight and ten years old. And I, I really cared something bout kids. The youngest one we really was close and the oldest one she was a little bit on the mean side so I couldn't get too close to her. We made till bout eight years of marriage you know and that's the only thing I hated bout being operated on because I couldn't have kids."

"I hear from em' every now and then the youngest one call me daddy all the time. Me and her were real close and like I say the oldest one were really really as close as me and her sister was. And its been happened to me like I say 63 years ago and its always been in the back of my mind to what's done happened to me? And I don't know what else to say other than I wish

they would hurry up and do something. I'm 77 years old I aint got much time to live. I'm hopeful I can see something happen. That's all I got to say, thank you."

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair announces the next speaker to be Elaine Riddick.

Ms. Elaine Riddick:

"Thank you. I think I can still say good morning. Good Morning. My name is Elaine Riddick and I am a victim of the Eugenics. I was sterilized at the age of 14. The reasons why the state of North Carolina gave is because I was couldn't get along well with others in school, I was feable minded, I was promiscuous, and all those nice things. Let me tell you what happened and then I'm gonna let you decide whether I was feable minded, promiscuous, illiterate, or unable to get along with others."

"First I want you to know about my problem, my problem was environmental. I am not feable minded. I came from a very rural area of North Carolina. I couldn't get along well with others because I was hungry, I was cold, I was dirty, I was unkept, I was a victim of rape. I was a victim of child abuse and neglect. I was having problems with any environment because everybody wanted to bully me because I was unkept. So that caused a problem with me. Anyway, I promised I wasn't gonna do this this time. Every time I come I do this because its such going back cause I gotta get this out. Cause I gotta get this out what the state of North Carolina did to me. I am not feable minded. I've never been feable minded. They slandered me. They ridiculed and harassed me. They cut me open like I was a hog. When this kid here was born I didn't even know nothing about this stuff."

"He had no clue until I got married I was fourteen, I got married at the age of 18 years of age. I tried to have a child when I was nineteen. Prior to that when I was fifteen I kept getting sick, kept falling out, kept hemorragging, bleeding, almost died caused my body was too young for what they did to me. My body was too young for being raped. I wasn't ready. I had to have a child at the age of fourteen and when I had my son they went in to me, at the same time they gave me a cicearian birth and took my child and when they did that they sterilized me. What do

you think I'm worth? What do you think I'm worth? It doesn't matter what you think I'm worth it's what I think I'm worth. There is nothing that the state of North Carolina can do to justify what they did to me. What they did to these other victims. There's nothing there is not amount a world. I don't live in North Carolina so what kind of healthcare can you give me? I am 57 years of age. I was on Prozac, I was on seraqueel, I was on howeldof, I became canatonic. I couldn't deal with this. I had to face life on. I had to face what they did to me. I had to walk around. I became a hermit. I didn't want nobody looking at me because everybody knew what happened to me. That's how I felt inside. My heart bleeds every single day. I'm crushed. What can they do for me?"

"I had to wean myself off of seraqueel, prozac, and haldof, whatever else they was giving me. As I said before I became canatonic. I mean they said that I was feable minded. I was a little tiny kid, little tiny kid environmental problems. Seeing my mother face get cut up almost every day throat ear to ear. I seen my mother someone throw acid in my mother's face. And you're saying feable minded? I'm having environmental problems. I've seen my mother they put my mother in jail. Instead of putting my mother in a hospital for treatment the state of North Carolina locked her up in jail and the acid was eating at her brain. You tell me what type of person should I be instead of me? I never got out of the eighth grade. But yet and still I acquired a college degree. I never went into highscool but yet and still I'm labeled feable minded.

"I've never had nobody to take care of me. I've had to do this all by myself. All by myself. I've never had anyone to give me anything. I had to take my own self up. I couldn't dwell on what the state of North Carolina did to me. What am I gonna do for me? But yet and still they say I was feable minded. So what am I worth? The kids that I did not have, could not have, what are they worth? What is my son worth? Thank you."

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair asks Tony Riddick to approach the podium.

Mr. Tony Riddick:

“First of all I’d like to thank God for this opportunity just to be able to be in your midst because if it were not for the grace of God there is no way that I would be here. It was so close that the timing was so significant that perhaps that if it were just the next pregnancy I wouldn’t be able to stand here and speak before you, so I’d like to give God all the honor and praise for this delicate moment. I also like to thank the board for assembling and trying to find ways to compensate what you’ve deemed the victim.” That’s an interesting choice of words when you look at the word victim because it suggest that someone has either be harmed or someone has either been killed.”

“And you harmed my mother and you killed her womb. So when you look further into it to me it’s nothing short of genocide and when you look at genocide quite frankly North Carolina, it’s premeditated murder. There’s no other way to look at it and when you murder somebody you deserve to be punished. This is just what it is. You deserve to be punished because you took away my mother’s ability to do what God asked her to do. He asked her to prolific, be fruitful, go out and multiply and replenish the earth and you took all of that not just away from her, but from other men and women here in this audience. And you did it for reasons that you knew were wrong.”

“You knew the reasons were wrong but you found ways to justify your wrong. Not just your wrong-your wickedness, cowardliness. You found ways to justify it. You said that they would produce a generation of people of children that would be feeble minded, inept, unable to care for themselves. This is nonsense the justification behind it. The same thing that happened back then, this is what I really wanna say, the same thing that happened back then that happened with my mother and these other wonderful people that we call victims is still happening. This is what’s so mind boggling but it’s happening in other ways. Just let me show you lightly. When people come before you with recommendations you can’t just look at these documents and read read these documents as the gospel. Somebody got to do deeper research.”

“So when the board came to state department or social services and said that they recommended that my mother be sterilized their reasons behind it were wrong. But they brought out their personal intentions to attack my mother and other women they brought out their personal desires and they used the state’s money and the state’s authority to bring this punishment upon my mother and people like my mother. It is no difference than recently what we saw with what happened in Iraq when George Bush said that there were weapons of mass destructions in Iraq and we found out later that they were not. The same thing that happened then we allow to happen. We say that we are a Nation that’s compassionate and concerned about other people and these victims have not been compensated yet. And for my mother its’ been some forty-three years but yet, Libia decides that their gonna go in an uproar and we spend a hundred and ninety-two million dollars in bombs in one day. And my mother’s been sitting here and suffering for forty-three years and nothing has been done. This is sinaster.”

“And I know that I don’t necessarily have the power to bring justice myself but I know that I pray and believe in a God that will not let North Carolina or anybody else do harm to these people and get away with it. God is gonna hold you accountable for this. Even leaders that are in positions of authority today that can influence the decision making, you are gonna be accountable whether you believe in God or not is irrelevant, you are gonna be accountable. The people that were victimized believe in God and because they believe in God God will hold you accountable for what you have done to my mother and these other people that are here. And no I’m not crazy. And no I’m not some wild man. I’m just passionate about what you have do to my mother because I am the child that would walk behind her when she would be bleeding to try to hide her from the public. I saw this.”

“I am the one that had to tolerate the names that my mother was being called. So if you wanna know why I am so passionate about this is because I saw what was done to my mother. I saw the rape that was done to my mother through the state. I constantly see it right now today and for the state, no offense, to come and say look we’ll give you twenty thousand dollars. Now I’m grateful please don’t misunderstand I’m very grateful when people reach out and try to help other people. I think it’s wonderful. But one of the reason why twenty thousand dollars becomes

a number is first of all you don't have any victims on the panel or on the board and victims should be on the board. At least one or two because these great people, these great board members as scholarly as they may be cannot speak to the hurt and pain that was done to these victims. So I say to you today North Carolina and I say to all of you elected officials, all of you that are sitting here that are just day to day citizens, you have an obligation as humans to challenge injustices wherever they may be.”

“The United States and Libia to some people that may be right. The United States moving throughout the middle East condemning China because what China has done to a lot of their citizenry. To some people that may be right. But I say today the United States we need to turn the eye to North Carolina if only for a little while. And we have to make sure that the victims that are right within our country right within are state today are properly cared for and then further more, any state funded programs that we are privy to understand we have an obligation to challenge these systems. Yes, I'm even talking about the two million people that we have incarcerated in the prison system today. A young man nineteen years old, first time convicted, nonviolent offense, you give him fifteen to twenty years in prison. Now look at what happens, now he can no longer be a father, his mother loses a child, we have to reevaluate these things today man. We have to look at these things differently. We cannot continue to look at these things the way we have historically look at these things. We have to take on the mindset of Martin Luther King as he once said injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Thank you for your time.”

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair announces that Australia Clay and Delores Marks will be speaking together.

Ms. Deloris Marks:

“Good Morning my name is Deloris Marks this is my sister Australia Clay. Excuse me, I have a cold this morning but I am here on behalf of my mother. Her name was Margaret Cheek. When she went into Goldsboro hospital she was sent there by a doctor in Asheboro, North Carolina. Between the ages of twenty-one to twenty around twenty six years old she had five

children and her last child my mother became depressed. And she was sent to Goldsboro Hospital because at that time they didn't know too much about depression. She was sent there. She was put on very strong medications. She was kept there for twelve years. All the time that she was there she was also a victim of electric shock. At that particular time electric shock was experimental. It was also done, may I remind you that there was no anstesia at that time, so all that they did was tie her down, put a device on her head, put a piece of wood in her mouth until they were finished with her.”

“One case that I read about she had electric shock done to her also mind you I think she was a caucasion lady when they finished with her they took her to a room and they put her in ice but my mother never spoke of ice being put on her. All at the same time she was kept there for twelve years at that time the medicine was let up. They also in her records it was stated that she worked on the ward but yet and still they said that she stared, she was distant, and she didn't understand what was going on around her. So how could they get work out of her unless they let up on the medicine whenever they wanted work out of her? Okay. Whenever they were about ready to sterilize her, which was in 1965, the Christmas before they sterilized her in March they allowed her to come home on one medication. My grandmother stated that she did very well that Christmas. She went back. They said that when she got back she just sat and stared she was not responding at all.”

“As I read the records I could only imagine I did well here at Christmas time at home you know why are you bringing me back? But they sterilized her. They sent her home on one medication. I remember as a little girl she did come home and she did fine. But for those twelve years my mother was kept there until she was sterilized and she did work in that institution. Cherry Hospital for those twelve years. When she came home she was almost forty years old. When she went in she was in her late twenties. And there were four of us children and my sister will explain to you to you what happened and what we went through.”

Ms. Australia Clay:

“I’m like you Ms. Riddick. I say I’m not gone cry. Every time I come but you’re blessed that you weren’t sterilized and you have a son and he can help fight for you now. I see God’s hand in your life. It’s important as Mr. Mills said at our last meeting, and I chimed in behind him, that this never happens again. We have to fight, we have to speak loud and clear that this never happens again. We speak for our mother. Her name was Margaret Cheek as she was a real person. Not a number, not a medical record, she was a real person she was our mother. For all of the victims and families that are here if there’s anyone in this room that is too embarrassed to tell your story. Don’t be, tell it, it needs to be told and you need to tell it all. Share your stories. Don’t be embarrassed because they help others. They are history. It cleanses you. It gives you some closure.”

“Now I don’t know if North Carolina wants to hear this or not but this is North Carolina’s holocaust. We need a wall. We need a library. My mother needs her name and a picture in a library room. She was a little insignificant person to the medical profession but she has spoken louder since all this has happened than she ever spoke in her life because she was a quiet lady. But I too wanna thank the media and everybody else in this room for all that you’re doing to hear this case because we just learned about all this. We just got our mother’s records. We just knew that all this had happened to her. We didn’t even know. Because had I known as a high school student I would have turned over rocks. But I didn’t know it until just recently. We thank you North Carolina for your apology but it’s not enough. We thank you for the twenty thousand dollars that’s not enough. You’re gonna have to look at more. You’re gonna have to dig deep. If you can build a twenty-five million dollar pier that I read about then somebody needs to come up with more money. I don’t care if it comes from the tobacco fund or whose fund it comes from. A tax loop hole as I read about. I don’t care. It needs to come from somewhere.”

“I look at this old, young, black, white, female, male, as young as ten years old. That’s what the history says but whose to say their weren’t some younger. My momma could read, she could think, she loved the children, she taught school in her neighborhood. She was an eleventh grader in her high school so she was not feeble minded. She was not crazy. She was none of the

things that people want to say. They want to put labels on her but she was smart enough in her record to say to the people in her hospital there's nothing wrong with my mind and there's nothing wrong with a lot of people in this hospital. She stated that so she was smart enough to see that. But she was sick, she was disabled by post partum and depression and that caused her to have a nervous breakdown. She was a victim of domestic abuse and as she was taken to Cherry Hospital she was welcomed because they needed a guinea pig and she was one of them."

"And every victim that went through any of this victimization was a guinea pig. A science guinea pig and it was bogus medicine bogus science and it was all put under the title it being medically necessary. Some people were told they were going to have appendix removed. Some were told that they were schizophrenic. Some were told that they had alshymers. Some were told all kinds of things. Some were told they were promiscuous. Anything that they could find to put under the label of feeble mindedness those people were victimized. My father took my mother to the medical to the mental institution and for what I understand he was paid fifty dollars and he was told that she probably would never come out. But twelve years later she did come out. She lived with us we took care of her but we took care of the shell they sent back to us. That's what we received and that's what took care of."

"As little children let me tell you bout our lives. We were from pillar to post. In homes that were dysfunctional. People who didn't care. But people who knew they could exploit my body and it was exploited. I tell everybody now as I share my story I could be the best prostitute in the world because I was treated that way. But the three of us we bound together and said we're gonna have a better life. We went to college all three of us. I went to graduate school. I'm retired from Durham Public Schools now. I worked on my master's degree. I worked on a degree above that. My sister is over the WIC program at Lincoln Community Health Center. My other sister worked at Liggett and Myers for years she did their data processing. Because we were determined that we were gonna be better and we know that somewhere in our DNA my mom planted some of that because she was a strong woman that wanted to be better."

“When she lived with us she wore beautiful hats. She went to church. She prayed, she read, she journaled, she crow-shayed. She did all those things when she was with us. We had her in adult daycare and I have a newspaper article from that daycare where she was crow-shaying and doing crafts. But she always journaled. I used to wonder why is momma always writing in those notebooks? She was journaling what had happened to her and periodically she would have flashbacks of the electric shock. Yeah she was forty years old but who’s to say she wouldn’t have wanted more children one day. And my mother did love again. She met a man who wined and dined her, took her to the best restaurants, he loved her before he died.”

“When my mother died she had two hundred and forty-eight dollars in an account that she wanted to share with her children. I have her little purse that I kept and it has one dollar and fifty cents in it. When she died that’s what she had in her purse. And I keep that dollar and that fifty cent. But she cared about her children. Victims who are in this room need more. If it was your momma, if it was your daddy and I hear being talking about the women-this happened to men too. And North Carolina you need, and you’re supposed to and by God’s standards you have to compensate victims and their families. Thank you.”

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair announces Melissa Chapel Hyatt to speak.

Ms. Melissa Hyatt:

“Hello everybody my name is Melissa Hyatt and we’re from Kernersville. I’m representing my father Charles Holt. He’s not really my father. He’s a man I kinda picked to be my father cause my father passed away when I was a little girl. And all of this is very very very emotional and it was very emotional for himself so I wrote a letter and we talked about everything so I’m just gonna read it and I think I sent it up here to this is a copy. And first of all at that time of his procedure Charles, my father, was never informed of anything even afterwards. He was just made to perform the surgery and sent back to the Murdoch Center where he was residing. His parents were the only ones knowledgeable about what was taking place and he says his parents never told him anything about it. It was just a surgery that he had to perform and that’s all he understood.”

“Charles wasn’t aware that he may never have a child of his own. I don’t even think he knew what the surgery meant. He was just told he had to have the surgery. Any teenager, who is locked in a facility, the Murdoch Center, would do what they have to to leave and be home with his or her siblings. He was told if he had the surgery then he may go home. Nobody explained what the surgery was for, at least not to him and he was legally an adult and eighteen and nineteen.”

“At the age of twenty he met a woman who he fell in love with and became ready to pursue a life with her only to find out at the time he was not able to have children. He went to the doctor and learned that the surgery he had in Murdoch wouldn’t allow him to have children. This made him very disappointed and he became depressed. Now someone had finally explained the effects of the surgery. To make it worse, the woman that he had grown to love left him and made fun of him because he couldn’t have children. With the love of his life leaving that too caused more grief.”

“After grieving over his loss, he moved on and got a job at Brinwood restaurant as a cook. He stayed there until they closed down roughly six years. After working the routine became pretty steady. Came home and started drinking because he was lonely. He was afraid

other women would pick on him because he could not have children. Clearly, at twenty-six he was already suffering from this surgery physically and emotionally. And some cases even made him close up to the world.”

“Afterwards he got a job with the City of Highpoint. The new job, new environment, and friendly people there rested his mind a little about the surgery he was starting to move on with his life. He even slacked off of alcohol and maybe drank once every two weeks. He also met some children that were neglected by their father and their mother was struggling to make it on their own. He let the mother and children move in with him and he helped provide for them as well. For the first time in his life he had children that loved him. They may not have been his but he loved them like they were his own. The two children and their mother stayed with him for maybe eight years and until they were able to take care of themselves. Thank you.”

“Still at the same job, he met another woman and she had three children. He remained working hard and spending time with his new children. He cooked for them, he cleaned for us, he still maintained a forty hour week job. Everything was going well until his sister and his nephew were involved in a fatal car accident killing his nephew and almost taking the life of his sister. At this time, it was just him and two other siblings surviving. His sister lived through the car accident but kept life threatening injuries, He picked up drinking again thinking it would take away his pain. The drinking drove his wife away and the children as well. Thinking he didn't have anything left; his pride was gone that he had built so strong. Therefore he talked to the bottle. He never had anybody to confide in and clearly the Murdoch Center never built a support system or even thought he needed one for any reason what so ever. “

“After his wife left, his sister passed and two years later his brother passed. His drinking became a problem became worse. A couple years down the road he was placed in the hospital himself because of a stroke and that's when he found his liver cancer. Since then, he's been out of work and disability is sending him a check to cover some of his expenses. Summing up what information I collected, it looks like Charles' depression of him not being able to have children

lead him to drinking. The children that he did intervene with in life are still around today. That has to say what kind of father he would've been.”

“Being one of those children that Charles raised, I picked him out to be my dad. My dad passed away when I was ten and Charles has always very good to me. He always helped me out as I was growing up. I never knew about his surgery until recently and now I understand his depression. I remember when I graduated fifth grade how proud and emotional he was. I have five children and he is the grandfather. And he loves to do things to make them happy and he loved to see them smile. He also stays in contact with the two children he helped raise when they had nothing. These two ladies can still call him dad.”

“Point is, Charles has the abilities to be a great father and his rights were taken away at an early age in life. I think if he would've had a child of his own a lot of the aloft of his depression wouldn't have let to drinking. For that matter, he may not have been depressed at all. He would've made an awesome father and the child would've had discipline and schooling. He knows how to take care of children. For he always has. He knows how to change diapers, cook, clean and most important-he knows how to love. I sit with him every day and he seems to have so many things on his mind.”

“I hope something like this never happens again to anybody. If that's what we did years ago we should do it to the people that leave their children in dumpsters or the people that kill their children. And some of them have a higher IQ than Charles-and even he knows that's not right. Charles has worked hard all of his life to see those children he does love stay off welfare. There not many paternal fathers out her today that can say that.”

“And I just made a note from his court papers from back when he was in the institution and this was one of the the notes I put on here it says: And whereas, it appears to your petitioner that one it is for the best interest of the mental, moral, and physical improvement of the patient he undergo an operation for sterilization or asexualization; or number two that is for the public good that such patient undergo such operation, or number three that said would be likely to

procreate a child or children who would have a tendency to serious physical, mental, or nervous disease or deficiency.”

“I wrote one, two, and three for myself that I see and how I feel. Number one there was a psychological evaluation that looked like either the courts used or maybe even the Murdoch Center used to decide for this procedure. According to the evaluation, Charles was an attractive, neat appearing boy of average physical development. He bears no physical signs of retardation. His speech is of average complexity. There was nothing about his behavior which could be called unusual. The evaluation goes on to talk about his steady relationship with a girlfriend and basically how he is normal. Nothing wrong with him. And after reading the whole evaluation how can anyone it is for your own good? You don’t need to have a baby. You don’t need to experience the wonders of being a parent. Who are they to say?”

“And number two, Charles has always offered his services to the public and at many places where he has worked has ultimate respect for him. For how well he’s done these services whether he was working for the city for thirty years, doing street maintenance, helping the elderly at nursing homes, and manufacturing products in a factory, delivering your daily newspaper, or working in your nearest grocery store. He also has three children and eight grandchildren, that he adopted of course, not legally. People love him. Why was it for the public’s good that he didn’t have children? He helped other women to support their children that he loved. So why was it good for the public that he didn’t have children?”

“And number three, Charles had nothing wrong with him physically. It even says so on his evaluation from October 25th, 1966. His brother and sister had perfectly healthy children. I know it didn’t mean the same back in 1966, but people now with learning disabilities are basically normal people. It may be harder for them to learn some things but overall they are average now in our society and most can do as much as normal people. People with learning disabilities have children all the time now. Who were they to decide the decision of his children? Who were they?”

“There was nothing in his reports that stated Charles, at nineteen, was even told what the surgery meant for his life. Just a simple matter of conversation would have changed the way he felt about this operation. On another note for a form number seven supplement to a page that was used in court papers it says: the effects exhibited by individual which appears to be hereditary in nature and in parenthesis it put Charles is not mentally retarded as are both of his parents. Going back to the psychocological evaluation which was also with these court papers at the time was went these procedures went through. In first paragraph in the second sentence he bears no physical signs of retardation. And after reading the entire evaluation it says he has an IQ of sixty-two and on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale he was placed in the mildly retarded range. It sums it up for him being physically normal but mentally never pursuing in life. In which in deed he did an exceptional job at what he was offered. He took it and made the best out of it.”

“When asked what I consider as a possible settlement for these victims I thought about Darryl Hunt. If you remember Darryl Hunt was an African American man in Winston-Salem, North Carolina who in 1984 was wrongfully convicted of the rape and murder of a young white newspaper editor Debra Sikes but was later exonerated by DNA evidence. This man of the age of nineteen served nineteen and one half years in prison before he was freed. On February 19th, 2007 the City of Winston-Salem settled with Hunt in a lawsuit against the city. Hunt was awarded in a settlement of one million six hundred and fifty thousand dollars. If the state of north Carolina is admitting guilt of this wrongdoing of sterilization shouldn't these victims be awards a million dollars? These victims are actually living out a life term sentence. Not twenty years behind bars but behind the mental and emotional scars that was placed on these people by no fault of their own.”

“I have five children. I'm twenty-eight. It would devastate me if any of my children were taken from me. And in today's world young women have children early age all the time you know. And just in you two situation I really felt like you know, like I was there you know, cause I have five children and I became depressed after my fifth child. And if you would have took me away from my children that would have been the most devastating thing in the world. And for these children to have to grow up without their mother that was just awful-that was really awful.

And in Charles' position that's all he's ever wanted was children. He's been so good us. He's been so good to any child that I've ever seen him. He loves a child. He's always wanted to have one of his own. He would have love to have one with my mother-I know that. And that's pretty much all I have to say. There's a lot of things I could say and I shook my head in agreement with everything that's already been said and it's very devastating. It's very devastating. I don't think I could have done it."

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair announces that Karen Beck.

Ms. Karen Beck:

"My family and I want to thank the Governor for what she's doing for also our state representatives for the efforts that the've put towards this and our current legislature for what they're going to do because I believe this cannot be ignored. And I also wanna thank the Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation and the people who have really been there, not just as support staff but basically as counselors. My name is Karen Beck and I am here on behalf of my grandmother and great aunt who are now deceased. My family we are speaking for them because they cannot speak for themselves."

"In 1934 two little girls, Dottie Virginia Bates age thirteen and her sister Flossy Jane Bates age fifteen were growing up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. It was the time of the Great Depression. The girls lived in a dirty and fly infested rental house without a working toilet and only one bedroom in the home. Their mother the only caregiver, led by an abusive alcoholic father, was bed ridden and dying from pellagra-a disease caused by mild nutrition. The girls knew what it was to be cold, dirty, and above all else-to be hungry. Hunger turned them into beggars. After their mother died, *excuse me please*, the case workers split up the family and sent the children into foster care."

"Dottie and Flossy ran away from their temporary homes to be together. *Thank you so much*. The children ran away from their temporary homes to be together. The case workers decide the children posed a social and financial risk and coerced their father into signing

sterilization orders for both girls. His non descript 'X' appearing beside someone else's elegant script signature. The oldest girl Flossy escaped from authorities and was raped by a transient man. She was taken to school for unwed girls in Durham, North Carolina where she stayed until giving birth. On September 11th, 1935 after the birth of her only daughter, she was sterilized per Eugenics order. She was lied to and told she was too small to have any additional children. And she was only about this big. The order to sterilize Flossy was signed none months after the death of their mother."

"Her sister Dottie was the next target. In 1936 she was told she had appendicitis and needed an operation. Her sterilization surgery was performed just before Christmas per Eugenics order. Dot didn't learn until many years later after she actually contracted appendicitis that she had been sterilized. She was fifteen at the time of surgery. I'm sure the caseworkers felt justified when they made their recommendations to sterilize Flossy and Dottie. And I'm sure the judge who authorized the procedures would save the tax payers money. And I'm sure that the surgeons that willed the knives into their small bodies believed they were doing the right thing. Indeed, how could any of them be wrong?"

"The law was the law and they were simply following the mandate that was created by the state of North Carolina. So what vial and terrible acts did these children commit that caused the authorities to recommend them for sterilization? What did the case worker say were their mental and physical defects? They said the children were vagrants and today we call them homeless. They called the children beggars. Yes they did because they were hungry. They called my grandmother's pregnancy illegitimate. She had been raped. They called Molly, the children's mother, feeble minded. She was dying from pellagra-a body and mind destroying disease caused by mild nutrition. They said the children's father was a heavy drinker, of low intelligence, and short. Almost the size of a dwarf. Yes, he was small, uneducated, and an alcoholic."

"One of the case worker's reported that Dottie liked to wear coveralls and that she hung around with a boy much younger than herself. She reported that Dottie had a hard time playing in group and couldn't look anyone in the eye. The case worker reported that she'd given Dottie a

Bible at her request but had never caught her reading it. Yes, it is true that Dottie wore hand-me-downs. It is also true that she had been kicked enough life to know it was safer to just stay invisible and keep quiet. Did she read her Bible? That's between her and God."

"So who were Flossy and Dottie? They were two motherless, grief stricken little girls trying to survive during the Great Depression. They were wards of the state and run-a-ways because running was the only way to get back to family. Dottie and Flossy were just kids. They were people just like you and me and everyone else in this room. They were little girls that would have played mommy if they'd owned dolls and would have gladly eaten home cooked meals instead of scavaged cold biscuits. They were poor people judged unfit to reproduce because of their circumstances."

"Dottie and Flossy aren't here anymore. My great aunt died almost fifteen years ago. Her sister and my grandmother, Flossy Bates Wood died July 19th of last year. Six months after the death of her only daughter and our mother. In a way my family is lucky. My grandmother's ape produced my mother who grew up, fell in love, married my father, and gave birth to four children. We are grandmother's legacy. We are the future the state tried to take from her and the right they stole from my great aunt and so many others. My grandmother and great aunt were victims of the North Carolina Eugenics Program. For years they lived inside the mirrored walls of shame and guilt erected by this state. But here's the irony, those walls the state built they don't reflect on my grandmother or my great aunt. The walls only reflect on the state of North Carolina. And the people who were violated emotionally and physically whether it was coerced or poorly explained those are also the shame walls built by North Carolina. Can the state fix this problem? Can it go back and mend the bodies they broke and restore all those stolen legacies? No, it can't. But I'll tell you what it can do. It can say it's sorry in a way that's meaningful. It can breach the walls of shame and guilt it erected on itself and it can make restitution. Thank you."

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair announces Lela Dunston.

Ms. Lela Dunston:

“Good evening everybody.” My name is Lela Dunston and I was born in Wilmington, North Carolina. Well at the age of thirteen they gave me I’m a victim of sterilization. They told my mother to have this procedure done to me. I had a son at the early age of thirteen and they told her I was mental disturbed. Well I couldn’t see it when I was coming up that I was mental disturbed. They just told her that and my aunt told her say don’t you go along with those people they don’t know what they doing. They want you to do this to kill her insides so she won’t have no more children. But she did it anyway. But I don’t know why she did it. I don’t know why she did it. But they did it anyway. They gave me that sterilization.”

“They told me to sign papers. I didn’t sign no papers. I aint never signed the papers. I look back over this thing here that is not my signature on these papers. I told my husband the other day I say you know looking back over this thing here I aint signed these papers. Somebody else signed my name. That aint my hand writing. That aint none of my hand writing. I don’t know why they signed them papers. That’s that’s a bad thing for these people to do. They say I ran around with a knotty head. My aunt took me in and did for me. She called my daddy-he was in ummmmm, this place where he was at where he could send me money every month and have my aunt to take care of my hair. And she would carry me to the beauty shop and get my hair fixed every other week.”

“I had clothes. I had the best of clothes. I wore shoes. I weared the penny loafers. Little penny loafers. That’s what I used to wear to school and the little skirts, pleated skirts and the matching tops. Blouse, sweaters, whatever, I had it. My aunt did for me. She took care of me. My mom had it was three of us. A son and another daughter my sister she lived in Detroit when she found my mommy was trying to give me away to somebody else she came down and got me and took me back with her and they put me in Old Berry School. Like that lady there say they put me in Old Berry School but when I got there I ran away cause I wasn’t planning on staying there. That’s what I did. They tried to give me all that medication. Mental medication and stuff. Saying I was I wasn’t capable of doing nothing.”

“But I went out there when I got old enough I took care of myself. I worked two and three jobs I did work. I took care of my son .I did for him. But they tried to do him I guess. They probably did that to him I don’t know cause he can’t have no babies. He aint never had none. And I want grandbabies. I can’t have no grandbabies. My son cant have muster did it to him too I don’t know. I don’t know they probably did after I had him. Probably circumcised him. I don’t know. You don’t what people do to these people now days. But the state need to award us cause we got to carry on.”

“I got a husband right now. He looks out for me. He take care of me. He takes care of me. He cooks for me. He helps me cause I’m I got so much of sickness going on in my life. But I thank God I’m still alive so I can get up here to tell my story. They did this to me I didn’t do it. Maybe that’s why I’m sick today. Maybe that’s why I’m sick today. But I need a reward or something or some kind of compensation for all this that they done put me through. I want more children. I wanted them. I wouldn’t have mind having me a daughter. Maybe two. Maybe three. I probably could have had three from my husband now. Three daughters at one time. He was a twin. I probably would have had three twins-triplets or something. Who knows? But they did away with me. I can’t have no babies. But he still with me. And I thank yall.”

Dr. Laura Gerald announces Deborah Chesson.

Ms. Deborah Chesson:

“Hello everyone. My name is Deborah Chesson I am Nial Ramirez’ daughter. I’m gonna read her letter. I Nial Ramirez am not able to be present myself at this time due to my physical condition. My heath does not permit me to travel. However, I am hoping my daughter, Deborah Chesson, will be allowed to represent me. I’m gone suck this up in a minute.”

“I am writing you with hopes that you will understand my pain, hurt, and emptiness I still feel inside. At the young age of seventeen I was pregnant with my daughter Deborah living in a household with my mom and my siblings. My mother was a single mom and times were tough so we were on public assistance just trying to survive. During that time it was common for social

workers to visit from time to time. Not often, just pop up on visits to evaluate the household living conditions.”

“I hope you understand that means that came from time to time just to check the household living conditions.”

“One particular social worker discovered I was expecting and all attention went solely on me. The visits from the social worker became very frequent and I began to feel the pressure of the social worker coercing me into something I wasn’t familiar with. I was told I that if I continued to have children the livelihood of my family would suffer greatly. I was told that if I had more children then my family would no longer receive the help of public assistance. The social worker convinced my mom to sign for me to undergo an operation that would prevent me from getting pregnant not knowing all the while I was being set up to be sterilized like I was some type animal. From this unwanted surgery throughout the years I experienced multiple female physical issues. I suffered from chronic urinary tract infections and other unexplained illnesses.”

“In 1973 I got married and my husband and I wanted desperately to have children. It was impossible because later I found out I was never to conceive. You see, I was told when I was operated on that I could have it reversed but I was lied to and butchered. I have been traumatized from this experience.”

“I was no longer able to have children like God created me to do. My marriage paid a toll because I wasn’t able to give my husband a child. Mentally and physically I suffered. My spirit dies. I no longer felt complete as a human. My daughter was deprived of having a sibling and I was deprived of having a baby. It was inhumane what was done to me.”

“I also want to take this time to thank Representative Larry Womble for all that he did for the victims of sterilization and for me personally. During this whole process of getting the laws changed and all the times we traveled back and forth to North Carolina. Representative Womble

took his own personal money and provided transportation so we could make it to every meeting. Ms. Nial Ramirez. Eugenics Board Sterilization victim.”

“I also wrote a letter. My name is Deborah Chesson and I am the only child of Ms. Nial Ramirez. My mother has suffered tremendously at the hands of the North Carolina Eugenics Board. Not only was she harassed and threatened into having the surgery but she was lied to and told this surgery was reversible.”

“The Eugenics board was a group of twelve people similar to yourselves who met and made decisions about human beings like they were test rats in a lab. In today’s time even the rats have someone to speak up for them. There have been laws passed to regulate how animals are treated in the testing of makeup and drugs. There are groups that get so irate if people wear fur because that means an animal was brutally murdered in order for them to wear that fur.”

“So we have all these rights for animals but what has been said to the victims of sterilization? They mean nothing. And this is the things that gets me so much. It’s easy to say well you can’t have children. You don’t have to spend money it takes a whole lot of money to raise children. It’s easy to say that but it wasn’t just the fact that they can’t have children. They had God human rights that were taken away from them. Their bodies were violated with no consent of from them. Had they known this was going to happen to them they wouldn’t have consented or they would have fought harder maybe.”

“What happened was the Eugenics board chose people who were who needed help. Who were in a position they needed help but help would have cost money. Kind of like compensation. When you speak about money now is it easy to say okay now gonna give you medical provisions. Now a lot of them are not coming forward for whatever reason. They’re ashamed of what happened to them or they have passed away already. But when it comes to money its harder to step forward. When it was first when reparations was first to be talked about I believe Representative Womble suggested \$50,000. The legislature the legislation told the victims you are not worth fifty thousand. We will give you twenty thousand. So what you have done, you

have done the same thing again that the Eugenics board has done. You have to told my mother that she means nothing.”

“You have told these people that they mean nothing. So you have all these rights for animals but what has been said to the victims of sterilization? They mean nothing. You are nothing. It’s still being said to my mother forty-seven years later seven years later, you are still saying she means nothing. How? Do you ask? When this process started like I said before it started basically with just three people coming forward. It started with John Riley writing that article called against their will. It was against their will. This was done to them against their will. It was Representative Womble getting involved and making people aware of what actually happened.”

“It’s easy to make decisions when you don’t have faces of the people who have been victimized. And when we go away and you don’t see our faces anymore because we really don’t look like victims-we are survivors. So when we’re gone are you gonna remember us or are we just gonna be stories. Words on paper easy to make decisions about what we don’t have a right to or what they’re not worth. So like I said the Eugenics board was a committee it was a board just like you. I’m not saying that you’re not that you’re exactly like them but for me until I see action I’m still waiting.”

“Let’s see here, let me skip all of this. Gonna go to the end. So my question to you is how much longer do the victims of sterilization have two wait? Are you gonna be a voice for the victims or against them? It can be difficult to make decisions about people you have never met even if you meet them now they are not the same people when these cruel acts were performed on them. They have become survivors. They no longer look like victims so maybe it makes it harder to visualize the hurt, and emptiness, and helplessness they felt and still feel to some degree.”

“In spite of the hurt the victims of the Eugenics board had to endure. They never the less endured. They became and are still becoming positive influences in society. My mother raised

me to finish what I start, respect my elders, that it is okay to love and be loved. She taught me that no matter what was going on in my life she always has my back. I have never been arrested, I don't do drugs, and I never been on public assistance. I purchased a house and I bought my mother a car and myself one as well. I pay my taxes and I love my family. My mother has everything to do with who I am."

"My mother was a nurse's aide before she was injured and had to retire early. But during her time as a nurse's aide all of her patients loved her. My mother was a hard working single mother who was responsible for putting food on the table and going to PTA meetings and she did that and helped other people raise their children as well. I can't tell you the number of people the number of children that my mother has helped raise."

"The Eugenics board of North Carolina and the North Carolina legislature has deemed my mother to be nothing but to me she is everything. She is more than enough. I am just listening to everybody's story this is a time when they should have received help but instead of helping them you hurt them even more. And through all of that hurt they still survived. They still have people here to represent them. I don't remember your name sir (directed at Mr. Charles Holt) but you have a daughter she adopted you and you adopted her okay because she saw something in you to love you. Eugenics board were just a people they didn't know, they didn't care, they just said this one, this one, this one, this one. But you tore families apart. You hurt people and there is no amount of compensation that can put that hurt back. But tell them, they need to hear now that they are more than they are not nothing-that they are more. That's all I have to say. Thank you."

Dr. Laura Gerald announces a ten minute break.

BREAK

Dr. Laura Gerald reconvenes the public hearing and announces Naomi Schenck as the next speaker.

Ms. Naomi Schenck:

“My name is Naomi Schenck. I’m from Lincolnton, North Carolina and I was sterilized in 1948. I was only 17. I had been married and I had a miscarriage and they said they were going to do a local DNC. But, when they got through they had did a hysterectomy on me and I was only 17. My mama had eight children and out of that seven of them had children. I was the only one who didn’t have children because of the way they did me but like I said I was only 17. And I didn’t too much about. I didn’t know what a DNC and I didn’t know what local. I didn’t know none of that stuff.”

“I got married in 47 when I was 16 and this happened when I was just 17. And they... I don’t know it was sort of hard to go all these years and watch all my sisters and my brothers and all my friends have children and I didn’t have any.”

“But, they never explained nothing to me or my husband. He signed the papers for them to do the local DNC. But they didn’t do local DNC. They didn’t do local. They cut. They went inside and cut me. So when I got dismissed from the hospital, the doctor said we saw something we didn’t like. You won’t have anymore children and he turned and walked away. He didn’t explain it to me why I wasn’t going to have children or nothing. But he did do a lot of people that way when I was coming along then. But that’s been since 1948 and I’ve had to live with that.”

“But I wrote Governor Mike Easley when he was Governor and he said he was gonna keep this letter until General Assembly come up with the money and he was gonna you know give me some money for it or something. But, that was in ’08. I haven’t heard from him since. But, that’s what I had to go through with and y’all have a blessed day.”

Dr. Laura Gerald announces Corey Dunn.

Ms. Corey Dunn – Disability Rights NC:

“Good morning. My name is Corey Dunn and I represent Disability Rights North Carolina. We’re a statewide nonprofit legal organization and North Carolina’s federally mandated protection advocacy agency for people with disabilities.

We represent people with all types of disabilities throughout the State of North Carolina and like many of you today, I’ve been moved by the stories of survivors. We routinely encounter clients who’ve been subjected to involuntary sterilization by the State of North Carolina and their stories are compelling.”

“The developmentally disabled woman who underwent a forced hysterectomy possibly as young as the age eight who half a century later has never been able to work because of persistent abdominal pain.”

“The mentally ill man who was castrated, ostensibly to control his violent behavior; but more likely because he was black and he whistled at a white woman.”

“Their stories are compelling. But I’m not the right person to tell them. What I am able to do and add to this conversation is a recognition that some of the victims of the Eugenics Board were in fact mentally, physically disabled, were mentally ill and that many of those people, our clients, are still struggling to get appropriate services inside of our state’s mental health care system. Many are in fact still institutionalized and we work everyday to fix that. Their involuntary sterilization is no less tragic and their human rights no less valuable than others and I hope that that will be kept in mind as you continue your good work.”

“There certainly other issues that we want to discuss. We want to make sure that the public benefits of our clients are protected as the conversation moves forward. We want to maximize access to records so that our clients can use them for purposes other than this Foundation’s work. But most importantly today, I want to thank you for your work thus far and promise to keep working with you as we move forward.”

Dr. Laura Gerald announces Anne Russell.

Ms. Anne Russell:

“I’m from Wilmington. Where’s the other Wilmington person? Hi. Good to see you. We’ll have to talk. I’m here on behalf of David Pridgen, who is the nephew of Margaret Pridgen from Wilmington, who was sterilized. We’re certain, under the excuse of appendicitis. When she was sent to Samarcand Manor Reform School for white girls in 1929 and in 1931 she and 15 of her other fellow teenage inmates who had been there for some years with no never being represented by an attorney, having no rights, never knowing if they’d ever be released, having bed bugs, being beaten bloody and mistreated in the name of helping these girls.”

“And we can document about five sterilizations allegedly appendicitis and probably they were more. At any rate in 1931, someone in here said that she ran away, she got fed up. Yeah, they ran. They got fed up. They couldn’t run away. So, they burned down two buildings there and it became a notorious case and what these teenage girls thought, and I’ll shorten this, but they thought that they were going to be sent home. You know how you think when you’re real young because they’d be too much trouble. They didn’t know it was the death penalty. So, they were charged, these 16 teenage girls with the death penalty and it became a very famous case. And I got interested in it about five years ago and I have a co-author and we’ve written a book about it called ‘The Wayward Girls of Samarcand’ and it’s just been finished and we hope it will be published soon.”

“In doing this book, I went to Samarcand and I discovered all these wonderful artifacts that were in cardboard boxes with dust all over them in corners. Nobody even knew they existed. And I have a doctorate in American studies and I taught history and I care about things like that. So, I donated two really nice display cases for them to put in their conference room there and they got these artifacts arranged and they look great. Samarcand is to close, I’m told permanently after almost a hundred years, on June 30th and I’m hoping you folks with the archives will for heaven’s sake get that stuff because it’s invaluable.”

“Now I’m going to read what I was sent up here to read. David Pridgen, who is about 50 years old. He owns a floral shop in Wilmington is an incredibly wonderful guy. I started researching Margaret ‘cause you can’t find these folks. Most of them are dead from 1929 and 1931. This was the only relative we could find who was alive and he was so happy to meet and find out what happen to my aunt Margaret because she had been the black sheep in the family the one who was kind of banished over to the side and never wanted anyone to kinda be around her and you know they kinda talked about her and things like that. But no one ever knew the truth about her. And I try to not cry as I read this. He sent me an email the day before yesterday.”

“We shouldn’t allow the dead to be forgotten in such a way. No voice can speak thank you for all you’ve done for my family in rebuilding the story of Margaret Ann Pridgen. Most of all helping her become more than most of us today knew her to be a fool. Today, each of us in my family know she is not a fool but a lady to honor and respect. Knowing all she had to go through with, each of us better understand her pain and why she had to walk the path she took.

We no longer look down at her grave or at her as they did before. We smile saying what a lady, what a girl. She the burned the buildings down. She stood up for herself. She said enough. She was and we love her even more.” – David Pridgen, nephew of Margaret Ann Pridgen born 1916, Inmate of Samarcand Reform School for Girls, 1929 to 1931.

“Most likely involuntary sterilized with the label appendicitis, and we got records, never bore a child although she loved children and she wanted a child very much and she used to collect baby clothes in the hope that some day she might have a child. She was married for a few years.”

“So, I’m speaking for David, who is speaking for his aunt. And I do want to say this, there are two things I would like to see done which can be done. One is to for heaven’s sake, do this archive exhibit for the public to see because it’s a lot of stuff you can put in it as you know and the other thing, we have petitioned the governor to pardon these sixteen girls who were

convicted in 1931. And these girls, Margaret was sent there because she got in a car with a boy. She was labeled feebleminded. She was not feebleminded.”

“And her life was a tragedy if you knew the story of her life. These girls, one of them began being raped at the age five by her father. These girls were labeled unfit. And this is why they were put at Samarcand and why a number of them were sterilized involuntarily. Most of them were being told they had appendicitis.”

“What the State of North Carolina can do is encourage the Governor to issue the pardon posthumously for these 16 girls who finally stood up for themselves. And so it just really touches me because I have four daughters and if my daughters had been in that situation I would have wanted them to burn the whole place down.”

“And last, one of the girls named Pearl Stiles was put in jail after this incident and she wrote Governor O. Max Gardner a letter. She quoted Patrick Henry and she said, “Give me liberty or give me death.”

“That’s not a feeble minded girl who knew about Patrick Henry when she’s about fourteen years old. So, he never even gave her an answer to her letter. He never even acknowledged that she had written him. So, I am so grateful that our former Governor and our current Governor are acknowledging what has been done. It’s about time. Thank you so much.”

Dr. Laura Gerald announces Charmaine Fuller Cooper.

Ms. Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Executive Director:

North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation

“Good evening everyone. I am Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Director of the Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation which was founded last year due to a lot of hard work by our state’s Governor and also by the Representatives in the room, Representative Womble and Representative Parmon.”

“The Foundation is here to assist you. It’s here to assist people who were directly impacted. It’s here to assist people who are the family members and representatives and it’s also here to assist the general public who may have questions.”

“We understand that you are making yourself very vulnerable, that you’re opening up a past chapter in your life and that sometimes it may not be easy and sometimes you want to make sure that you have a trustworthy voice on the other end of the line who’s not going to rush you and who’s going to be patient.”

“So, we know and understand that many of you also have some more questions that you may have for the Foundation after today’s event. We’ll be available after today’s event. But we know that many of you will be speaking with the press and other people in the room. So, we want to invite you to contact our office this week and next week with any questions that you may have and with any information requests that you may have.”

“And we also invite you to also share this information with other people in the community because there are one hundred counties in North Carolina and many people are still unaware that the state had a sterilization program. So, we do have posters available for you outside on the entry tables and we understand that many of you traveled long distances and we need for you to share your stories with people in your community and to make sure if you go to an agency such as social services, the public health department, a local library and you do not see any signage related to the Foundation and the Governor’s efforts, please give us a call. We will send more down to those areas. You’re also welcome to take some with you.”

“Ms. Marks and her sister have done a great job with putting posters up at Lincoln Health Community Center in Durham and they also gave us the idea that there many community health clinics throughout the State of North Carolina. So, we’ve been sending over 3,000 posters to those smaller agencies.”

“I wanted to introduce myself to you because many you have spoken to me on the phone and I thank you for sharing your stories with me and for enlightening my life basically through your stories. And I invite you to encourage others to contact us.”

Ms. Governor Beverly Perdue:

“Good afternoon. I’ve just come in. I was listening to some of the stories on the web this morning. I’m not here in an official capacity. I’m simply here to tell you and that staff up there, Laura and Charmaine, and Representative Womble and Representative Parmon, how important these hearings are.”

“It’s hard for me to accept or to understand or to even try to figure out why these kinds of atrocious acts could have been committed in this country and I’m being told more than thirty states. I find it reprehensible. But, I just came here as a woman, as a mama and as a grandma and as Governor of this state, quite frankly to tell you it’s wrong.”

“And I am proud that we have the courage to be here today. It has to have been oftly hard and had to have been a really hard decision to decide to come and talk about you or your family and to share this with not just the people of North Carolina but America. And to somebody who believes that this state and this country are the greatest places in the world that we can live, these are those stories you hear that make you wonder who in the world was here during those years.”

“The State of North Carolina is a partner with you in trying to bring awareness and to redress, in some way however we may, these horrible ills in our society. Again, I can’t believe that this happened in North Carolina.”

“I’m reading the history now to figure out what the rationale was. You should read some of those.”

“I thank you from the bottom of my heart for being here. Again, the women and men who suffered these kinds of unbelievable indignities, this is not a good day for us. It’s not a happy day for North Carolina. It has to be a very very hard day for you all to sit in this room. God bless and thank you.”

State Representative Larry Womble of Winston-Salem, North Carolina:

“Before the Governor goes we want to say this in her presence and so you all will know that this Governor is a compassionate Governor. This Governor is not only the first female governor but she is a mother herself. We want you to know that this Governor is one that we can talk with and just as important or more important is that this governor will listen. You all may not know that this governor has established this Foundation so we can have this hearing so you can tell your stories.”

“This Governor has also made sure that we have a Director in Charmaine Fuller [Cooper]. This Governor is supportive in making sure that this foundation works and operates and that your story be told.”

“But just as important or more important, this Governor is committed to try to right the wrongs that this state has done on its citizens as little as ten and eleven years old.”

“We want to give this Governor a sign of our appreciation and also for her dedication and her interest in this cause to try to right a wrong.”

“Let’s all stand.”

“Thank you Governor Beverly Perdue. We’ll turn it over to our chair Dr. Laura Gerald.”

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair:

“Again Governor Perdue, we really appreciate you taking the time to come here this morning and spend some of your time with us. We have heard from already now eleven members and victims who have been affected directly by the decisions of the Eugenics Board. We have had a tough morning as you have said. This has been tough to hear. These have been gut wrenching stories but we’ve taken the time to hear from everyone who came here to speak

this morning. We have one more speaker who has indicated that she would like to talk. Governor Perdue, you are welcome to join us in the front if you would like. But, at this time we will hear from Mary English our last speaker.”

Ms. Mary English:

“Hello. I am very honored to here. Not only here, but in the presence of Representative Womble, who I call my knight in shining armor, and my strength Representative Parmon. My Governor because she ran on that ticket and she didn’t let us down.”

“But, I’m also glad to be here because I’m not locked away. Good morning panel. My name is Mary Frances Smith English. I live in Fayetteville, North Carolina and at the grand age of sixteen, I decided during the Vietnam War that the man I was going to marry made the sun come up.”

“I got married, lovely wedding. He went to Vietnam and when he came back he wasn’t as wonderful as I thought he was. Couple of years later, we had two sons. We also had a divorce. I had a daughter.”

“I was going to a very very upscale OB-GYN clinic in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Wonderful clinic. And I was having a lot of female problems. But the new doctor there assured me that he could get me into this program after my daughter was born that I wouldn’t have to worry about any of the birth control that was out.”

“Okay, I’m telling my age. But a lot of you remember when we went to sleep with the front door open and the bedroom windows open. A lot of you remember when the black car pulled up in front of the house and it was the doctor and he went in, came in and took my temperature, and gave me little pills.”

‘I was raised in an era in Fayetteville where I trusted my doctors completely. So, when my doctor said he had a program. I wouldn’t have to worry about anything else, not to worry.

He handed me a piece of paper, a hospital form. I signed it. And he said he'd let me know if he could get me into the program and that this would help me cause I wanted to go to college. I had three great kids. I wanted to raise my kids and the moment I found a wonderful young man I could come back and could come back and have this surgery undone and have more kids and have this great life.”

“Well again. I signed it. In other words, I was sold the Cadillac with no engine. I trusted him completely.”

“So, couple years later, three and a half, I got engaged. Wonderful man, loved my kids, loved me. I went back to the same clinic which by the way I had still been attending and told the doctor I was ready to have the surgery undone because I was ready to get remarried. At which point, he leans over his desk and says ‘what’. I said I’m ready to have the surgery undone now. I’m gonna get married. And he laughed. I don’t mean he chuckled. I mean he laughed.”

“And he said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about you’re sterile. You’ll never have anymore children.” So, I told him no, no, no. That’s not the surgery I signed up for. You were supposed to do this. Ugh something and then when you did it, it could be undone when I got ready later on to remarry. And he laughed again.”

“He said “look I don’t know what you’re talking about. You’re sterile.”And I got a little bit loud. You know how we capricorns are and I said no, no, no. That’s not what you told me. And he says, “I don’t care what you think I told you” and he laughed again “but you’re sterile and you’re not gonna have no more kids. You oft to be thankful for the three you got.” And about that time, I was up rearranging certain things on his desk. I must tell you and then I ran out screaming and yelling into the waiting room of the clinic totally hysterical and I told all the ladies in there. I don’t know whatever happened to any of them. But I told them all, “you need to run. I just found out my doctor sterilized me. You all need to run.”

“About this time, the nurses came out. They tried to quiet me. Most of them couldn’t quiet me. But, one or two of them kept saying, “you need to leave now Ms. Bunny. You need to get out. They are calling the cops.” Which I thought was a good idea. But the other nurses didn’t. So, I left.”

“Ugh. My family was quite frankly very little help because they couldn’t believe that something like that had have happened. Ugh. That night when I got home and I told the young man that I found out I was sterilized. Well when he pulled up, I had a two and a half, three carat diamond and I was engaged and when he left I had no ring and I was single again. Well, a couple of weeks later through next couple of weeks, months, I tried to find lawyers that would help. No one would take the case and they all had an amazing, amazing statement. Each and everyone of them. “You need to let this go and forget about it.”

“Second lawyer: “You know you need to just put this behind you and just forget about it.” “And I’m like, no, no, no, no.”Well one night, knock at the door, the two original owners and founders of the upscale clinic and the Fayetteville county sheriff are at the door. So, I told them ‘come on in.’ I’m thinking something’s happened.

“One of the gentlemen tells me that he was sorry about what had happened. That’s not what he established that clinic for. The other gentleman sat there and apologized over and over and over again and both of them said there’s nothing we can do to undo what’s been done. We’re sorry.”

“And then the sheriff says, ‘Well, you know you’re a single woman living here with three little kids. Might as well let it go. You never can tell what will happen. I said, ‘okay’ and they left. Couple of months later, I had my first emotional breakdown. I had no idea there were so many different categories of actually cracking up. But, I had an emotional breakdown. I was hospitalized. I came out, dealt with things. Going to college, kids, moving, getting another apartment, getting a house, the rain, snow, the prices at the grocery store. What I did not deal with was finding out I had been sterilized in ’72. But, I dealt with everything else which meant

that, most of you in here if you know anything about the medical profession, you know that means that one night I just lose it and I have another breakdown.”

“After this one, I’d realized I had to do something for me. So I created this little mental closet and I put what had happened in the box and I put the box on the shelf. Went on to college. Raised three fantastic kids. Just don’t tell them. But I do have five marvelous grandkids. But through the whole thing, I would find articles from time to time in papers from Chapel Hill and Wake Forest. But, I could never ever trace who wrote them and then my daughter emailed a friend of mine and the friend of mine came by and said that you need to contact a representative, Larry Womble.”

“So, I called in 2005 and I told him the whole story and then you know what he told me. I was not alone. So from 1976 until 2005, I had been alone. But for the first time, being on that phone, I wasn’t alone anymore. That’s a feeling that nobody should have to go through. What did I learn between 1976 and 2005, I learned about trust. I don’t have that anymore. I learned thank god for the internet. I don’t trust my doctors. I can tell you things honey about my psychiatrist, my analyst, my GP, that you would laugh at. But, as they say, you can find out anything on the internet.”

“Luckily enough right now, I have a health support system in place. They know what I’ve been through and they kinda overlook a lot of stuff. I have a lot of health issues. One of them, I was diagnosed as chronic depression. In other words, thanks to my wonderful doctor, I will never know not been depressed and I’ve got it so good until even some of my friends’ kids can tell you when Ms. Bunny is depressed. I got cable in my bedroom, books in my bedroom. I found a two cup coffee maker that I can keep in my bedroom and I have a phone and a cell phone so other than having to go to the bathroom, why should I leave my bedroom?”

“I go out of the room when I have finally I gotta do it I gotta do it. I go out in the living room. It’s baby steps. And the bad part about it, taking these baby steps is. I’m also a broadcaster, a newscaster. I’ve done TV news. I do volunteer work around Fayetteville. I write.

Okay. But it doesn't make any difference because I've put my whole life on whole. You don't know what it's like to have a feeling of depression come over you. If you want a sample of it. Go in a hot room and then immediately stick your hand in the freezer. That's what it's like. Or cover your ears and then uncover them to a lot of sound."

"It's something that hits you suddenly but it stays with you for awhile. And trust me, no matter what pills they ever gave me, they did not work. So, I found out I had to do things on my own. There was a time in the 80s. EE Smith has a reunion every Memorial Day. We all get together. No matter what grade. Mother, father, sister, brother, grandparents meeting there. During one of these events, I was at a friend of mine's house, the ladies were all in the kitchen. The men were all outside and in the living room and one of the ladies announced that she was about to have a late pregnancy and I said 'you're lucky. At least you're not sterilized.' And everybody said what do you mean by that. And I said I went over to so and so and so and so cleaned me out. And everybody got quiet. Come to find out once the kitchen door was closed and the lady of the house told her husband 'don't come in here.' There were a lot of people in that room that had attended this wonderful upscale clinic that had had one child that had been intimidated by this same doctor."

"One woman was told, 'your mother's in the church. She's just going to die if you know. What you need to do is fix it so that this never happens again.'

Another woman was told, 'you know your brother went to jail and that runs in the family. I can fix that. All you have to do is sign the paper.' Another girl was told, 'you trying to go to work. How can you work with a lot of kids?'

"It was pressure. He used it. He ruled it. He worked it. He owned it and he got away with it. The bad part about it is through the years, a lot of these women are dead. I live in Fayetteville, North Carolina and the other women have clearly told me they are not coming forward. They are not going to be embarrassed. They are not going to put their lives in focus or on television or on the Fayetteville Observer's front page or in front of a group of people that

they have never met. And you know what I told them, I see you when I get back because that's exactly what I'm going to do."

"I don't know if the gentleman is alive and I must quite frankly tell you that I've been warned twice. I cannot say this. But, I'm just loving saying it. I don't know if he's alive today but ask me tomorrow. Because from time to time, I do call him to check to make sure. I mean after all. If I can't have a child, why should he not get a phone call? Sterilization is wrong on so many levels when it was done like this. You just don't do it. We're supposed to be civilized. We're the United States for god's sake. This was so wrong. We are going to need health care. You just can't imagine a lot of medical problems, mental, physical. Teeth. I mean anything because you have taken a part of the body that produces hormones and destroyed it."

"In my case, I didn't really find out how badly it was destroyed. I thought I was having them tied. No. He must have been having a darn good day that day. He clipped them and burned them ladies. But he constantly assured me 'don't worry. The moment you find a man it can be undone.' And when I found a man, he thought it was funny. He laughed at me three times, three times in his little doctor's office and his little white shirt, rocking back and forth laughing. When you go through that, something that traumatic, you don't get over it. No matter how many times I put it in the box. I still brush against it."

"My best friend and her husband were going to have a baby. I found out when she was four months because they were scared to tell me. So they had a big family dinner with her mother and her sisters and then her husband comes in and they sit down like somebody's dying and they're looking at me. And I'm like what what?"

We got some news to tell you. Martha is going to have a baby. Oh that's good. That's great. Are you sure?"

"That's how being a eugenics ...no, no, no, not victim a eugenics survivor affects other people's lives. Here is a family about to have a child. They're not thrilled. They're more

concerned about how I'm going to deal with the news. My son tells me you know three bedrooms. We might need to move some of this stuff. Why? You're gonna be a grandmother. People worry about how I will take it because they know how it hurts and there's one trait that runs through all of us. We all love kids. It will be different if we hated them. But, I guess maybe by this happening to us we all love kids."

"You young man (pointing at Mr. Charles Holt), I wish I would have met you twenty or thirty years ago because I have learned when a man gets the slightest hint you cannot have a child, he could outrun a gazelle on a plane. So, I'm still single. But, with five grandkids I'm not in the mood to even date much less think about marriage. I made a live for myself. I've re, re, recreated me so many times. I had to in order to keep my mentally stability and my life and then in 2005 I didn't have to fight so hard anymore because a voice said to me on the phone, 'You are not alone.' And ever since then, I haven't been. I got a lot of people that are with me. But I'm going to be fighting for medical compensation more than you could ever know."

Would you like a question? (directed at the Task Force) You can. It's alright. It's cool. Go on.

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair:

"Thank you for your comments. Again, we have heard quite a few stories of both horror and survival here this morning and we appreciate everyone in the room who has taken the time to come out this morning and to draw your attention and pay attention to this issue. But we particularly want to thank those of you again who have been affected most directly by these decisions and the work that we're doing for what you have done in coming out today to help us put a face to and a story to what we are trying to decide. And of course, we have a lot of things to consider as a Task Force. But nothing will be more informative to our work than what we've done and heard from this morning. So, we have heard from everyone who we are aware of who wished to speak. That's correct?"

Ms. Australia Clay:

“I know that you’re compensating the victims. But, my one concern that I need for you to think about is where is Gamble and where are the pharmaceutical companies who were involved? I think they need to pay some of this too.”

Final Remarks/Adjournment

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair thanked guests for attending and sharing their stories and reminded victims about the public recorded comment line that is open to July 7th to share their input. She also reminded attendees that the press would be available after the hearing for comments.

The Task Force adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13th, 2011 at the same location, the Eaddy Agronomics Building, 4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh, NC.

<END>

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

**Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Executive Director
NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation**

Respectfully Approved: (unofficial until signed)

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair

Date

Public Hearing Attendees on following pages

Public Hearing Attendees:

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Executive Director
Dalisha Vickers Johnson, Program Associate
Tequila Peele, Program Associate
Jill Lucas
Rep. Larry Womble
Karen Klaich
Lamont Middleton
Anne Bander, Chief Operating Officer
Nick Abram
Julius Walker
Cyreeta Hannan
Jakayla Hart
Braina Branch
Lydia Cozart
Kennia Brumby
Joshua Mcloy
Brandon Green
Charles Ander Holt
Janice Carmichael
Denise Solomon
Curtis Phipps
Anne Spears
Tom Bree
Richard Stockdale
Cicero Williams Jr.
James Waddell Moore
Amanda Kramer
Katie Edgerton
Dahlresma Marks-Evans
Lacaya Evans
Rep. Earline Parmon
William Zeke Creech
Katherine A. Slayer
June Michaux, Deputy Secretary
Daren Bakst
Debbi Blake
Dick Lankford
Gretchen Aycock
Don Akin
Rep. Marilyn Avila
Ellen Russell
Meghan Brown

NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
Department of Administration
NC House of Representatives
South Central High School

NC Department of Administration
North Carolina Institute Minority Economic Development
North Carolina Institute Minority Economic Development

Associated Press

Governor's Office

NC House of Representatives
Department of Administration
UNC Law
Department of Administration
John Locke Foundation
NC Department of Cultural Resources
NC Department of Cultural Resources
Department of Administration
State Center for Health Statistics
Rep. - General Assembly
The Arc of North Carolina
Governor's Office

Meghan Melloy
Angella Dunston
Jessica Wagner
Michelle Lanier
Candice Dawkins-McClain
Jamiya McClain
Adam Barrett
Angel G.
Tanya Wilson
Wonda
Randon Pender
Marcelius Braxton
Johnathan Phipps
Imannah Rasheed
Rep. Pat Hurly
Susan Whitehead
Cutie Williams
Tara Moore
Corey Dunn

Governor's Office

DCR – African American Heritage Commission

John Locke Foundation

President, Winston-Salem Black Chamber of Commerce

Center for Civil Rights

NC House of Representatives

NCGA

The Arc

DRNC

Public Hearing Speakers:

Elaine Riddick
Tony Riddick
Willis C. Lynch
Deloris Mark
Australia Clay
Melissa Hyatt
Karen Beck
Lela Dunston
Deborah Chesson
Naomi Schenk
Corey Dunn
Anne Russell
Mary English

Public Hearing Press Attendees:

Tony Gupton	WRAL TV
Keith Bake	WRAL TV
Chris Keimis	WFMY TV
Mark Geary	WFMY TV
Jim Bound	Associate Press
Jessica Pic	Wake Forest University
Brent Richardson	Wake Forest University
Catherine Weiner	Wake Forest University
Loretta Bonity	News 14 Carolina
Randall Pinketa	CBS News Path
Scott Sexton	W Journal
John Railey	WinstonSalem Journal
Chris Peter	CBS
Kelly Cobiella	CBS
Ken Hackney	CBS
Julie Rose	NPR
Gordon D.	Al Jazeera English TV
James Hamilton	Al Jazeera English TV
Allen Breed	Associate Press
Alex Freedom	WNCT_TV 9
Rose Hoban	WUNC
Gurnac Scott	WPTF
Kristen Salooney	AJE
Regina Wang	N&O
Jennifer Calhoun	Fayetteville Observer
Trausfan	Winston Salem
Laura Leslu	WRAL
Jim Krasola	CBS Radio
Liddy	N
Renee Chou	WRAL TV
Terry Cantrell	WRAL TV
Shaniella Sherman	Washington Informer
Adam Kissmick	Independent
Kim	NBC 17 News
Jason Lee	Independent
Jon Camp	WTVD
Valerie Bauerlein	Wall Street Journal
Nick Zelano	WTVD
Ray Unruh	CBS
Katy	Governor Press Office
Tim Ruffin	CBS