



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, July 13, 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.

Recommendations Reviewed at July 13th, 2011 Meeting:

- **Financial Damages for Surviving Victims**
\$60 million damages package to surviving victims averaging at least \$20,000 per survivor
- **Continuation & Expansion Funding to Keep Foundation Open**
Associated cost with providing compensation
- **Tax Exemption on Damages**
Request legislative tax exemption to avoid reducing the amount of damages a survivor receives
- **Permanent Personal Income Tax Exemption in Lieu of Damages**
Permanent personal income tax exemption for survivors in lieu of damages
- **Health Care & Mental Health Care**
Health Care or State Health Plan coverage for survivors
Limit care to health concerns related to sterilization procedures
Mental Health Coverage for survivors
- **Exhibit**
Cost of fixing and maintaining
- **Eugenics Memorial Marker**
Erected on corner in Raleigh in 2009
- **Educational Benefits**
Education benefits for survivors could not be as relevant now as it was when it was first considered in 2003
- **Inclusion of Eugenics History in Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Curriculum**
DPI included eugenics history in current curriculum
- **Access to Records**
Review policies related to accessing records and possible expansion in access
- **Records Maintenance/Database/Digitalization**
Funding will be needed to preserve records and put into a more user friendly format for increased searches

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 fourth meeting on Wednesday, July 13th, 2011 at 10:00 am. The meeting was held at the NC Department of Agriculture's Eddy Agronomics Building Conference Room located at 4300 Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Task Force meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair. The meeting was attended by the following individuals: (Please see last page)

Dr. Laura Gerald welcomed everyone to the fourth Task Force meeting and reminded members and attendees that this is the first meeting that the task force has the opportunity to discuss possible recommendations amongst themselves. Ms. Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Executive Director of the Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation shared that a table of recommendations made by victims and their family members at the June 22nd meeting were featured on page two of the June minutes.

The Task Force agreed to approve the May 25th, 2011 minutes and June 22nd, 2011 minutes later in the meeting. Dr. Gerald goes over the meeting agenda and the brain storming worksheet listed in the Task Force note book. The Task Force realizes that the most difficult decision will be deciding on an actual amount for monetary compensation. Dr. Gerald explores the brainstorming worksheet and address the first point; whether or not the Task Force supports compensation.

The Task Force agrees with recommending compensation. However Dr. Lenwood Davis states the more realistic the figure that is suggested, than the better possibility of the recommendation getting passed with respect to the budget. Ms. Phoebe Zerwick notes that an amount for compensation eventually needs to be discussed and agreed upon. Dr. Gerald agrees and asks for an estimate of living victims. Ms. Fuller Cooper states that in October Don Akin estimated that there were 2,944 living victims. Mr. Akin added that the estimate is probably and overestimate and that the more realistic figure is probably around 1,500 to 2,000.

Dr. Gerald addresses the thought that suggesting a figure that is too low would further victimize members of the Eugenics Program. Although that opinion is noted, any figure recommended would not determine the value of an individual's life. Dr. Gerald asks for Task Force reactions to that statement. Ms. Demetrius Berry states very clearly that the amount recommended by no means is meant to put a value on a victim's life. It is a financial form of an apology. Judge Fetzer Mills agrees with the previous thoughts and adds that it is impossible to place a monetary value on anyone's life. But if the recommended figure is enormous it may be ignored by the people who write the checks. Judge Mills is not sure what amount should be recommended at this moment but the recommended figure should be realistic.

The Task Force calculates possible compensation at \$20,000 for 3,000 victims and determines that the total would be 60 million dollars. Ms. Zerwick expresses that it is her desire to achieve a figure that does not further victimize people.

Dr. Gerald asks who should receive compensation and if it should be limited to just victims themselves. Ms. Berry states that her recommendation may be unpopular; however, compensation should be limited to living survivors only, not their heirs or family members. Judge Mills and Ms. Zerwick agree and state that trying to figure out survivor's heirs or next of kin would be unrealistic. Furthermore, coming up with a figure that would encompasses heirs in

a compensation package is not sustainable. Dr. Gerald says that compensating 1,500 to 3,000 living victims at \$20,000 per victims is an estimated packet of 30 to 60 million dollars.

The Task Force brainstorms next on whether or not there should be variations on the amount of compensation that victims receive based on the factors such as age and type of procedure performed. Ms. Zerwick is the first to speak and believes that the process of compensation should be kept simple due to unclear records and the fact that it would be immoral to pass judgment on what happened in the past. Ms. Berry agrees and states that this process should be kept clear and limited to verified living survivors.

The Task Force next addresses revenue sources for a damages package and if it is within their responsibility to identify possible revenue sources or if this area should be decided by the legislator? Judge Mills responds that this issue will be decided by the legislature and that the funds should come from the general fund of the State of NC and not from a special fund that was created for other purposes (with regard to the tobacco trust fund). The state committed the action and should be held responsible for compensation. However the legislature has the authority and will make the final decision.

Ms. Zerwick not only agrees with Judge Mills, but adds that it would be worthwhile to put a revenue source into the recommendation. Ms. Fuller Cooper mentioned that no previous Task Force has recommended a revenue source. In combination with this Ms. Berry determines that a statute of limitations should be placed on the duration of time that compensation is available to insure that funds are being used and not to penalize victims. Dr. Davis agrees and believes that a statute of limitations will encourage victims to come forth and provide closure to this issue.

The Task Force begins to discuss associated cost with providing compensation (maintaining the office that verifies victims, searching records, maintaining, preserving and digitalizing records, outreach) and agreed that those funds will also need to come from the state. The Foundation will also need to continue addressing guidelines and protocols for efficiency and to prevent fraud. It is determined that the way that victims receive compensation will be the same as the way that victims are verified now. Victims will have to contact the Foundation to ensure that all things are in compliance with HIPPA regulations.

Ms. Fuller Cooper explained that the Foundation cannot contact victims initially not just because of HIPPA regulations but also because records do may not have accurate information such as current addresses, correct legal names as well as Social Security numbers. She adds that some individuals do not desire anyone to know that they were sterilized and that outreach will need to be well funded to ensure maximum reach. She also notes that mailing unrequested information could be a violation of health privacy. She gives the example of a husband opening a wife's mail and finding out that she was sterilized. This scenario could bring other problems. Moreover, some sterilization cases are in conjunction with adoption information and those records are

permanently sealed in the State of North Carolina. Ms. Zerwick asks a follow up question with regard to the method in which health insurance companies release information by mail. Ms. Berry states that members receive mail from health insurance agencies as willing participants. Dr. Gerald expresses her concern that some form of outreach is necessary to inform the general public that the State has funds available to victims.

The Task Force continues their discussion about the records in regards to who owns them. Ms. Fuller Cooper enlightens the Task Force on processes of obtaining the Eugenics Board records. She states that the records are owned by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) whereas the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) maintains those records. But all permission to obtain records goes through DHHS. House Bill 374 has been passed certifying that victim's records are not public record but are public enough so that no one is able to identify the victim.

After a brief pause Ms. Zerwick states that sterilization was a culture; therefore many people were sterilized without informed consent. She wants the general public to understand that this compensation is only for verified victims of the Eugenics Board Program. Ms. Fuller Cooper testifies to the fact that the Foundation has received phone calls about present day sterilization victims. Those victims are typically referred to the North Carolina Medical Board so that they might receive assistance.

Dr. Gerald highlights the importance of continuing The Foundation because it not only deals with victims of the Eugenics Board Program but also assists other sterilization victims by referring them to the NC Medical Board. Ms. Berry states that keeping The Foundation open the duration that compensation is available should be added into the recommendation and Ms. Zerwick agrees. Dr. Gerald asks Ms. Fuller Cooper for estimates related to continuing the Foundation and if all staffing needs are met. Ms. Fuller Cooper explained that The Foundation has one full time staff member and that the two other members have temporary, time sensitive positions. She states that at the very least the two temporary staffers need to be hired full time and that the Department of Cultural Resources needs staffing and funding as well.

Ms. Berry places importance on the fact that man power is needed to assist victim in receiving compensation and believes that victims should not be forced to wait on compensation due to limited staff. Ms. Zerwick enquires on the length of verification and the verification process. Ms. Fuller Cooper responds that it is dependent upon how many requests are submitted in a month. In a month where there is an average of 5-15 requests it takes about two or three weeks, however if there is a large number of requests it can take anywhere from 30 to 45 days and depends on the amount of staff that Cultural Resources has available.

Dr. Gerald seeks more in-depth information on DHHS's role in the records search. Ms. Fuller Cooper explains that DHHS owns the Eugenics Board records and suggests that Zeke Creech,

General Counsel for the Department of Administration, may be better at answering that question in the absence of DHHS' legal counsel or another representative. Mr. Creech explained that Cultural Resources and DHHS have an agreement allowing the Department of Administration (DOA) to access the records even though ownership of the records belongs to DHHS. Dr. Gerald expresses that there seems to be an issue with the idea that proper processes and procedures have yet to be clarified by DHHS with DCR and DOA. The Task Force states that they would like to hear from DHHS at a future meeting.

The Task Force begins discussion on providing a recommendation for more than just monetary compensation. They are considering adding a health component. However the Task Force would need more input from DHHS concerning medical forms of compensation. Judge Mills verbalizes that health care should only be for issues that occurred because of the sterilization and does not think that the legislature will agree with providing blanket health care for issues that the state did not cause and even then health care options should be define. Ms. Berry agrees that health care should have stipulations. Dr. Davis states that many of the victims are eligible for Medicare and notices that a previous commission presented a health care component. The Task Force looks to Ms. Fuller Cooper for more insight.

Ms. Fuller Cooper expressed that a state health access plan was discussed by 2008 house commission regarding victims that are in their early 50's. She noted that the state cannot interfere with Federal medicare regulations regarding healthcare without congressional approval. Judge Mills began to explore the thought of compensable injuries in court and approximate causes. Ms. Zerwick asks if there is an estimate of the number of victims that would be in the age range below Medicare eligible. Mr. Akin is not sure of the exact number of victims that fall within this range but states that he will supply this information to Task Force. The Task Force deems that this topic will require more research and thought.

The Task Force continues to explore service compensation and enquires about a previous committee's recommendation for a mental health component. Ms. Fuller Cooper is not definite on their reasons for this recommendation and states that this is something that would need the Department of Health and Human Services input on formulating a mental health recommendation. Ms. Zerwick believes that exploring this component is valuable, it could provide counseling. Ms. Berry agrees and thinks that it is the second most important form of compensation.

Ms. Fuller Cooper shared that many victims felt isolated and alone and could not speak with family members about sterilizations. Victims have asked for peer to peer support groups. Dr. Gerald asks if mental health support should be extended to family members. Ms. Berry and Judge Mills express dissatisfaction with extending any compensation to family members. Ms. Zerwick thinks that living victims could have family counseling if that was part of the emotional and psychiatric issues, but still would only be for the victim.

Next the Task Force enquires about the educational benefits recommended by the 2003 commission. Ms. Fuller Cooper speculated that the relevancy for education may have been important to victims ten years ago when reform efforts first began. The Task Force decided that this recommendation no longer has relevance based on the June 22nd meeting where none of the victims mentioned it as a possible form of compensation.

The Task Force does not have a clear recommendation on health care. To add clarity Ms. Zerwick introduces the thought of contacting medical schools, universities and/or schools of counseling in this state to see if they could be involved in counseling since they were involved in the sterilization processes. Dr. Gerald thought Ms. Zerwick was going to speak on ethics. Ms. Fuller Cooper added that the ethics issue has never been taken up in the past although it was mentioned before; it is an area that needs exploration if the Task Force is willing to explore it.

The Task Force begins to confer on general education for the state of North Carolina, the Eugenics exhibit, and the Eugenics Memorial Marker (already implemented). However Ms. Zerwick proposed a report from the John Locke foundation that suggested living victims be given tax exemption on their income tax in addition to payment. Ms. Fuller Cooper stated that this was important because compensation money would be subject to state and federal taxes and receiving compensation may also affect some victims' public benefits. This was the concern that Cory Dunn mentioned from Disability rights (in the June 22nd meeting). Many disabled victims will lose their public benefits if they are not protected.

Ms. Berry stated that a settlement in a personal injury case is not taxable. The compensation should not be subject to taxation but the legislature would need to make that happen. Judge Mills expressed that if compensation is labeled as compensatory damages for a wrong that occurred then maybe it could be viewed as a settlement. Ms. Zerwick wonders that if someone receives a lump sum settlement will it jeopardize their Social Security benefits. No one is able to give a clear answer. Task Force will need an opinion from DHHS says Dr. Gerald.

Ms Zerwick makes it clear that the Task Force does not want to abridge anyone's public health benefits. Dr. Gerald asks for more information on the John Locke article. Ms. Zerwick affirms that John Locke expressed that victims should not have to pay state income tax because the state wronged them, ergo giving them money is like paying for their own compensation. Dr. Gerald mentioned that some victims do not reside in North Carolina. Ms. Berry rendered that compensation can cross state lines, but benefits cannot. This is not to discourage a recommendation for other benefits but needs to be mentioned.

Ms Berry also submitted the idea that it may be more attractive to the legislature to provide permanent income tax exemption instead of compensation. So instead of paying \$60 million, they are just not collecting any money. Ms. Zerwick states The Locke Foundation was suggesting both. Dr. Gerald expresses that it is possible for the Task Force is to suggest a pool of

different options. Ms. Zerwick likes the idea of calling compensation “damages” instead of “compensation” because the word “damages” carries the admission of wrong doing by the state. Dr. Gerald adds that possible tax exemptions for damages can be added to the list and also finding out the implications for benefits as well.

The Task Force reverts back to examining the Eugenics exhibit, inclusion of Eugenics in public schools and ethics training. They inquire the status of the exhibit. Ms. Fuller Cooper states that the exhibit is still stored at the old state records building and will need refurbishment. A rough estimate of the cost associated with updating the exhibit is somewhere around \$15,000 to \$20,000 but an official estimate from Design Dimensions is pending.

Another cost would be transporting and properly handling the exhibit do to its grand statue. Task Force members begin submitting a list of ideas to possibly reduce the cost of the exhibit. Ms. Berry says that instead of having a traveling exhibit make it stationary in a permanent location in Raleigh, perhaps at the legislature. Ms. Zerwick has a number of ideas to get the story out to the public about Eugenics. However, they may be better served for a later meeting. Some of the ideas were: oral stories, history through the website, many economical and creative ideas for school curriculum and ethics training, and that educating the public should not just be limited to the Eugenics exhibit.

Ms. Fuller Cooper expresses that the exhibit has been used for outreach as well as to education to the public. Ms. Zerwick is worried that the exhibit an expensive, cumbersome responsibility. Ms. Fuller Cooper proposes that people who request it can also help fund the cost of moving the exhibit to offset some of the cost. Also the exhibit can be converted into a medium that is easier to move. Dr. Davis states that although it may be easier to make the exhibit stationary, from an historical point, there is concern about people physically seeing the exhibit. By seeing it the public will have a greater appreciation for the exhibit. He thinks all resources and avenues should be exhausted to make sure the exhibit is displayed. He analyzes the thought that some other entity may co-sponsor to help pay for some of its expenses. Ms. Berry thinks that a combination of what she and Ms. Zerwick said can cut down on the exhibit cost; for example putting the exhibit in PowerPoint form on the website so that it can be viewed from the privacy of one’s own home. Ms. Fuller Cooper has already spoken to Cultural Resources about that and they are willing to make the exhibit into an online format.

Ms. Zerwick believes that all the ideas combined will enhance the North Carolina Educational system. Dr. Gerald wonders if pass commissions looked at using corporations who were involved in the Eugenics program to fund some of the educational efforts. Ms. Fuller Cooper affirms that no corporations were mentioned; however they did consider nonprofit organizations and grant money. It was determined that grants are not available for compensation or digitizing records. Ms. Zerwick states that some documentary schools may be interested in expanding this exhibit and making it into more of a digitally accessible kind of work. Dr. Gerald agrees and

desires to incorporate other sources of funding from corporations and other groups while we are brainstorming. Ms. Fuller Cooper applauds the Media for being instrumental in outlining corporations' involvement in Eugenics programs as well as the time frame they were involved. The Task Force is informed that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has already added Eugenics to curriculum. It is determined that the Task Force will add information that the DPI would like to know regarding their current curriculum and available resources.

The Task Force meeting seems to be drawing to a close therefore Dr. Gerald begins instruction on the process of presenting the preliminary recommendations. She says this: "In terms of process we will summarize things in the meetings to date, and consider forms of compensation, thoughts around mental health and tax status, and summarize concerns around other forms of compensation. Stop short of making a recommendation and given the time frame, we will send a summary of this to the Task Force and allow each person to weigh in on the summary. Then Charmaine and I will submit the preliminary recommendations."

Ms. Fuller Cooper reminds the Task Force that they have not addressed all of the victims' recommendations listed in the June 22nd minutes. The Task Force backtracks as Dr. Gerald reads list of recommendations from public hearing on June 22nd meeting. Task Force realizes that they neglected to address the concern of adding a victim to the Task Force it is noted that the members on the Task Force were appointed by Governor Bev Perdue and they are unsure if they have the ability to expand themselves. Ms. Gretchen Aycock is called upon for clarity and responds "That's within the purview of the Governor."

Another recommendation that was overlooked was the one presented by Corey Dunn that stated "maximize access to records so Disability Rights NC clients can use them for other purposes other than this Foundation's work." Ms. Fuller Cooper suggests that Corey Dunn may need to come before the Task Force to clarify her recommendation. Dr. Gerald determines that the Task Force has addressed all issues that it can at this meeting and begins adjourning the meeting. She gives instructions that the Task Force is to review notes from this brainstorming session, summarize their consensus, and make recommendations. They will indicate areas that need further information, and share information amongst themselves in order to make the preliminary recommendation to the Governor and continue meeting once a month. The Task Force may or may not have an August meeting, contingent upon feedback from the Governor. Dr. Gerald asks Meghan Brown whether the Governor will provide feedback in time for an August meeting or whether a late September meeting is more realistic. Ms. Brown shared that staff will probably provide feedback but she didn't know the timeline.

Ms. Australia Clay (daughter of deceased victim) interjects, stating that she believes the recommendations are incomplete and disagrees with the thought that the descendants of deceased victims not receive compensation. She would like this thought to be placed in the Task Force's

recommendation. Ms. Lela Mae Dunston stated her agreement with Ms. Clay's concerns. With that stated, Dr. Gerald begins to adjourn.

Representative Larry Womble asks to make public comments. Dr. Gerald agrees.

****All attempts have been made to accurately and respectfully transcribe the words and language detailed in the following statements to truthfully represent every speaker.****

N.C. State Representative Larry Womble:

“Good afternoon. Eugenics a fancy name for sterilization. I am very compassionate about this issue and have worked on it for 10 years. If I've been involved for 10 years, what do you think about the victims themselves and it is a shame and disgrace what has happened to them. I thank the Task Force for all their work. But at the same time, I cannot be timid about this, I can't be Mille mouthed. I cannot be cute about this because it's not a cute and nice subject. We did to humans what we do to animals, we spade and neuter animals not people. And we did this to children 10 and 11 and 12 years old, they were not criminals, they did nothing wrong. We talk about we are the land the free and the home of the brave and when we do this to children and I'm wondering how sincere we really are.

And whatever term we want to call it to make it seem nice, it is compensation. That's what I've been calling it in my bills and in my legislation. You compensate people for something you've done to them that they do not deserve. And I understand being on a committee and being on a Task Force, I've been on one myself. Some things you may not say and you don't want to say, something you may feel are inappropriate. But when you have those live human beings come before you like they did at the last meeting how in the world can you stand to dismiss them? How do you have victims come forward and speak before you and you don't stand aggressively for them? I don't care how much it hurts the State, the State did it. The State should have to pay for it! I'm here to represent the state of NC and not for anyone to like me. This is horrendous. It almost borders on genocide. We talk about the communist countries, Osama Bin Laden, third world counties. Well we have done things just as bad, if not worse. To children!

I come just a little frustrated when I see people try to skip around it. Dance around it, rather than face an issue for what it is. It's an ungodly thing that we have done to these children. I'm here because right is right and right won't wrong nobody. It is no amount of money that you can give to somebody. But it can't be something that will be a double whammy to them. You're victimizing them again! What is \$10,000? What is \$20,000? What is \$50,000? It is really nothing, that you have destroyed your family. And this was done forcibly, by the welfare department, county departments, and you talking about private rights and citizens rights. They

didn't have any rights and if they did you violated them! I'm not talking about you personally on the panel or the staff. I'm talking about the state of North Carolina, the government. And yes I'm talking about the legislature, I serve in the legislature and it's a wrong thing what the legislature did. I'm here to be a voice. If you didn't know something, you should have asked me or the people here, I'm the one that lived it! Ask about the recommendations, I chaired the committee. And I appreciate Charmaine for bringing herself up to speed up to speed in such a short amount of time.

We gave Darryl Hunt over \$1.5 million for his incarceration and he wasn't even castrated. So if a million is appropriate for people going into jail who were incarcerated, and they proved that they were innocent, what do you think is appropriate for people in prison in their own bodies? Because of what we did to them. Mr. Lynch was castrated.

I'm not here to make it easy for the state. It's a difference between being easy and being right. The state of North Carolina has danced these citizens around for ten years! We come up with money to fund anything we want to fund. We come up with \$25 million for a fishing pier and here you have all these people with their lives hanging in the balance and we want to be nice. We need to be unapologetic, aggressive, and unashamed to fight for these people.

The other thing we want to talk about and the records. They should have access whenever they want them. It's their records, their bodies, you did it to them. But I understand protecting those who don't want their records but for the ones that want them they should have access.

A figure. There is no figure. I started out with \$50,000 per victim in the bill and they said that's too much. The \$20,000 is not what I recommended, it's what they said would be a place holder.

This display. I aggressively, I 110% support this display going around North Carolina. How many folks going to come from the mountains and the coast to see this display? Very few. Again you're using the excuse of the cost. I'm not caring about what it costs the state at this time. I care about doing the right thing, and the right thing is to put this display in travel throughout the state. It's not the height of this room either. It's just a little taller than I am, it's an excellent display. Things you see tend to stay with you longer than things you see on a video or read about in a report. Videos can enhance the display but not take its place and it needs to travel around.

We give money to anything we want to do. We can't come up with \$15,000 for a display? Something is wrong.

There other people that I think we need to go after too and if the state is not going to do it. I think we will need to do it. Proctor and Gamble funded this; Hanes Corporation in Winston-Salem funded this. And walk around with Michael Jordan wearing their underwear because they want to improve society.

When you start determining who gets to live, you're playing god. We might want to look at going after these hospitals and corporations. We need to go after organizations as well as hospitals and doctors that did it. Somewhere it's supposed to be to do no harm.

Now if you want to be popular and you want to be well liked this kind of business is not for you. I got in this business of trying to do right.

And it comes a time when you're going to have to stand and speak up and speak out on things such as this. We do it with potholes, garbage, and underdeveloped playgrounds. Not saying they are not important in their own right. But when you measure it against someone's life, it's not right.

Mr. Lynch, we cut off his legacy, his privacy. There are no more Lynch's on this earth not that can come from him anyway. I want you all to have compassion. Do something. Show compassion. Everybody in here can do something. Let me congratulate the media for keeping this alive. If it had not been for the media, we wouldn't be here today. I'm not worried about the tea party; I'm not worried about Sarah Palin. I'm worried about this today but it doesn't get the national attention because it proves that the government is at fault and the government doesn't want to admit it.

The congratulations go to Gov Easley and Perdue. Easley first to make apology and Perdue was probably advised not to take a stand on this. And she created a foundation to leave no stone unturned. You can't have a complete story, a true story unless you include the good, the bad and the ugly.

I don't care where the money comes from really. The state needs to find out about taking care of these people that it wronged and I need your help. The things that we accomplished have been mainly by me.

Some the things that we have done have been easy, cosmetics. But I get my encouragement from these victims. Do you know how much flack we got about that monument and we had to go to so many different people to get a marker.

This foundation, you didn't happen to be picked. It had to go through a whole lot of work and a whole lot of meetings. And I'm glad you served it but don't throw this opportunity away. Don't be ashamed. Don't be abashed. Don't be malle-mouthed. I personally support the compensation going to those survivors or to that estate. When someone dies, it goes to that estate. And we should make it easy for them to get their records and not to put up hurdles. It's not my intention to offend somebody, anybody. But when I see people like Elaine Riddick stand up here and cry her heart out and people like Nial Ramirez whose health is declining. These people are dying. I hate to say it, but they are.

Some people are saying that they are waiting until we die off so that the State won't have any responsibility. All you are doing is making recommendations. But your recommendations need to be powerful, straight-forward, and aggressive. Don't worry about cutting the money. Let them worry about that. Let them find the money. I'm gonna be fighting for them.

Well, where they going to find it from. That's the legislature's job to find it.

I'm going to put in some more bills. They may not get passed. I take a little bit of solace in we have made some baby steps. It took John Conyers 20 years to honor Martin Luther King's birthday, to honor a birthday. I hope it's not 20 years for me, I been working on it 10 years. Sometimes government can be the people's worst enemy.

Thank you people. Thank you state people. Thank everyone. Thank you panel. Thank you Charmaine. Thank Governor Bev Perdue. All my accolades and appreciation go to her. Up in Winston-Salem, before of all people a rotary club, that lady, I have a whole lot of respect for her for standing up. Against insurmountable odds, standing tall.

I look at Mr. Tony Riddick over there and say we tried. But there comes a time when we must stop trying and start implementing.

Thank you again. I appreciate y'all allowing me to make these remarks and as long as you keep meetings open to the public I hope to attend many more of them. I'm glad to be of help to you.

I have two bushel baskets in the office right now that some of you don't even know about and the people of North Carolina are calling me asking me for help. I thank you." <end Womble>

Dalresma Marks-Evans:

The next person to stand up is Ms. Dalresma Marks-Evans. She states "My grandmother was a victim of sterilization. My grandmother is deceased. Yet my mother and aunt deal with what happened to her. But guess what my grandmother is a victim too. But you also need to give it to the deceased. She was victimized and to not give her compensation is to say 'so what'. Senator Womble you took a lot of words out of my mouth and I appreciate you fighting for this. But my grandmother is a victim too and I hope you put that into your considerations."

Australia Clay:

"I'm appreciative, other people that are here, I thank you. I hear what you say. And me being a daughter of a deceased victim, I hope that you care. And Senator Womble you did share what we've been whispering across to each other this whole meeting and I don't think you're ready for

your preliminary recommendation on August 1st. There's a lot more that should be done. I agree with anybody else it should go to her estate. In your report, I want you to make sure you put in there that we disagree that the living descendants for the victims not be compensated too.

I love the idea of the exhibit but I hate the idea of someone getting \$20,000 and not being able to get that Medicare. \$20,000 is a slap in the face, \$50,000 sound a little better. But you're talking about some body's life. So make sure that is taken care of. I don't care where that money comes from. I don't care if it comes from the tobacco fund. And I still say a Million dollars is not too much. This is the holocaust of North Carolina. It needs to go to the Congress of the United States. Other states were involved too."

Tony Riddick:

"I'll be brief. It's a big burden that you have and it's a huge task but you all are certainly most qualified to handle it. Thanks to the Task Force and thanks to Representative Womble. And I applaud the board. I'm Elaine Riddick's son and she's not here in part because she's not feeling well physically or psychologically. West Germany had to do for Israel that had the Jewish World Congress and the Jewish World Congress went from direction.

What's actually bothering me and you're a board and when you're doing something, you can't worry about whose funding it and whether they are a Republican or a Democratic. And I was here and I heard the victim say \$20,000 is not enough, then why are we considering \$20,000? We shouldn't be concerned about the impact of our recommendations on the state. We need to deal with the fact that these victims were devastated.

I'm 43. My son came her six years ago, I was 37. Prior to that I thought something was done to me. I thought that something had been done to me. I thought that it was impossible for me to give birth to a child because of what they did to my mother and so did Tony the child of another victim. Look at what this has done to us psychologically. Put yourself in the place of the victims. Thank you."

Katie Edgerton:

"I'm a victim. And once you've been broken. It'll never be the same and it's something you just have to live with, you'll never be the same." *[not a verified victim of the state's Eugenics Board program]*

Lela Mae Dunston:

“I’m a victim and I thank all of y’all. But \$20,000 ain’t enough money for my body. For them to take and humiliate and cut me up, ain’t no way. Ain’t no way, I ain’t been right since then. Something about this state here just ain’t right. What is North Carolina here doing to their people? It’s ridiculous what they’re doing. I hope they ain’t doing this to little children no more. That’s why so many things are happening today because God ain’t pleased with it, look at all these storms it’s cause God ain’t pleased. He ain’t pleased and \$20,000 ain’t enough for what happen to me and the rest of these victims. It ain’t enough for us. Look into your heart and tell somebody that it ain’t enough. I have a son here. What is he going to do if I leave today or tomorrow? He ain’t got nothing. Ya’ll need to look into it.”

Final Remarks/Adjournment

Dr. Gerald restates that the Task Force has not and will not make any recommendations until the August 1st deadline. This was the Task Force’s first opportunity to digest and brainstorm the ideas that we heard from the previous listing session. She states again that no recommendation has been presented. Ms. Fuller Cooper acknowledged that Sharnese Ransome from DHHS is present in the room and may be useful to answering some questions. In response to Ms. Fuller Cooper, Ms. Ransome nodded her head but did not provide the Task Force with a verbal response. Dr. Gerald expresses to Ms. Ransome that she will be in contact with DHHS with respect to public benefits and with agency needs.

Dr. Gerald acknowledged and signed June 2011 and July 2011 minutes. Meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm.

**Official Meeting Recorder:
Tequila Peele, Program Associate**

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

Respectfully Approved: (unofficial until signed)

Dr. Laura Gerald, Chair

Date

Meeting Attendees:

Charmaine Fuller Cooper, Executive Director	NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
Dalisha Vickers Johnson, Program Associate	NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
Tequila Peele, Program Associate	NC Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
Chris Schuessler	Arte TV
R. D.	Arte TV
Australia Clay	Daughter of Victim
Delores Marks	Daughter of Victim
Ann Doss Helms	Charlotte Observer
Andrea Pacetti	New 14
Anne R. Clve	Community Action
Leala Dunston	Victim
Tony Riddick	Son of Victim
Don Akin	State Center of Health Statistics
Jenn Kovaleski	ABC 11
Caitlin Goyner	ABC 11
Renee Elder	Associated Press
William Zeke Creech	Department of Administration
Dahlresma Marks-Evans	Granddaughter of Victim
Lacaya Evans	Great granddaughter of Victim
Narhcja Bond	Student
Katie Edgerton	Victim
Meghan Brown	Governors Office
Catherine McLean	
Darren Bakst	John Locke Foundation
John Calvin Young	John Locke Foundation
Alyssa Marcus	WPTF News
James W. Moore	Son of Victim
Gretchen Aycock	Department of Administration
AJ Donaldson	
Rep. Larry Womble	NC House of Representatives
June Michaux, Deputy Secretary	Department of Administration
Angella Dunston	
Sharnese Ransome	NC Department of Health and Human Services