



North Carolina Department of Administration

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Moses Carey Jr., Secretary

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EUGENICS TASK FORCE ASSIGNED TO PRESENT DETAILS OF NEXT STEPS

RALEIGH – One year from the day its clearinghouse operations were launched, the Eugenics Compensation Task Force on Thursday met to discuss next steps regarding its preliminary recommendations to compensate victims of the state’s former sterilization program.

Task Force Chair Dr. Laura Gerald gave members assignments regarding aspects of its Aug. 1 report for further study at its next meeting on Dec. 6. Assignments include examination of:

- Lump sum financial damages for living victims: Demetrius Worley-Berry, attorney, and Judge Fetzer Mills, retired
- Mental health services for living victims: Phoebe Zerwick, journalist, and Dr. Gerald, physician
- Funding for traveling eugenics exhibit: Dr. Lenwood Davis, historian

The full Task Force, in collaboration the [N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation](#), will work on issues related to the preliminary report’s fourth recommendation: Continuation and expansion funding for the Foundation. The group’s final report is due by Feb. 1, 2012.

Gov. Bev Perdue created the Sterilization Victims Foundation and the Eugenics Task Force to help identify victims of the former N.C. Eugenics Board Program and develop recommendations for appropriate compensation.

To date, 48 individuals have been verified as having been sterilized under the auspices of the former N.C. Eugenics Board, said Sterilization Victims Foundation Director Charmaine Fuller Cooper. Document research services are conducted by partners at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources with oversight of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rep. Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House, attended part of the meeting and commended the Task Force for its work on behalf of victims. He said that a Select Committee may be established to work concurrently in preparation for the Short Session to begin in spring 2012. He urged the Task Force to prioritize its topics, especially those which may have legislative impact.

The meeting concluded with an extended public comment period, including remarks from Rep. Larry Womble, victims and family members, and other advocates.

The Task Force is staffed by the N.C. Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation. The Foundation continues to receive verification inquiries from people who feel that they were impacted by the state's former Eugenics Board program that was abolished in 1977. If you believe you are or know someone who may have been affected by the program, call the toll-free hotline 877-550-6013 (or 919-807-4270) for information, or visit the Foundation's website: www.sterilizationvictims.nc.gov

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