



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Mary Killough, Director

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# Community Care Program Advisory Council (CCPAC) Meeting

April 7, 2026

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

In person:

Illinois State Fair Grounds, John R. Block Building, 801 East Sangamon, Springfield, IL

## Advisory Committee Members in Attendance

**Amber Knox, Ella Grays, James Quach, Laura Altenbaumer, Mattie Bryant, Peter Valessares, Shana Holmes, Theresa Collins Co-Chair, Becky Dragoo Co-Chair, John Magee, Marta Pereyra.**

## Advisory Committee Members not in Attendance

**Aaron Fortenbacher, Erica Collins (excused), Jackie Rodriguez, Richard Juarez (excused), Robert Spaulding, Sagar Kumar, Sherry Barter-Hamlin, Stephanie Garrigan, Tammy Tenton, Joanne Glenn, LaShun James, Lori Hendren, Marla Fronczak, Natasha Belli, Yolanda Curry, Yvette Lyles (excused).**

## Guest in Attendance

**Teresa Smith, Cindy Cunningham, Tish Rudnicki, Tatiana Tsikis, Svetlana Ananich, Awilda Gonzalez, Louie Prado, Telly Papanikolaou, Lisa Kracht, Christie Kirchhofer, Jazmen Eison, Trenace Rone, Kofi Jones, Karla Baht-Israel, Kendra Corzine, Mika Snell, Marsha Johnson, Gustavo Saberbein.**

## IDOA Staff in Attendance

**Joe Gardner, Fabian Eghiabumhe, Reier Deloney, Rhonda Armstead, Bresha Brewer, Meghan Nierhoff, Mary Gilman, Sarah Harris, Marqus Thurmond, Emily Howerton, Glenda Love, Liz Vogt, Jennifer Hebel, Derek Hedges, Amy Wiatr- Rodriguez, Carry Crawford, Regina Reif, Quintin Mercier, Freyda Sprattling, T’Kira Siler-Wilkerson.**

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## Agenda

### Call to Order

Call to order occurred at 10:12 am by Theresa Collins, Co-Chair.

### Welcome and Introductions

Welcome by Director Killough, thanking folks for coming to in-person meeting. Introductions by attendees.

### CCPAC Member Roll Call

Roll call was announced at 10:20 am by Theresa Collins.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from CCPAC Meeting on February 11, 2026

Motion to approve, Ella Gray, seconded by Peter Valessares. Meeting minutes are approved.

### Public Comments

No Public comments.

### IDoA Leadership & Staffing Updates

Becky Dragoo, Co-Chair and Mary Killough, Director provided staffing updates, including new Office of Older Americans Services Supervisor, Freyda Sprattling. APS has seen an increase in staff need as the APS calls have been on the rise.

### Fiscal/Budget Updates

Sarah Harris and Emily Howerton, IDOA provided budget and fiscal updates, including reminders on billing at the end of the fiscal year and thanking providers for completing direct care worker minimum wage certifications.

### Legislative Updates

IDOA staff provided legislative updates. Bills being tracked include mandated reporting for financial institutions and several bills supported by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Director Killough requested that the aging network make the Department aware of any opposition to proposed legislation and if anyone will be providing testimony.

## Federal Updates

Becky Dragoo provided federal updates including status of SNAP changes and awaiting state guidance on the definition of medically fragile persons related to Medicaid work requirements. The Department will continue to work with HFS and other partners on understanding and implementing upcoming changes.

## CCPAC Subcommittees Updates

- Services - Ella Grays, Chair/T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson, IDOA: Subcommittee met 3/31/26. Discussed EVV preparation for a monitoring visit and asked for volunteers to help with next newsletter.
- Policy - Deb Oberman, Chair/Sandy Pastore, IDOA: Subcommittee will have another meeting 4/17/26. Updates included need for overhaul to Partner Portal.
- Training - Kofi Jones, Chair/Liz Vogt, IDOA: Subcommittee met and reported language and policies as their main priority as of right now.
- Technology - James Quach, Chair/Derek Hedges, IDOA: Subcommittee met and is looking at how to prioritize in a strategic fashion by taking an inventory and reviewing how data systems are used. Training Tracking Portal (TTP) improvements have been made, and Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirement changes are also being reviewed. The subcommittee will continue to meet monthly.

## Planning Updates

Derek Hedges, Manager, Division of Planning, Research, Development, and Training provided updates including:

- Waiver Renewal Status – Waiver is set to expire 9/30/2026; the Department has prepared a draft application, which will go out for a public review comment prior to submission to federal CMS.
- Access Rule/Grievance Policy – The Department is working with HFS on development and implementation of grievance policies.
- Rate Study – The due date for responses is extended to 3/27/26. CCUs have a great response rate, and the Department is encouraging all other provider types to respond.
- EVV – The Department is working with 310+ in-home providers to ensure they are properly able to report data and achieve compliance.
- Aging Cares – Aging Cares will be rolling out to PSAs 4, 5, 6, and 7 in May. The Department is communicating with agencies in those PSAs to ensure a smooth implementation.

## Up Coming Retirement

Ella Grays announced she is retiring as of May 15, 2026. Director Killough thanked her for her work and service to CCPAC and on behalf of older adults across the state.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, Amber Knox, seconded by Ella Grays. Adjournment occurred at 12:16 PM.

## Next 2026 CCPAC Meeting Dates (all times 10am-12pm):

- Wednesday, June 17
- Tuesday, August 11
- Wednesday, October 21 (potentially in-person, TBC)
- Wednesday, December 16