

**MINUTES
ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**

**PESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN HOTEL
701 EAST ADAMS STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014
9:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M..**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Hosteny
Phyllis Mitzen
Steve Wolf
Betty Martz
J. Diane Adams-Alsberry
Jean Aldag
Jane Angelis
Charles Crowder
Naomi Fowler
Anthony Frazier
Talat Khan
Mubarak A. Mirjat
Lee Moriarty
Robert O'Connor
Dana Rosenzweig
Eugene Verdu
Bernarda Wong (Participated by Telephone)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca Cruz
Paulette Hamlin
Margaret Huyck
Anna Oestreich
Sen. Julie Morrison
Sen. Mattie Hunter
Sen. Sam McCann
Rep. Ron Sandack
Rep. Dwight Kay

VISITORS:

Naveeda Athan, American Association of Retired Asians
Margaret Niederer, Citizen Action Illinois
Doree Vetter, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Rhonda Clancy, Illinois Department of Public Health
Charlotte Kauffman, Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health
Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez, Administration for Community Living, Chicago Office

DEPARTMENT ON AGING STAFF:

John K. Holton, PhD., Director
Lisa Zuurbier, Council Liaison
Deb Shipley, Chief of Staff - Operations
Mikal Sutton, Legislative Liaison
Dennis Miner, CFO/Manager, Division of Finance & Administration
Joseph Mason, Manager, Division of Home & Community Services
Lois Moorman, Manager, Adult Protective Services
Cathy Houghtby, Division of Community Relations & Outreach
Barb Halstead, Director's Office

SUMMARY

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by John Hosteny, Chairman.

The roll call was taken by Steve Wolf, Council Secretary. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Guests at the meeting introduced themselves.

The Chairman introduced Mubarak Ali Mirjat, and welcomed him as a new Council Member.

Dr. Mirjat noted he is very excited to be a Member of the Council. He is a Physical Therapist, and has a doctorate in the field, and is involved with several rehabilitation facilities and Hospice programs.

Chairman Hosteny noted it would be good to pause and reflect on the Council's work and reframe its efforts to support the Department. The future will provide new opportunities in support of the seniors in Illinois.

Jean Aldag noted the Council was initiated through Federal Older Americans Act legislation. Robert O'Connor is the longest-serving Council Member, and Dr. Aldag, the second longest-serving Member.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

A Motion was made by Naomi Fowler to approve the Minutes from the December 11, 2013, Illinois Council on Aging Meeting.

The Motion was seconded by J. Diane Adams-Alsberry.

The Motion passed.

New Business

Election of Officers:

In behalf of the Council's Nominating Committee, Dana Rosenzweig presented a Slate of Candidates for election of officers:

- **First Vice Chair – Phyllis Mitzen**
- **Secretary – Steve Wolf**
- **Assistant Secretary – Betty Martz**

A Motion was made by Talat Khan to accept the Slate of Candidates, as presented.

The Motion was seconded by Robert O'Connor.

The Motion passed.

For the position of Second Vice Chair of the Council, the Chairman recommended the appointment of J. Diane Adams-Alsberry to complete the term of office formerly held by Phyllis Mitzen. Ms. Mitzen encouraged volunteers for the position.

A Motion was made by Jane Angelis that the Council accept the Chairman's recommendation.

The Motion was seconded by Naomi Fowler.

The Motion passed.

Legislative Update:

Mikal Sutton, the Department's Legislative Liaison, gave an update on Legislative issues.

Senate Bill 798 combined 2 bills and states that Ombudsmen may not be barred by either legal guardians and/or power of attorney, from private contact with nursing home residents and community-based participants. The bill passed both Houses and will be effective January 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 799 to make financial institutions mandated reporters of financial abuse and exploitation of individuals 60 and over, and those with a disability between the ages of 18-59, is on hold. The main reason given for opposition from financial institutions was liability issues and not being able to control what certain employees consider abuse/neglect.

Senator Hunter requested the bill be pulled and a strategic plan be developed to make the case for the legislation. The goal is to re-introduce the bill in Veto Session. The Department will be doing outreach in order to make a significant impact on upcoming discussions, and the Department will be looking for specific stories of financial abuse, as Senator Hunter will be pulling together a subject matter only hearing.

Ms. Sutton asked Council Members who might have information on someone who has experienced financial exploitation, to let her know.

Phyllis Mitzen suggested using stories from the 26 States where this is already law, showing the benefits of reporting.

Anthony Frazier suggested also checking with the Office of the Inspector General from Social Security Administration, which follows allegations of abuse. The website address is: www.SocialSecurity.gov. If a report is made to that group, they decide if it needs to be followed up, which creates a database to see what other agencies are doing to combat this crime.

House Bill 4327, an Adult Protective Services (APS) language bill, passed after lots of negotiations. This was a follow-up bill to last year's APS legislation, and defines guidelines for the APS Registry for abuse offenders. APS will be working on rulemaking and the link on the Illinois Department of Public Health Registry. This covers paid caregivers and any criminal background check will bring up the names on the Registry.

Phyllis Mitzen noted this will help track abusers and keep individuals from just moving to another agency.

Dr. Mirjat noted this is a good idea for home health agencies who are considering hiring an individual.

House Bill 3819 was a Department bill and passed both Houses. When the former Circuit Breaker Program was eliminated, the Department initiated the Benefit Access Application, which determines eligibility for the License Plate Discount Program and both Seniors and Disabled Ride Free Programs. The bill clarified the powers and duties of the Department to handle eligibility determination, and codified what the Department has been doing with the Benefit Access Application.

House Bill 5852, is an Older Adult Services Bill of Rights, and outlines that Aging and Department of Human Services will work together to provide a certain set of expectations and rights for those receiving in-home care services. It is effective immediately upon signature by the Governor.

House Bill 2773 amends the Public Aid Code, and provides for the establishment of the Long Term Services and Supports Disparities Task Force. The bill passed both Houses and is effective immediately. Aging is named as a participant in the Task Force, which will be led by Department of Healthcare and Family Services to document the number and types of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) providers in the State and the number of clients served in each setting, and compare data over multiple years to identify trends in the delivery of LTSS for each racial or ethnic category and assess whether the LTSS industry is equipped to offer culturally sensitive, competent, and linguistically appropriate care.

Phyllis Mitzen asked if stakeholders are named to the task force and Ms. Sutton responded there are many State Agencies, Area Agencies and other stakeholders on the list of participants.

Ms. Sutton noted that ideas on future legislation are always welcomed from the Council Members.

Department Update - Budget:

Dennis Miner, the Department's Chief Fiscal Officer, provided an update on the Department's approved budget figures for FY 2015.

The General Assembly passed the Department's Fiscal Year 2015 budget bill and it has been sent to the Governor for signature. The Governor can sign the budget as received, or revise the budget. The dollar amount of the IDoA budget for FY 2015 is \$1.1 billion. The General Revenue Fund (GRF) amount is \$933 million, which is a \$236 million reduction. The Older Americans Act funding is from the Federal Administration for Community Living. The Commitment to Human Services Fund is a new fund and there will be dollars made available as the year moves on, which will be shared by the Departments of Aging and Human Services to support the Community Care Program. The Department may run out of funding for the Community Care Program before the end of FY 2015.

The budget will mean a reduction in personal services for the Department, which includes funding for Bargaining Unit raises. The Department will be working on headcount issues, and the reduction may mean a higher lag time in replacing employees. Operation line items were reduced for data charges from the Department of Central Management Services and travel costs.

The requested budget for Adult Protective Services was \$19.2 Million, and the General Assembly allowed most and only reduced the request by \$40,000.

The Department had requested an increase in Home-Delivered Meals, and the amount allocated was reduced back to FY 2014 levels. This may result in waiting lists around the State.

Another impact of decreased funding will be longer wait-times for callers to the Senior HelpLine, which is already experiencing high wait times, busies and abandon call rates. If funding is not able to keep pace with the number of calls resulting from program expansions, the Department will not have the resources available to assist vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities who may be at risk.

The Colbert Consent Decree was fully funded as Aging has taken on the second phase of the implementation process. This initiative is in Cook County, Illinois.

Robert O'Connor asked if the General Assembly passed the budget based on continuation of the Temporary Income Tax Increase, and Mr. Miner noted the budget is based on that tax not being continued.

Anthony Frazier asked about the social impact of waiting lists for Home-Delivered Meals. Mr. Miner indicated the program does receive Federal Title III funds, which is distributed to the 13 Area Agencies on Aging, and the State GRF has been subsidizing that program. With the reduction in State GRF, it is projected that nutrition service providers will serve at least 175,000 fewer home-delivered meals and will have to remove more than 700 current participants from the program. Joseph Mason indicated some nutrition sites may have to go to four days, rather than serving five days a week. The Area Agencies on Aging will be redeveloping their plans. It was noted that last year one Area Agency had wanted to change from hot meals to frozen meals, and that did not go over well for seniors. Recently, one Area Agency had carryover funds that were returned to the Department, and those funds were then reallocated to another Area Agency that was in need of nutrition funding.

Dr. Mirjat inquired if there is monitoring of the quality of food provided by the nutrition sites. Mr. Mason indicated that the nutrition sites have to meet USDA requirements and seniors are very vocal if there is a problem with the food.

Mr. O'Connor asked about how the requested numbers are compiled for the requested budget. Mr. Miner noted the Department starts the process internally to discuss needs and goals of the Department for the coming year. Then, the Department meets with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) to talk about needs. GOMB decides what the Department can bring to the table, and then the Governor's Budget Message announces the proposed budget for the Department. The Department forecasts what the needs will be by doing monthly tracking of the current budget. Some adjustments are needed because initial numbers may change.

Phyllis Mitzen asked where the money comes from for the Human Services Fund. Mr. Miner noted the Department is not yet aware of where the money will come from, but it will probably come from new taxes or Medicaid reimbursements. Costs of providing in-home services to people in the Community Care Program are one-third the cost of nursing home care.

Dana Rosenzweig asked what happens to the Department's budget if the Temporary Tax Increase is not extended or made permanent. Mr. Miner indicated the budget is currently based on that scenario; however, costs do keep increasing.

Department Update – Director Holton:

General Assembly members have to consider the entire State when making budget decisions. The Department does advocate for the needs of the programs and services for seniors. A lot of Aging's budget comes from State GRF, so when the General Assembly is in the position of needing to cut GRF, then Aging is a very big target.

The Area Agencies on Aging felt that the Adult Protective Services budget in the FY 2014 budget year was under resourced and that an additional 20% more was needed in that line item. It is very difficult to get a 20% increase in any line item.

Director Holton indicated he advocated for the Department on Aging to be the implementing agency for Phase II of the Colbert Consent Decree for Cook County, rather than the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The plaintiffs in the Colbert Consent Decree wanted improvement in moving people back into the community, or go back to court and hold the State in non-compliance of the Consent Decree. Aging has been building programs for the population of concern, and the Department's home and community-based services serves older adults well. For Colbert, it was necessary to try to figure out what services it would take to move a person from a nursing home, or someone who has been incarcerated, into the community. The success depends on the community's capacity to receive and support individuals. As the need expands, the State has to increase community capacity to support those individuals. The Colbert Decree requires a relationship among housing specialists, nursing home ombudsman, Adult Protective Services, congregate and home-delivered meals, etc. that had not been readily apparent.

For the future of Aging services, the State will have to anticipate the needs of senior citizens in the coming years. The FY 2015 recommended budget and the one received represent drastic changes from FY 2014. The Department is hopeful there will be a revenue stream that will support the Department's efforts with more resources.

Director previously sent a document to the Council Members entitled, "Milestones: Older Americans Act, 1115 Waiver and the Illinois Foundation on Aging".

One of the suggestions in the document related to the creation of a philanthropic foundation for the Department as a means of providing additional resources, particularly non-revenue, to the Department. The foundation could provide staff training, more use of technology, or highlight best practices in the field of aging. Recently, Benedictine University provided training to Department staff on Managed Care, which is an example of needed training in a new area for the Department. Also, for individuals who are coming out of periods of incarceration, principles would need to be in place for many different needs.

Director highlighted his work with Margaret Niederer and her dedication to the issues surrounding the role of the State Ombudsman Office and the expansion of that role into the community. Now, an older person has the capacity to have an ally come in and make sure that he or she is being respected by a caregiver. It is not yet known what this means in terms of dollars and cents. This will not be fulfilled by a staff person or an Ombudsman, but has to be

fulfilled by a community ombudsman. This is something that needs further study. As advisors to the Department, input and consideration by the Council is needed.

Steve Wolf indicated to the Director that if Council input is needed quickly, such as advocacy for a piece of legislation, immediate contact could be made with members by e-mail asking the members to contact local legislators.

Margaret Niederer expressed support for the idea of forming a foundation to support the Department, and wondered what functions are provided through organizations related to the different Area Agencies on Aging. It would be helpful for the public to be made aware of the core functions of local advisory boards.

Charles Crowder indicated the need for both the Area Agencies on Aging and their advisory boards to publicize more about what they do. This would generate local funds for congregate and home-delivered meals. In rural areas, there is a dependence on churches for people to deliver meals and with the high price of fuel, it is hard to keep volunteers.

Bernie Wong indicated that providers are very worried about Managed Care. She asked if the training provided to Department staff by Benedictine University could also be extended to the providers. Director Holton noted the cost will have to be considered by the Department, along with sister agencies and the Governor's Office. All recognize the need for providers to thrive under the new arrangement. There is a need to hear from providers so expectations can be articulated from the Managed Care Organizations. Director indicated the Department will gather information from providers.

Talat Khan serves on some committees in her area and asked about Fatality Review Teams related to Adult Protective Services. The Director noted that the Department is trying to ensure providers are being held accountable and enhance the referral process.

Lisa Zuurbier reported the number of elder abuse cases is increasing every year and the Department is now also handling Adult Protective Services for persons in the community, age 18-59.

Director indicated there is a concern at the Department about making sure that cultural competence is in place when serving every community in our State, regardless of who or where a person is located. It is important people believe the Department on Aging can help.

Chairman Hosteny suggested that Dr. Khan meet with Lois Moorman, the manager of the Adult Protective Services Program, to learn more about the program.

Director Holton noted that Lisa Zuurbier is in charge of the Department's Senior HelpLine and the Senior Health Insurance Program. The HelpLine has been flooded with calls following a letter the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in Chicago sent out to 50,000 disabled individuals instructing them that their Ride Free card is going to end at the end of June unless they go through the eligibility process at the Department on Aging and call the Senior HelpLine's toll-free number. When one government entity sends out information to a large

segment of individuals, without notification to the other agency first, it causes great difficulty. The Department is now working with RTA on another piece of correspondence that clarifies the process. Director wanted to be sure the Council Members are aware of why the Department's telephone system may be so ineffective right now, but that is what is happening. Right now, the Department has hired temporary staff to help meet the needs of the public.

Anthony Frazier noted the Social Security Offices are also seeing a spike in the number of calls, as sometimes information does not filter down to the local offices.

Department Update – Joseph Mason:

Joseph Mason, Manager of the Department's Home and Community-Based Services Division, noted the Department works very hard to make sure staff is in place to deal with Adult Protective Services issues, and to make the public aware of the program. The Department is undertaking an "Enough, Enough Public Education Campaign" to make the public aware of the abuse and how to report it.

The Department is working with the Department of Human Services to increase Medicaid applications and match for the State. The efforts are aimed at better communication and providing access to Public Aid case information as applications are being processed. The Department is looking at cross-training between Aging and Human Services staff necessary for processing applications.

The Department is currently doing two Community Care Program reviews each month and would like to do more. Because of limited Department staff, the Department is looking at working with Care Coordination Units to provide some funding for help with reviews.

The Department has contacted the Area Agencies on Aging to take a look at how to improve home-delivered meals services. Some Area Agencies may have carryover dollars that could assist another agency.

The Department is working with Department of Children and Family Services on a project regarding seniors who are raising small grandchildren or teenagers, and assessing the situation to see if the senior is capable in those situations.

The Automated Medication Dispenser Program will go into effect by August of this year. This is a portable, mechanical system that can be programmed to dispense or alert the participant to take non-liquid, oral medications in the participant's residence. The service is provided by a stand alone medication dispenser base unit that is connected to and supported by a Department-approved provider through either a telephone line or a wireless/cellular connection that does not interfere with the normal use of the telephone or emergency home response system. This project may have limited dollars and be rolled out in phases.

Bernarda Wong asked who would be the recipients of the AMD service. Mr. Mason indicated AMD is a Community Care Program service available to eligible participants who need medication reminders to improve medication adherence. Rules for the program are being

finalized and should be published in the Illinois Register in the near future. Mr. Mason will contact Ms. Wong with additional information.

Dr. Mirjat asked about funding for the AMD service, and noted that perhaps it might need to be looked at again if individuals are already receiving services. Mr. Mason noted that in-home care services are not 24-hour services, and the AMD would benefit those who need reminders to adhere to a medication schedule.

Phyllis Mitzen asked how the AMD service is being targeted, as this is a high-end effort when the Department is cutting the budget, and whether it will be used in the most effective manner for people who must have it to live alone.

Mr. Verdu asked if the Department can afford the new AMD service. He expressed the need to review the criteria and not duplicate services.

Mr. Mason will get back to the Council with further details of the AMD service.

The Adult Protective Services Conference will be held August 20-22, in Oak Brook. Council Members will be sent information on the conference.

Update from the Administration for Community Living:

Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez, Aging Services Program Specialist from the Chicago Office of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), formerly the Administration on Aging (AoA), gave an update to the Council. ACL is a newer agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Regional Office in Chicago covers the 10 Midwestern States. She is in charge of reviewing and recommending for approval, the Department's State Plan on Aging at the Regional level, and then it is forwarded to the ACL Office in Washington, D. C. for final review/approval.

The mission of the Administration for Community Living is to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers.

On an annual basis, provider agencies collect data on services they provide. Ms. Wiatr-Rodriguez checks to see how the money was expended based on the reports received. She looks at how State programs affect services. If any questions come up about the use of Older Americans Act funds, it would be handled by her office.

The President's FY 2015 budget for ACL is \$2.134 billion, which is a \$19.2 million net decrease from the FY 2014 enacted level, reflecting the tight budgetary environment. It includes \$39 million in discretionary resources for modest strategic investments in key ACL priorities. The budget preserves funding for both AoA and disability core programs, and proposes to transfer the Senior Community Services Employment Program (Title V) from the Department of Labor to ACL. The transfer of the Title V Program was in prior budget year requests and has not moved. Moving the program from Department of Labor to HHS is a whole different realm and many issues will need to be discussed. Ms. Wiatr-Rodriguez will send a

link to Lisa Zuurbier to forward to Council Members, along with any announcements, for more detail.

The Elder Justice Initiative is in the Affordable Care Act, but no appropriations. In the President's proposed budget, \$25 million is requested for first-time discretionary funding to support Adult Protective Services (APS) programs nationwide. The funding would support APS National Data System development and technical assistance, demonstration grants to strengthen the evidence base to direct resources to what works, develop a coordinated Federal research strategy to fill the gaps in knowledge and fund initial research on high priority areas, and evaluate activities to understand the current state of APS systems across the country to get a better sense of what works. Illinois is a leader in this effort and contributes to the field nationally. Ms. Wiatr-Rodriguez noted that anything the Council would like to suggest on the Elder Justice Initiative would be welcome. Currently, she is working with the Department on an upcoming Financial Exploitation Summit.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. She encouraged groups to let people know what they are doing for this celebration. Right now, ACL is focusing on World Elder Abuse Day because not every State does APS.

New Strategic Investments in the President's proposed budget include ADRC, which includes \$20 million per year over the next five years in mandatory funding to support approximately 35 new State grantees in their development and operation of sustainable No Wrong Door systems for all populations and all payers. Hopefully, Illinois will submit an application for this. Also, it includes \$3 million for a White Conference on Aging to bring together stakeholders and consumers from across the country to discuss a range of aging issues. Because of costs, a virtual conference may be considered.

Jane Angelis asked if any specifics are available on the conference, and it was noted that it is in the budget request, but no details are available until the budget is approved.

The proposed budget includes \$27.7 million from the Prevention Fund for Alzheimer's, Chronic Disease Self-Management, and Falls Prevention. The Falls Prevention is new funding and she encouraged Illinois to apply. Funding for Senior Medicare Patrols would be maintained, as well as Health Care Fraud and Abuse. Funding would be provided for Alzheimer's Supportive Services and Lifespan Respite Care under Public Health Service Act authority. Also, the budget continues investments in Aging Network Support Activities and Elder Rights Support Activities for ongoing projects.

The FY 2015 budget request maintains funding for two activities that were transferred to ACL in the FY 2014 appropriation—The State Health Insurance Assistance Program, and the Paralysis Resource Center.

The Older Americans Act was last reauthorized in 2006. The money still is distributed, but when the Act is not reauthorized, it cannot be updated. For reauthorization to occur, everyone in the Senate would have to agree to move forward and put pressure on the House. Two issues of contention are the Funding Formula and the Hold Harmless clause.

Eugene Verdu asked if there would be a change in National Contractors in the Title V Program if it is moved from the Department of Labor to the ACL. Ms. Wiatr-Rodriguez stated this would have to go through a procurement process.

Mubarak Mirjat noted that more information on the transfer of Title V Program from Department of Labor to ACL is available on the website www.acl.gov and then look at menu options for more information on the President's budget request.

Bernarda Wong expressed her pleasure that Illinois is involved in the Elder Justice Initiative.

Council Discussions:

The Chairman recognized Jean Aldag for her 30 years of service as a Member of the Council, and this is her last meeting, as she is resigning from the Council.

Chairman Hosteny called attention to the Milestones information provided by the Director. This provides a good synopsis of needs of the Department. It is an exciting time to be a Council Member.

Creation of a Philanthropic Foundation for Aging:

Discussion Highlights:

- The Council expressed pleasure that a foundation is being considered. One concern is how the foundation be set up and what body would make the decision on how it functions. If a foundation is set up, perhaps one or two Council Members should serve on the board.
- It was noted the Director is looking to the Council to think about how it could be set up to be separate from the Department.
- A foundation for a public body will be a challenge.
- Initial contact for discussing the ideas for a foundation could be made with the Department; however, the Department is not setting up the foundation. Basic direction for establishing a foundation would require an attorney.
- The responsibility of the foundation would be with the Council and the initial part is to create a sub-committee to look into details and report back on structure and cost.
- It is a very competitive world and the Council would have to consider the focus of the foundation and if it would be a meaningful one.
- A decision would need to be made on where revenue for the foundation would come from, and make a decision on the mission of the foundation.
- It was noted that the revenue stream would have to be private funds. The mission might be support for the Department and seniors through training or education.
- Need to consider what problems might arise and where the seed money would come from and then hold fundraisers and invite different groups, such as insurance agencies, hospitals, etc. to support the programs.

- The possibility of an academic partnership was discussed. Local colleges might provide space for a foundation; however, funding would need to be from private sources.
- The Chairman asked Jane Angelis to share information about educational centers with Lisa Zuurbier to share with the Council.
- Right now, the focus has to be on the foundation itself, and more research needs to be done on foundations, such as Donors Forum, etc. It was suggested that contact be made with the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities to ask the structure of foundations in other States.

Following the discussion, the Chairman asked for a volunteer group of Council Members to serve as a fact-finding group in regard to the formation of a foundation. The following members are a part of the group:

- Anthany Frazier
- Robert O'Connor
- Jane Angelis
- Mubarak Mirjat
- John Hosteny
- Eugene Verdu

1115 Waiver:

The Community Care Program is a Medicaid Waiver. Illinois currently has nine waivers. The Federal Government is encouraging States to bring everything into one system. The 1115 Waiver has just been submitted to Federal CMS and it will take the next year to be reviewed. The Governor's Office is putting the committees together to decide how to bring these systems together, and will be scheduling all meetings. The committees are designed to think through how all of these changes will work, as well as all the IT changes that will be necessary. The Governor's Office is working on the assumption that the application will be accepted, but probably with modifications.

Discussion Highlights:

- The Council needs to be involved in order to support the Department. The Department has one person serving on each of the committees.
- Materials should be sent to the Council on possible Council involvement so the members can be educated on the waiver.
- The question was asked about whether being involved in meetings related to the 1115 Waiver is a role of the Council. If the Council is going to go outside of normal mandated functions, then legislation related to the Council's duties will need to be changed.
- It was noted that Council By-Laws do not preclude the Council from participating in the 1115 Waiver sub-committees. The Council needs a strong voice on where things are heading. Any changes to legislation would require discussion with the Director and Mikal Sutton.

- Any dollars coming into Aging will be transformed by the waiver.
- The Alliance for Health Steering Committee has been established by the Governor's Office as the steering committee for the oversight of all committees working on the 1115 Waiver.
- A question was asked about whether other Departments have similar groups, and it was noted there is more being set up because Federal CMS mandates more involvement.
- The role of the Council Members on the sub-committees needs to be defined.
- The Council needs to be advised of the Department's role in the committees. Ms. Zuurbier will talk to the Director to see if he has something specific in mind. She will notify the Council of the different sub-committees.
- There is concern about the direction of the Council and it would be helpful to have a redefinition on what the Council can do, while looking at timing and various directions, within the foreseeable future. The Chair could appoint a task force or sub-committee to investigate and report back at the Council's September meeting. It was noted the Council could either wait until September to become involved, or look at current committees, provide information to everyone and recommend signing up for one of the committees that will be meeting this Summer.
- Phyllis Mitzen will send materials to Ms. Zuurbier on the Alliance for Health Steering Committee, to be distributed to the Council.

As follow-up to the discussion on the Council's involvement in the 1115 Waiver committees, a Motion was made by Robert O'Connor, stating:

Pursuant to the Council By-Laws, upon receiving additional information from the Director's Office as to the status of the 1115 Waiver, the Chairman be authorized to establish a sub-committee and appoint members to look at the waiver status, and report to the Council's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may take any action resulting from any review prior to the next Council meeting".

Motion was seconded by J. Diane Alsberry-Adams.

Motion carried.

Observing and Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act in 2015:

The Council discussed ways the Department and the Council can be involved in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act, in 2015.

Discussion Highlights:

- The celebration could be highlighted at seminars.
- The Generations Serving Generations Senate Forum on June 10, will celebrate seniors and talk about service and impact on the State.
- Older Americans Month and other celebrations could highlight the celebration.

- The Council could hold a session during the 2014 Governor's Conference on Aging to kick off the celebration.
- The use of social media to talk about connecting generations and the senior network.
- Need to include younger people in the celebrations, as well.

The Chairman appointed a workgroup to focus on ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebration:

- Bernarda Wong, Chair
- Talat Khan
- Anthony Frazier
- Diane Adams-Alsberry

Updates from Council Members:

Talat Khan is working in her area to make people aware of what is going on in regard to elder abuse, Senior Health Insurance Program and other programs.

Naveeda Athan, guest of Talat Khan, is a mental health professional who volunteers and provides pro bono services to seniors in need.

Diane Adams-Alsberry reported that AgeOptions will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary at a reception on July 21 in Oak Park. Also, on October 9, they will hold a fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Mubarak Mirjat has been doing a lot of work in the community, as well as working with seniors to provide awareness through health care seminars.

Dana Rosenzweig reported that St. Clair County is working on a Suicide Prevention Initiative and an expansion of caregiver counseling services.

Lisa Zuurbier reported the Department has a new website and a new telephone system will be implemented the week of June 9. The Department's Senior Health Assistance Program staff has trained approximately 400 people on Medicare/Medicaid Alignment Initiative. She will send Council Members information on the training from Boston University. The Department's Senior HelpLine has been selected to be the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) call center.

Anthony Frazier was recently nominated as 2014 Federal Employee of the Year. He is going into his eighth season as a broadcast journalist and he will send the link regarding this programming to Council Members. He has worked with the Grammys for 20 years and would like to bring performers to this year's Governor's Conference on Aging.

Jane Angelis noted that June 5 is her 49th Wedding Anniversary.

Eugene Verdu is working in St. Clair County on health and mental health issues, primarily through workshops, using medical professional volunteers only. In order to promote diversity, they are working with a group called Sage. He also works with trade unions to allow more

caregiver workshops as they are a good resource for reaching individuals who are providing caregiving to family/friends.

Betty Martz just finished working with a group to raise funds for a Burn Camp. She has also been working with St. Clair County on ADA updates. Her Birthday is next week.

Phyllis Mitzen noted the City of Chicago has been designated as an Aging Friendly City. The Buehler Center on Aging is asking people to fill out a questionnaire and she will send the link to Council Members and asked everyone to complete the survey.

Bernarda Wong reported the Chinese American Service League recently celebrated their anniversary. In July, a delegation from China will be in Chicago. In October, there will be an International Conference for agencies similar to the Chinese American Service League. She is hoping to soon plan a new facility.

Robert O'Connor asked the group to remember Council Member, Ralph Cianchetti, who recently passed away. He also thanked Eugene Verdu for his long-term service to the Council and noted he has been a great part of the Council.

Jean Aldag mentioned the Central Illinois Agency on Aging has planned a Golf Tournament for August 15, and proceeds will go to meals on holidays.

A Motion was made by Jean Aldag to adjourn the meeting.

The Motion was seconded by Anthony Frazier.

Motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

s/Steve Wolf

Steve Wolf, Secretary
Illinois Council on Aging