

**ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING**

**ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY – ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE ROOM  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**160 N. LASALLE ST., SUITE N-700  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019  
10:00AM – 12:30PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anthony Frazier, Christie Goleman, Paulette M. Hamlin, Talat Khan, Susan Lawler, Patricia Marton, Lee Moriarty, Anna M. Oestreich, Steve Wolf

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

J. Diane Adams-Alsberry, Representative Mark Batinick, Charles A. Crowder, Representative Rita Mayfield, Mubarak A. Mirjat

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jane Angelis, Senator Mattie Hunter, Margaret Huyck, Phyllis Mitzen, Representative Anna Moeller, Robert O'Connor, Bernarda Wong

**VISITORS:**

None

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING STAFF PRESENT:**

Jean Bohnhoff, Director  
Carla Mills, Acting Manager, Division of Community Relations & Outreach, Council Liaison  
Rhonda Armstead, General Counsel  
John Eckert, Policy Analyst, Division of Planning, Research, Training and Development  
Sarah Harris, Manager, Division of Finance & Administration  
Amber Bolden, Administrative Assistant  
Portia Riley, Administrative Assistant

**SUMMARY**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order by Anthony Frazier at 10:08 a.m.

Roll call was taken by Steve Wolf and it was determined that a quorum was established.

**Approval of December 11, 2018 ICoA Minutes:**

Paulette M. Hamlin entered a Motion for the approval of the December 11, 2018 ICoA Minutes as submitted. Steve Wolf seconded the Motion; all members voted aye, and the minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:**

Paula A. Basta thanked Director Jean Bohnhoff for her years of dedication to older adults in Illinois. Ms. Basta contributed the Illinois Department on Aging's positive employee morale to Director Bohnhoff's leadership, and Ms. Basta will continue the practice of encouraging positive morale amongst Department employees.

Ms. Basta worked for the City of Chicago for 18 years. She then went on to serve at the Chicago Housing Authority, which is where she met Jean Bohnhoff. Paula A. Basta received a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Dayton. As the Acting Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, Ms. Basta's philosophy is as follows, "with patience and generosity of our time, as we go through the State of Illinois, the Department will continue to hear the concerns of our Seniors, to hear of all the good being done, as well as the challenges we face together. Together, we can only become stronger."

Paula A. Basta thanked the ICoA for partnering with the Department and for being generous with their time by attending meetings and helping to shape policy at the Department regarding senior issues.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Department Updates – Director Jean Bohnhoff:**

Director Bohnhoff reiterated several key initiatives the Department focused on during her appointment as Director of the agency, to insure Illinois older adults received the community-based services they need to help keep them in their homes. The updates are listed in the December 11, 2018 Council Minutes.

**Budget Update:**

- The Department currently has 10 percent of bills unpaid, which means the Department is paying vendors within 90 days of receipt.
- The Comptroller's Office has been processing payments in a timely manner. There are some vendors that are having hardship requests, because they're still in recovery mode after two years of the budget impasse. The Department does what it can to help facilitate payment with the Comptroller's Office. For instance, an email will be sent to the Comptroller's Office today, to request expedited payment to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Sarah Harris will let the Council know the outcome of this action.
- The Governor's Introduced Budget is just over \$1.2 billion that's All Funds and just over \$1 billion in General Funds, which includes the Commitment to Human Services Fund, and General Revenue Fund.
- The Department received an Alzheimer's related domestic capable grant from the Federal Government; re-allotment from the Federal Government to work on Social Isolation; \$2 million increase in the allotment this year to continue working on domestic capable and social isolation issues; \$1 million in Tobacco Funding to be used as a component to support services that are provided at Senior Health Assistance

Program sites. The program will be run as an incentive program. The Department is currently working on the rules.

- The Department received an increase in the Community Care Program (CCP), which is scheduled to be between \$40 to \$60 million in the budget that will be used for implementation of the minimum wage and implementation of rate studies to help negotiate rates. There are smaller increases that aren't as costly, but they're going to be very effective on the Aging Network. There could be a slight change in the rates for installation of the Emergency Home Response Device, and the Department is also looking for an adjustment that would be graduated for Adult Daycare Center rates.
- Due to the burden of the budget impasse on the General Revenue Fund, the Department has had some issues with payments. The Department was able to move more than 80 percent of the CCP budget line, and several other budget lines that affect the AAAs to Cash Back Commitment to Human Services Fund, which means the Department will be able to manage the funds better, and the vendors will get their payments quicker. There will be a large increase in appropriation authority on the Department's Federal Funds.
- There has been a recent change at the Federal level that is allowing the Department to have two years to obligate Federal funds, instead of one year as designated in the past.
- The Department does not have appropriations in the Budget for Affordable Housing. Housing funds are different from Aging Funds. The Illinois Housing Development Authority provides affordable housing for the State of Illinois, and their Federal Funds comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Department provides funding for Aging services only. The only housing element within the Department would be the Colbert program, which was set-up to help seniors remain in their homes in the community, instead of residing in Nursing homes.
- The Department surveyed the AAAs to determine the funding needed to accommodate CCP rate changes for senior service providers. The Governor's Office included in the Department's Budget, an additional \$900,000 to accommodate the rate changes.
- The Department's Budget can be found on the Aging website, along with the presentation Director Bohnhoff presented to Legislators.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Acknowledgement of Service:**

Anthony Frazier acknowledged Director Jean Bohnhoff's leadership at the Department, and Director Bohnhoff was given a round of applause from the Council. The Council thanked Director Bohnhoff for her dedication and years of service in the Aging field. Director Bohnhoff will continue her advocacy efforts to safeguard venerable seniors in Illinois.

Lee Moriarty presented a letter of gratitude to Director Bohnhoff for her leadership, advocacy, service, and dedication to the Department and the Senior Citizens in Illinois. The letter was written by Phyllis Mitzen. A copy of the letter will be provided to the Council.

### **Introduction and Welcome for the New IDoA Director:**

Director Bohnhoff introduced and welcomed the Department's new Director, Paula A. Basta. Acting Director Basta has a passion for helping older adults, and brings a wealth of knowledge, information and new ideas to the Department. Director Basta will continue the Department's

efforts to ensure older adults can continue to live in the community with dignity. Identifying the needed services and supports throughout the State is critical, and beneficial. The Council will help guide the process.

Director Basta served in the capacity of Organizational Leadership at Loyola University Chicago in Social Policy and Older Adults; served as Private and Public sector Human Services Administrator; Community Activist; and, University of Dayton Alumnus.

Director Basta is excited to get started and looks forward to partnering with the Council and continuing the important work the Department has moving forward, on behalf of Older Adults in Illinois.

**Nominating Chair Updates – Anna Oestreich:**

The Nominating Committee has been working on developing a Slate of Officers to present to the Council. The Committee tried to be mindful of not only the By-laws, but also legal issues, experience, diversity, as well as Council growth and development.

As Acting Chair, Phyllis Mitzen exercised her duty to fill two vacant positions by appointment: Anna Oestreich appointed as Nominating Committee Chair; Anthany Frazier appointed as Vice Chair. The Council would like to express gratitude to Mr. Frazier for his willingness to serve as Vice Chair. As appointees to the Executive Committee of the Council, Anthany Frazier and Anna Oestreich will serve for one-year term. Diane Adams-Alsberry resigned the position of Acting Vice Chair and will remain on the Council as a Member only. The Council would like to express gratitude to Diane Adams-Alsberry for her years of service as Acting Vice Chair.

Per the Council's By-laws, the positions to be voted on today are Chair and Secretary. The Nominating Committee would like to put forth the names of Phyllis Mitzen as Chair, and Lee Moriarty as Secretary. The Council would like to thank Lee Moriarty for agreeing to have her name on the ballot. Anna Oestreich asked Council Members if there were additional nominations from the Council, there were none. Anthany Frazier entered a Motion to adopt the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, and Talat Khan seconded the Motion. All Council Members voted Aye, and the recommendations were adopted. Phyllis Mitzen will no longer serve as Acting Chair and is elected to serve as Chair. Lee Moriarty will serve as Secretary. The Council would like to express gratitude to Steve Wolf for his years of service to the Council.

The Council would like to acknowledge the fact that 2019 is Phyllis Mitzen's last appointment as Chair of the Council. Due to the current structure of the Council By-laws, which calls for the election of the Chair and Secretary on alternate years, Phyllis Mitzen will probably appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to suggest a minor change to the By-laws, which would allow the selection of a complete slate of Officers every two-years, instead of the alternate years.

An issue addressing the inclusion and development of new Council Members was identified during the Nominating Committee meetings. Inclusion and development could be done by extending the Executive Committee Membership to include an appointed new Council

Member, and possibly a Legislative Member. This matter would also be addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Council would like to thank Jane Angelis and Lee Moriarty for their service on the Nominating Committee, and for working diligently to help develop the Slate of Officers. The Council would also like to thank Phyllis Mitzen for her valuable input during the Nominating Committee meetings.

**State Planning for the Growth of the Elderly – Anthony Frazier:**

The development and roll-out of the 2017-2019 Illinois State Plan on Aging provided to Council Members today, is one of the most significant achievements of the collaborate partnership between the ICoA and the Department. The State Plan is a report that is required by the U.S. Administration on Aging and outlines IDoA’s problematic structure and financial plan for future service delivery over a three-year Fiscal period. On page 25 of the State Plan, the Council is recognized as a partner who helped assemble the State Plan for distribution. The current State Plan is valid thru Fiscal Year 2020, which will allow the Department and the Council an opportunity to analyze current initiatives with the new Administration. The Council would like to thank the Department and Director Bohnhoff for the opportunity to serve in this endeavor.

The Illinois Council on Aging Members are fully engaged and dedicated to help implement the Department’s strategic and heartfelt mission of providing programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life for our soaring aging population. The Council will continue the enviable work tasks of strengthening all communities and helping bridge inter-generational and cultural divides.

The Honorable Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has declared that he is deeply committed to addressing the impending structural and human transformative growth in our aging society by protecting seniors with three prophetic and compassionate objectives identified during his successful political campaign.

1. Ensuring that our elders live with dignity in the environment of their choice with access to quality care.
2. Protect access to affordable, dependable healthcare for seniors.
3. Rebuild human services to give seniors the tools they need to live independently in their respective communities.

Since the year 2000, Illinois’ older population (60 years of age and older) has grown from 1.9 million to 2.5 million, which currently represents 19.6 percent of the population in Illinois. By the year 2030, it is estimated that the 60 years of age and older population will increase to 3.6 million and will represent 24 percent of our Illinois population. By the year 2050, one in five Americans will be 65 years of age or older. This continued growth will, in turn, necessitate an increase in the needs for the services covered within the Department’s Community Care Program (CCP). Municipalities throughout Illinois will be especially challenged to provide innovative transportation options; add a diverse variety of innovative home and community

accessibility options; and, strengthen the prevailing health and human services demand to meet the day-to-day needs of our growing aging population.

Anthony Frazier entered a motion to discuss comments and suggestions from the Council, regarding how to best continue the enviable work tasks of strengthening communities and helping bridge inter-generational and cultural divides. Solutions to every demographic challenge on the table, must involve a collaboration of Federal, State, Tribal, local governments, individuals, communities, and our public and private sector partners.

**Topics of Concern- Anthony Frazier:**

- How can the Council further expand the content of future additions of the Illinois State plan on Aging?
- What public policies and/or community-based, core service delivery deficit areas need to be addressed, if any?
- What innovative recommendations can the Council offer the Department that will help bolster the Department's existing programs and strengthen AAAs with much needed resources?
- What assistive technology-transfer initiatives are currently available and strategically positioned to provide our seniors and their family caregivers with more sustainable health-care choices and serviceable, reasonable accommodations options?
- Is there an urgent need to amend our service delivery for older adults in rural communities? Available research studies have demonstrated that small towns across Illinois have a greater concentration of older adults. Is this a subject area that warrants further exploration by the Council?
- The expansion of CCP will require appropriate resources. However, the fiscal realities of Federal, State and local budgets demand that we rethink our ways of doing business, and seek new innovations, set priorities, and are diligent in executing the applicable systemic cultural change. Should the Council revisit their previous discussion on the development of a Council sponsored philanthropic foundation to help financially underwrite these invaluable programmatic outlays?
- How can the Council collectively make a better tomorrow for seniors in Illinois? Where do we go from here?

**Council Recommendations put forth for a Vote:**

Anthony Frazier entered a motion to adopt a recommendation from the Council to appoint Council Members from each of the Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) to become active members of the AAAs in their communities and attend meetings to become more familiar with the processes of the AAAs, as well as their successes and challenges. Steve Wolf seconded the Motion; all members voted aye, and the recommendation was adopted.

Anthony Frazier entered a motion to adopt a recommendation from the Council that the Department should issue Council Member business cards indicating the Members are serving on behalf of the Department when attending meetings with Aging Network agencies. The business card would include the Members personal email address, and their own address and phone numbers. Carla Mills will work with Department employee, Marcia Walker, to develop

the draft business cards. Steve Wolf seconded the Motion; all Members voted aye, and the recommendation was adopted.

**Recommendations for Discussion during the June 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting – Anthony Frazier:**

- Assistive Technology
- Automation of Family Caregivers
- Commercial Automation Technology Transfer Programs
- Medication Automation Technology
- Outreach to connect with Communities and keep abreast of Community Activities
- The Council should serve as the networking entity to help disburse service information throughout the Aging Network, which helps Consumers navigate the system and ensures Community Missions are being served
- Create a Consumer Survey to determine the vital services people say they're not receiving from their local AAA
- PR Campaign to distribute aging service information across the State
- Transportation Services for the aging population

**Closing Remarks – Anthony Frazier:**

The Council bids final farewell and best wishes to Director Jean Bohnhoff for her years of tremendous service to the great State of Illinois and welcomes with open arms and great expectations our newly appointed Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, Ms. Paul A. Basta.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

l/Lee Moriarty

Lee Moriarty, Secretary  
Illinois Council on Aging