



Illinois Department on Aging

Paula A. Basta, Director - 555 W. Monroe, Suite 1500-S Chicago, IL 60661

December 27, 2023

Governor Pritzker and the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

Public Act 102-0986 as codified in 20 ILCS 105/4.04b, formed the Illinois Senior Residents' Advisory Council effective March 31, 2022. By statute, the Council will examine the impact of COVID-19 on congregate living arrangements for seniors, evaluate State outreach to seniors, identify barriers to seniors feeling supported and connected to their communities (social isolation) and evaluate available resources and services for seniors.

Background:

The Council was established to create a space and opportunity for senior Illinoisans to connect with each other and meet with representatives from the Department on Aging and the Department of Public Health to share their ideas on how the State can improve the quality of life for its senior residents. The Council is charged to make recommendations to improve housing, access to benefits, services, and supports for seniors and their caregivers. The Council, in formulating its recommendations, shall consider the best policies and practices in other states and jurisdictions. The focus of the Councils work is on how to improve the quality of life for senior residents.

Current:

In compliance with the Illinois Compiled Statute 20 ILCS 105/4.04b, the Illinois Senior Residents' Advisory Council reports that the following members have been appointed to the Council as of today December 27, 2023:

Paula A. Basta – Chair (Glenda M. Corbett – IDoA Designee)	Edna R. Lee – Co-Chair	Sharon Ewing	Rhona Jacobs	Dilane Knights
Julie Lewis	Marjorie Logman	Adam Moore – IHDA	Deborah Palmer	Dennis Powell
Alice Quinlan	Katrina Smith	William T. Wilson	Leo Davis	Representative Dagmara Avelar
Representative Bradley Stephens	Senator Dave Syverson	Dr. Sameer Vohra (Jennifer Epstein – IDPH Designee)		



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The body has held quarterly meetings: January, April, July, and October of 2023. Council Members actively promoted the purpose of the Council and facilitated operational matters (future meeting dates, required trainings, etc.). In furtherance of its statutory mandate to propose recommendations to improve access to benefits, services, and supports for older adults and their caregivers, the Council has created the following subcommittees which will ensure intentionality in their work:

Training and Outreach/Community Engagement – The Training and Outreach Subcommittee seeks to develop two outreach plans: Plan A - will identify service provider training needs and improve competency in the delivery of health, housing, and long-term support services to the aging community. Plan B - will identify social isolation causes and isolation prevention tools.

HealthCare - The Healthcare Subcommittee seeks to address gaps in services highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance healthcare access for Illinoisians who are aging. We will work to assure that health care is delivered in a safe and welcoming manner by increasing provider competency, assuring that patients know their options and rights. We hope to increase healthcare utilization among the Aging Population by examining how our patients utilize healthcare and the overall patient experience.

Housing – The Housing Subcommittee seeks to identify and address challenges to Seniors aging well in their homes and concerns with the provision and availability of affordable housing, access to home care services and long-term care. This will be accomplished through a comprehensive review of data, analysis of existing resources and provision of testimony which will inform recommendations for policies, procedures, and best practices to address this issue.

The Council will meet at a regular quarterly cadence to study, develop, and finalize recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula A. Basta".

Paula A. Basta
Director
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