

Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA) Inter-Agency Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

WebEx

MPA Inter-Agency Task Force Members:

Name	Agency	Present at Meeting?
Mary Killough	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Sophia Manuel	Illinois Department of Corrections	Yes
Dan McManus	Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	No
Sarah Myerscough-Mueller	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services	No
Jim Bennett	Illinois Department of Human Rights	Yes
Christine Hammond	Illinois Department of Human Services	Yes
Adam Flores	Illinois Department of Insurance	Yes
Lydia Colunga-Merchant	Illinois Department of Labor	Yes
Janice Phillips	Illinois Department of Public Health	Yes
John Donovan	Illinois Department of Transportation	Yes
Angie Simmons	Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs	Yes
Alan Quick	Illinois Housing Development Authority	Yes
Mary Milano	Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission	Yes
Christine Haley	Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness	Yes
Kelly Richards	Illinois State Ombudsman	Yes

Other Participants:

Name	Organization	Present at Meeting?
Liz Vogt	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Becky Dragoo	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Iris Huber	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Jennifer Hebel	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Glenda Corbett	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Joslyn Washington	Illinois Department on Aging	Yes
Serena Worthington	RRF Foundation for Aging	Yes

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Mary Killough welcomed Task Force members. Task Force members introduced themselves in the chat.

Landscape

Mary Killough acknowledged the changes in the federal administration and the difficulty in planning for the future with such uncertainty with federal programs and funding.

MPA Overview

Serena Worthington provided context and background about MPAs in other states. Serena described the MPA development work to date.

EO Deliverables & Timeline

Liz Vogt described the Executive Order and deliverables:

- Phase I: Assemble the Team
 - Inter-Agency Task Force
 - Community Advisory Council
 - Chief Planning Officer
 - Research partner
- Phase II: Convene the Team
 - At least three meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the Community Advisory Council
- Phase III: Draft the Plan
 - Due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2025
- Phase IV: Implementation and Status Report
 - Status report due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2026

MPA Broad Goals

Serena facilitated a group discussion about preliminary areas of focus/goals based on feedback gathered in the poll conducted at the last meeting:

1. **Ensuring Health for the Ages: Illinois will ensure access to resources and systems that promote quality care and optimize quality of life.**

Key Equity Focus: Address structural barriers and prioritize vulnerable populations in healthcare access and service design.

- Preparedness of healthcare practitioners to care for the aging population-training in gerontology
- Quantity and quality of life
- Decisions about healthcare
- Digital Inclusion
- Preventive Medicine-reduce the development of chronic and health problems
- Mental health resources
- Impact of social isolation and loneliness – Equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day

2. Creating Livable and Connected Communities: Illinois will foster relationships that support and enhance all the services that connect individuals with age, disability, and dementia friendly communities.

Key Equity Focus: Develop infrastructure and services that reduce disparities in access based on geography, socioeconomic status, or ability.

- Housing that allows for aging in place
- Telehealth availability/accessibility
- Transportation: Improve pedestrian infrastructure, ADA transition plans updates, access
 - to transit-paratransit to all areas
- Multi-generational households-Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Community and domestic violence

3. Affording Aging: Illinois will have a framework in place to ensure lifelong economic security and opportunity.

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- Reduced fair of transit services aging and caregiver
- Paid family or medical leave
- Flexibility for caregiving responsibilities

- Long-term care insurance availability: awareness of rights and protections (Example: Washington State-LTC Program)

5. Advancing Equity & Inclusion: Illinois will advocate to ensure all individuals have maximal independence, choice, and cultural freedom from isolation, discrimination, and exploitation.

Key Equity Focus: Actively dismantle systemic inequities and fostering inclusive systems that respect cultural and individual diversity

- Consideration for those with intersecting vulnerable- older adults' mental illness/leaving carceral setting
- Access to legal services-evictions, divorce, wrongful discharges, contracts
- Employment leave rights
- Appropriate housing placements
- Aging of homeless population
- Does care paradigm meet needs of individual, regardless of housing circumstances
- Current laws that divide people based on economic situation (Example: working to identify housing/communities for LGBTQ communities, but ability hampered by economic/eligibility)

Next Steps

- Mary Killough discussed future opportunities for participation including future Task Force meetings, subcommittees, town halls, etc.
- Serena will continue meeting with each agency for a 30-minute one-on-one meeting over the next month.