



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

**Older Adult Services Advisory Committee
Executive Committee Meeting**

Date: April 12, 2021 **(Approved on July 12, 2021)**

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 133 966 6843#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

In Attendance:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Paula Basta, Director, Department on Aging
Paul Bennett, Citizen member over the age of 60
Amy Brown, CRIS Healthy Aging Center
Linda Hubbartt, Senior Services of Effingham City County
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Gustavo Saberbein, Help at Home/Oxford HealthCare

Department Representatives:

Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Betty Stewart for Daniel Levad, Department of Public Health
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Department on Aging staff:

Desirey Ackermann, Mike Berkes, Sue DeBoer, Kimberly Flesch, Jessica Klaus,
Chelsey Peters, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Amy Lulich and
Lora McCurdy

Absent:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Mike Koronkowski, UIC College of Pharmacy

Department Representatives:

Megan Spitz, Illinois Housing Development Authority

Introductions & *Call to Order:

Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. She shared that Director Paula Basta may be joining the meeting later. Members and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of January 11, 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the January 11, 2021 minutes. Gustavo Saberbein made the motion to approve the minutes; Paul Bennett seconded. No additions or corrections were noted. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

OASAC Membership Update:

Sophia Gonzalez shared that OASAC has a new member, Dr. June McKoy. Dr. McKoy will be replacing Dr. Cornwell. Gonzalez noted there are two vacancies, a Parish Nurse and representative from the Statewide Senior Centers. We have reached out to former member Cathy Weightman-Moore to see if she can recommend a Parish Nurse. The president of IASC has also been contacted for a recommendation for the State Senior Center representative. John Eckert noted for the record that Dr. Cornwell had served on OASAC for over 15 years and had given a nice presentation during the last meeting.

Review OASAC FY21 Priorities:

John Eckert reviewed the FY21 OASAC Priority list. He shared a decision needs to be made regarding moving forward with the Workforce Stabilization Workgroup. Megan Thornton sent an email and received one reply. Another email will be sent to the workgroup to follow up. Paul Bennett shared that he has had a couple of calls with Phyllis Mitzen, John Holton (UIC), Marcia Spira (Loyola) and Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (Northeastern IL U) to discuss issues related to bringing people to the field of Aging. The Department has continued to update the group on the CCP Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Committee. During the last meeting we had a presentation on Managed Care. During the upcoming full OASAC meeting updates will be given on these priorities; the IDoA Aging Cares (IT) system being developed and Reopening Workgroups priorities. We will try to get some updates on the following priorities in future meetings: Colbert and Williams Consent Decrees.

Another priority was related to adding new Elderly Waiver services. However, due to COVID-19, the Department has decided to submit the renewal with existing Waiver services. Falls detection, GPS and cell phone usage with EHRS are additional services that may be added. The CCU 6-month visit policy to increase contact with those receiving CCP service will also be implemented. A gap filling nutrition type service to work in collaboration with the HDM program and a Family Caregiver component with the flexibilities of Appendix K. The Department will continue to develop and consider amendments following the Waiver renewal in the future. Lora McCurdy commented that we have tried to do our best with the Appendix K flexibilities and the remote work that had to be done and there are a lot of lessons learned. Positive feedback from the IL Care Connections program.

Lora McCurdy shared that there are a lot of federal funding possibilities that we will know more about in the upcoming weeks. A lot of questions were received about the 10% increase in FMAP. Hopefully by the next OASAC meeting additional guidance will be available. McCurdy, Mike Berkes and Amy Lulich were on a call with CMS and the states have a lot of questions on parameters on how this funding can be used, we are all waiting for written guidance. McCurdy also added that there is the American Jobs Plan that has not been passed, but it potentially includes a lot of funding for caregivers, HCBS, and the workforce. Paul Bennett suggested adding federal updates to the State Legislative update. Eckert shared that the IL Care Connection grant continues to move forward and there may be an opportunity to add additional funding. McCurdy stated that

there is also good news about APS funding and funding for AAA's to assist with vaccination efforts.

Director Paula Basta joined and shared that there will be a summit on April 26 and 27th to discuss racial disparities and invited everyone to join. Healthy Aging and Prevention is another priority; John Eckert will get a Quality Webinars list from Mike Berkes. These have been done twice a month and are addressing Healthy Aging issues and Mental Health Issues. Data driven program development, the Department has had several calls with UIUC regarding the development of a general IGA, that is now finalized. This was pre COVID-19 work on data driven decisions to inform policy program and one project was to analyze comprehensive assessments. Paul Bennett asked if the split between the Medicaid and Non-Medicaid people in the community still 50/50. Kim Flesch stated that if you are including the MCO population it is 74% Medicaid, but if you are not including the MCO population it is more of 52/48 for just CCP. A spreadsheet from the last CCP Medicaid meeting will be shared. McCurdy stated that one of the positives is that our Medicaid percentage numbers have increased over the last year and a half. It could be due to the pandemic and the policies of not terminating. Flesch agreed and added that not terminating not just for CCP but also not terminating for Medicaid. Bennett asked how many people are 100% CCU and how many are followed by Managed Care and added that the MCOs have a higher standard. Eckert shared that in addition to the 6-month FTF they are working on a mechanism to track highflyers going to the event reporting that would get intensive casework or intensive case monitoring and more FTF. McCurdy added that HFS has brought that to our attention, the MCO model of more frequent quarterly visits, but we all know that they have a capitated rate and a different funding is used for the CCUs. Lyle VanDeventer asked for clarification regarding the 6-month FTF visit and asked if it is not an assessment is it a wellness visit. Mike Berkes shared that the 6-month FTF visit would occur in between the initial and the annual, it will more likely occur between months 4 and 8 and the intent is for it to be to be a very focused visit. Berkes shared that the participants will be asked how they are doing and would follow up if there are any Critical Events our system and risk mitigations actions would be put in place. VanDeventer shared that HFS has shared a similar suggestion. However, their counselors are State staff, not contractors and any change would involve negotiations with unions. Eckert added that the focus would be the Person-centered Plan of Care. Bennet stated it would be interesting to know how many participants do receive more than one visit per year. Susan Real asked if the designation RFP process for CCU is still in place; they received more points if they did more FTF visits. Eckert replied that those CCUs that have that in their contracts have been following it. McCurdy added that this approach will be a standardized approach across the State for all CCUs because you should have a different case management system depending on where you live.

Eckert continued to go over the priority areas. Staying abreast of Dementia Friendly initiatives and we did have a presentation from the Department staff in a previous meeting. He also added that once Amy Lulich receives the approved State Plan back, we will ask her to review that as well. The last priority is to continue to learn about other members organizations. We had Dr. Cornwell and we will have John Larson present during our upcoming meeting. We will continue to keep you informed on the list as we move through the year to ensure that we are fulfilling our responsibility.

Department Updates:

Communication with network on Reopening Activities

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department will be meeting with the CCUs soon to continue to discuss reopening. The AAAs and congregate meals will put a pause on the reopening of congregate meals sites due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in the State. IDoA coordinated with Public Health after receiving concerns from several of the AAAs. Susan Real confirmed that they had requested a pause as an association. The Senior Centers were also supportive in slowing down the reopening plan. Mike Berkes shared that we all realize that at some point we do realize that we must go back to our FTF visits, but for now we are okay with Appendix K operational flexibilities. There are situations where we would all agree that not going back out to FTF is the better due to participant's health, safety and welfare. Berkes added that the Department is trying to be proactive internally for when we do restart some FTF visits. The Department wants to ensure that assessments are completed and that we have older adults where they need to be with the services they need and is internally looking at data, reviewing CMS language to plan on how to unwind when we do return to FTF and having discussions. Paul Bennett stated that he heard the issue is not just the health, welfare and safety of the participants, but also of the workforce. He advised to keep in mind both sets. Berkes stated that speaking as the Elderly Waiver Manager he was not sure that CMS will always view it that way and will want to make sure that participants come first. Amy Brown stated that she agrees with Bennett and shared that they are back at the office and would like to take small steps and get staff mentally prepared to FTF in-home full-blown services. Brown believes it is going to be a big deal because they have new staff that have never been in the field because they started during COVID-19; and would like to start taking small baby steps now instead of big steps; the longer they wait the harder it will be. Eckert stated that Brown brings up a good point; that a lot of the Choices for Care screeners will be the first to go back and a lot of the hospitals are contacting the Care Coordinator supervisors asking when they will go back. A lot of the office space was lost because other hospital staff took over to social distance.

03/31/21 IDoA Virtual Conference

Mike Berkes shared that the Virtual Conference held on March 30th, 2021 was the second virtual conference and was very successful. There was a total of 743 attendees at highest point. There were four plenary sessions and one breakout session. The structure was a focus on self-care and re-establishing rapport; how we meet people where we are. Linda Hubbarth shared that it was a great day; she is not a zoom person, but she stayed focused all day. There was good information provided, the speakers were knowledgeable, they explained the theory and hands on information. Berkes shared that the link to recording with closed captioning will be posted on the website.

Update on Aging Cares New IT System

Kimberly Flesch shared that the Aging Cares system is combining the Participants Form Manager that CCUs use to fill out the assessments, the CMIS system that is houses the assessment data with Shawnee Information system and eCCPIS all into one system. The Department is not getting rid of eCCPIS right away, there will be a bridge built in that will allow for the assessments to be entered and then bill for the assessment to reduce duplication of what the CCUs are doing now. It will also be one system, an internet-based system for all CCUs to see and look up information. CCUs in different areas can look up. We are also hoping to increase communication between providers and CCUs. There will be notifications for providers, case notes will be available for

CCUs and Providers. We are also expecting MCOs to be able to enter this system and information to be available in case they transfer back to CCP. This includes a lot more data will be available. Flesch shared that she and Mary Gilman meet with programmers bi-weekly to talk through the processes and rebilling. They also meet with CCU workgroup bi-monthly and include them any time there are questions. She added that we expect to go live at the end of the calendar year.

Emergency Senior Services

Mike Berkes shared that for FY21 ESS funds a total of \$1.7 million was paid out. The top area spent on was nutrition, including meals and delivery of food. Funds were provided for assistive devices (walkers, grab bars, and lift chairs). We had collaboration in building ramps, patching roofs, helping with rent, and helping with other various utility bills. Last summer, the Department targeted outreach to communities that had experienced the social unrest. ESS has worked with the HDM programming; ESS met HDM where there were waiting lists. In PSA 4, the waiting list was knocked down with ESS funds from 300 to 80. The Department was approved \$5 million for FY22 and are currently working to get these grants out. We also continue to meet the MCO member needs, as needed, if timing becomes a barrier or they are waiting on various systems to work. The number of individuals assisted with ESS was about 8,000, these are individuals assisted. Bulk purchases of food baskets, personal hygiene baskets have been strongly encouraged. Overall, ESS has been a great success and we continue to refine our data and line things out so we can tell a story on ESS. Linda Hubbardt thanked the Department for being so responsive and being there. Berkes stated that he is grateful and thanked the network and asked everyone to keep doing what they are doing. Berkes stated that he knows that we are all making a difference with ESS. John Eckert shared that Hubbardt has done several of the ramps and has been very creative with identify funding and free professional labor. The Department loves to get the pictures and circulates them.

Review/approve Agenda for May 17, 2021 Full OASAC Meeting:

John Eckert asked everyone to look at the agenda for May and stated that we will be adding State and Federal Activities Updates under Legislative Updates. We will have John Larsen and Veronica Holloway confirmed to present at the May meeting. Hopefully Sophia can work to get those 2 vacancies filled. We will also be soliciting Executive members since some members have left. We will make sure VanDeventer talks about the DRS customers over age 60 on their three waivers. Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the May meeting. Linda Hubbardt made the motion, Paul Bennett seconded, all were in favor, the agenda was approved.

Public Comments, Other Issues, & Announcements:

Director Basta shared that May is older Americans month throughout the country and she wants to make sure people have that on their radar. The theme this year is Communities of Strength. ACL has a lot of information on their website, including media tool kits, flyers and other things. We want to highlight our older adults. Director thanked everyone for their participation on this committee.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Real made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Gustavo Saberbein seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 3:00 p.m.