



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: January 11, 2021 (**Approved April 12, 2021**)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 177 402 0691#, 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 County
Mike Koronkowski, UIC College of Pharmacy
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Gustavo Saberbein, Help at Home/Oxford HealthCare
Teva Shirley, Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association

Department Representatives:

Kelly Cunningham, HFS
Megan Spitz, Illinois Housing Development Authority
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Samantha Brill, Sue DeBoer, Becky Dragoo, Chelsey Peters, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Amy Lulich and Lora McCurdy

Absent:

Department Representatives:

Daniel Levad, Illinois Department of Public Health

Introductions & *Call to Order:

Director Paula Basta welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Director Basta shared that the Department is following IDPH guidance and have been in conversations with IDPH regarding vaccinations. Director thanked everyone for continuing to provide high quality services to older adults in Illinois. Members and staff introduced themselves. John Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order Susan Real made the motion; Mike Koronkowski seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of October 19, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the October 19, 2020 minutes. Gustavo Saberbein made the motion to approve the minutes; Mike Koronkowski seconded. No additions or corrections were noted, the minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

OASAC Membership Vacancies:

Director Basta shared that it was Teva Shirley's last meeting as she is retiring soon. Sophia Gonzalez stated that there continues to be a vacancy for a Parish Nurse representative and added that the Department reached out to Cathy Weighman-Moore, that currently has a new role with Catholic Charities for a recommendation. OASAC also has current vacancies for representatives from a nursing home or assisted living representative, a citizen member over the age of 60, an Illinois Long-term Care Ombudsmen and Case Management. Paul Bennett asked for the process in submitting recommendations for the vacancies. John Eckert added that the Department is also looking at increasing the diversity when filling these vacancies, including race and cultural considerations. Depending on the vacancy, the Department may request recommendations directly from specific associations. It was clarified that any individuals interested in filing these vacancies would need to submit a letter of interest and a short bio for the Director's review and appointment. Bennett also asked for clarification regarding the vacancy for Case Management and asked if it included APS or only Care Coordination. Director Basta responded that the Department would need to look at the statute and follow up with the group.

Department Updates:

Communication with Aging Network and Reopening Activities

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department has continued to have conference calls with the Aging Network focusing on providing updated vaccination information and coordination with entities providing vaccinations. The Department continues to follow IDPH and CDC guidelines. McCurdy also shared that much of the network is not quite at re-opening yet but did note that the CCUs have been handling FTF home visits on case by case basis pending approval by the Department.

COVID-19 Distribution Plan

The Department is hopeful that with the vaccination roll out, will enable us to re-open. Director Basta asked members if they have been in contact with their local Health Departments and added that she would like to hear feedback. Amy Brown shared that in Champaign and Vermillion counties, they were informed that they would have a committee to help roll out the vaccinations. Brown asked to be part of that committee and was accepted, but there is no committee formulated to date. Brown shared that individuals 75 years and older were part of the 1A phase but within 45 minutes of the phone lines opening there were no appointments available. Brown additionally shared that advocating for her CCU has been helpful; she was able to get CRIS added to phase 1A. She is not sure what this means because it seems that the Health Departments are trying to figure out the roll out themselves. Susan Real shared that in McLean county only healthcare workers were included in phase 1A. She shared that they are including seniors and CCP in-home workers but not all aging network personnel. They are also

questioning Developmental Disability and residential services. She shared that Illinois Partners has advocated on their behalf to Public Health regarding the inconsistencies. Lauren Rice will be meeting with Sol Flores regarding these inconsistencies. Real added that Decatur is the same. Teva Shirley shared that in St. Claire county they were approached for a list of who wanted to be vaccinated and then followed up with a question on who is seeing people. As a result, APS caseworkers will be vaccinated but not CCP. Director Basta shared that based on what she has read, we do not have the vaccinations that are needed, and they are probably prioritizing. Paul Bennett shared that in Cook County information to sign up for vaccinations was made available for healthcare workers only. He shared that his daughter in-law who has behavioral health firm signed up and her and her staff were vaccinated. Bennett also shared that he reached out to his doctor and was told to call back at the end of the month. Gustavo Saberbein stated that they have reached out to their local Health Department and have completed a survey but have not received a response. Selma D'Souza shared that the Department is creating an FAQ about the vaccinations and it will be posted on the website, including translations.

Public Health Emergency & Appendix K updates

Mike Berkes shared that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and Appendix K dates are coming up to expire. He shared that HFS will be submitting a request to set *Appendix K* to expire six months after the PHE period expires. Berkes reminded everyone that *Appendix K* allows for flexibilities under the waiver during the PHE period. As of today, the PHE is set to expire on January 26, 2021 and the *Appendix K* is set to expire on January 26, 2021. After the *Appendix K* submission, it would be set to expire in July 2021. The Department will keep everyone informed. Kelly Cunningham shared that the PHE end date has been extended and she would look for a document to share with the extension date. Berkes shared that depending on what date the extension, it may align with the Elderly waiver renewal date. The Department is planning to submit waiver renewal in December.

Home Delivered Meals Update

Becky Dragoo shared that she would share a snapshot of the Home Delivered Meals (HDM) since they began tracking daily and weekly meals from the onset of the pandemic through December. Over 9.1 million HDM have been provided by nutritional providers throughout the State. In March there had been 75,000 meals provided any by April there had been 940,000. Overall providers distribute on average 42,451 meals per day throughout the state. These numbers fluctuate and there are times that nutritional providers and AAAs provide more meals prior to weekends and holidays. Dragoo shared that last year there had been 7.7 million meals delivered and 2.2 million congregate deliveries for a total of 9.9 million and that amount has been exceeded in 7 months. Dragoo stated that we should give kudos to all nutritional providers and all congregate deliverers, Assistance has been received, \$8.8 million from the Family First Act and \$17.6 million from the Cares Act grant and recently the COVID Relief Act was passed. Dragoo shared that we still must wait to hear what these numbers are for the COVID relief Act. These funds were turned into grants and a total of \$87.1 million dollars were awarded, this included State funding. A waiting list was initiated on October and there were five individuals then and now there are a total of 270 seniors on the waiting list. An HDM workgroup has been created with the network to discuss the best way to handle these services. During the pandemic many individuals were added to the HDM without the assessment process and now they need to be evaluated to determine the

services that they may need. Berkes shared that ESS provided funds to CCUs to help with providing true basic needs during the pandemic and to ensure that everyone has what they needed during the pandemic. Dragoo is working with Older American federal funds but there is a need to fill the gaps and the Department continues to have these discussions to appropriate ESS funds to fill these gaps. These discussions are needed to determine how the CCUs can collaborate with the AAA's to be consistent and to minimize wait lists and address meal insecurity. He shared that they are also working on putting this information on paper and John Eckert and he continue to provide approvals as needed for ESS funds.

PASRR Redesign

John Eckert shared the RFP was posted by HFS at the end of the year. Proposals are due by Feb 8th and will be awarded by May 1st timeframe and he will go over the copies to see what that means for CCUs and Choices for Care. Kelly Cunningham mentioned that there was a vendor's conference regarding technical questions. Cunningham noted that there were three possible different companies that attended. No letters of intent were received. Eckert added that there are a lot of deliverables. Bennett asked if the information on PASRR Redesign was posted on the HFS website. Cunningham responded that it should be available, but she will share a packet with the Department for distribution to members that are interested.

Review/approve Agenda for February 22, 2021 Full OASAC Meeting:

Susan Real asked if there is an opportunity to have OASAC hear more on the Adult Protective Services (APS) Elder Abuse task force and their report. Perhaps look at the report and raise issues that continue to be of concern to our Aging network and reach out to the CCUs to look at partnering in advocacy to improve or strengthen the rights of the client. Paul Bennett agreed that he would like to hear an update on the Elder Abuse Task force, maybe hear from the Elder Abuse providers during a future OASAC meeting. McCurdy asked Sue DeBoer if there is an APS advisory meeting. Sue DeBoer responded that there is a group that is selected by the APS Directors. Teva Shirley is on that group. Bennett added that there have been some concerns regarding self-determination and the person-centered approach. Lora McCurdy stated that the Department will talk internally to ensure that this is the group to have that conversation. Susan Real stated that OASAC might be an opportunity to dive in more deeply with additional representation. McCurdy asked Amy Lulich if she would be able to talk about the three-year State Plan on Aging during the February OASAC meeting. She shared that Amy is working on a PPT and want to have the opportunity to inform OASAC on what is included on the State Plan, including areas addressing APS. McCurdy asked Sue DeBoer, who is over APS, to talk about the different groups for APS. DeBoer stated that she appreciates everyone's concern and it is understandable that they want to talk about it. However, she added that the report was written from a broad perspective because of who was on the task force. She mentioned that it should be looked with a global perspective. She mentioned that they always get concerns, even the sister agencies get complaints and we all need to learn how to collaborate better. DeBoer noted she would talk to Real and Bennett to discuss the task force in more detail and determine what they are looking for.

Gustavo Saberbein asked about the February agenda, the MCO presentation on the agenda to be approved. John Eckert shared that it would be a higher-level presentation and that he still needs to talk to HFS about areas to address as they relate to OASAC's rebalancing mandate. Saberbein suggested finding an MCO that also offers Medicare

Advantage to learn more about the model they have in place. Eckert added that Dr. Thomas Cornwell will be presenting as well; and Lyle VanDeventer will be talking about the DHS Waivers specific to services to people over 60. VanDeventer added that it is interesting that the median age is getting older. Additional agenda items include; Department updates to keep you informed, a new grant management system (Amplifund), and the internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee is taking shape and remains a high priority for the Department. Eckert asked for a motion to approve the Full OASAC Agenda pending to add APS Task Force report depending on the result of the discussion with DeBoer and Department review whether this should be included as an area to include as part of OASAC mandate. Paul Bennett made the motion, Susan Real seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comments, Other Issues, & Announcements:

No comments.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gustavo Saberbein made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Amy Brown seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 2:54 p.m.