



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: July 13, 2020 **(Approved on October 19, 2020)**

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 133 592 6748#, 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  
Phyllis Mitzen, Citizen member over the age of 60  
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging  
Gustavo Saberbein, Help at Home/Oxford HealthCare  
Teva Shirley, Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association  
Cathy Weightman-Moore, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, Catholic Charities

Department Representatives:

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

Department on Aging staff:

Sue DeBoer, Becky Dragoo, Selma D 'Souza, John Eckert, Kimberly Flesch, Sophia Gonzalez, Jason Jordan, and Lora McCurdy

Absent:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Department Representatives:

Debra Bryars, Department of Public Health

### Introductions & \*Call to Order:

Lora McCurdy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and staff introduced themselves from Springfield, Chicago and on the phone. McCurdy asked for a motion to call the meeting to order Teva Shirley made the motion; Gustavo Saberbein Paul seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

### Approval of January 13, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes:

Lora McCurdy asked for a motion to approve the January 13, 2020 minutes. Linda Hubbartt made the motion to approve the minutes; Mike Koronkowski seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with no additions or corrections and will be posted on the Department website.

### Discuss OASAC Priority Areas for FY 21:

John Eckert asked everyone to review the priority areas for 2017 and 2018 to determine what priority areas need to be considered for FY21. Susan Real suggested that aligning the priority areas with the State Plan on Aging focus areas would be helpful. Lora McCurdy stated that the Department could send out the State Plan on Aging Focus Areas and added that the priority areas align with the focus areas. For example, Prevention, Social Determinants, Healthy Aging, Rebalancing, using data to drive quality programs, Dementia Friendly Communities, and doing a better job at using technology are all included. Real additionally shared that there is more work to be done with the Workforce Stabilization Workgroup. A request for an update on the CCU Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee was also requested for the next FULL meeting. McCurdy shared that the Department has continued to work with DHS and HFS and Medicaid enrollment has increased but the Medicaid Uploader has not been launched but it is getting closer. Paul Bennett added that he agreed with Real's comments and asked the Department what homecare providers doing regarding supervision to HCA's during COVID. It was shared that the Department has had regular calls with homecare providers. Sue DeBoer added that the Department has had constant contact with the homecare providers; they have had calls, emails, and desk reviews. DeBoer added that there are a new set of guidelines, there are new monitoring tools in place and follow-up. McCurdy shared that PPE has been secured for homecare providers, especially in Cook County. DeBoer shared that 600 thousand pieces of PPE have been provided to the network providers. The PPE has been delivered in the hardest hit areas. The Department made a PPE Webinar available as a training session to all providers, especially in-home providers that goes over procedures on how to put on a mask and take it off. Eckert shared that the IL Care Connections grant, a CCU pilot has provided IPADS to older adults. Amy Brown has been working with this pilot in Danville and Champaign and may be invited to provide an update in a future meeting. AAA's and CCU's will be using the UCLA Social Isolation Loneliness Scale to do a Pre and Post. Eckert shared that work continues with the OASAC rebalancing initiatives with CCU's, MCO's and with the Colbert/Williams implementation plan. He also stated that last year Colbert was switched over to DHS, but the Department is still actively involved. There is a workgroup that is looking at how we can do better deflecting and HFS is looking at the federal PASRR redesign and how hospital-based Choices screens fit into that. Both workgroups are working together. Bennett stated that he was interested to know if Managed Care has had an impact on Nursing Home admissions. Eckert shared that we can partner with MCO's to keep people in the community and we can look at that. We also want to continue to look at the Federal CARES Act that has provided funding during COVID-19 and we a lot of agencies that have taken advantage of those loans, for example CCUs in Bloomington and Central Illinois. Eckert shared that notes will be put

together to be shared during the FULL OASAC meeting. Bennet reminded everyone to include the Workforce Workgroup and not lose the momentum. Phyllis Mitzen suggested personalizing the success stories with the in-home care and to honor people providing these services. Eckert stated that we can ask Mike Dropka, CIO to share stories on the Department website. Director Basta agreed with Mitzen and shared that during the month of May, the Department did highlight make your mark stories. Director Basta asked if Susan Real was on the call and asked her to share all her amazing stories.

### Department Updates:

#### Reopening Activities & Workgroups

Director Basta shared that the Department is convening seven workgroups looking re-opening in different areas of the network. She shared that as of July, the State is in Phase 4 in a few areas. Some workgroups are looking at re-opening Senior Centers with IDPH guidance and working with Adult Day Service providers. The workgroups are also looking at sister agencies around us and how some have reopened with success, while others have not. Director Basta emphasized that addressing covid-19 in Illinois is being guided by science and with the goal to keep both staff and seniors safe. There is also an in-home care workgroup and an APS workgroup that will address returning to face-to-face visits soon. The Ombudsman workgroup is IDPH-driven and it was shared during a call Friday afternoon that none of the Ombudsman Programs are working with residents face-to-face in Nursing Homes pending further guidance,

#### Persons who are Elderly Waiver— Appendix K

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department has worked closely with Kelly Cunningham and many other HFS staff on the development of Appendix K. McCurdy shared that they are looking to see if there are any flexibilities provided under Appendix K that they want to make permanent to the Waiver. For example, allowing spouses and guardians to be in-home care workers. Currently the Department wanted to make sure that all our seniors had access to services and added running an APS registry, as additional requirements before approving a spouse or guardian. It was also shared that there are 44 individuals approved under the Appendix K that are being allowed to be providers and have been asked if they want to stay permanent. Kelly Cunningham shared that the National Public Health Emergency is expiring July 24<sup>th</sup> by the Feds. She shared that HFS has been putting together a list of all flexibilities that were approved, (State Plan, Emergency Waivers, and Appendix K) and what they want to consider moving forward. Cunningham additionally shared that Appendix K is in effect through January 2021 and will expire when the Public Health Emergency expires.

#### Ombudsman Program

Cathy Weightman-Moore shared that Kelly Richards has updated everyone about the post cards being sent to all residents but not every area is the same. Chicago is very different than downstate. Since mid-March there has been a lot of communication with facilities on how residents are keeping connected with families. Weightman-Moore shared that they have been providing information as they receive it. There have been window visits in some facilities since the beginning of May. The State Office provided post cards to provide to residents and in Cathy's area, these have been personalized by adding the local Ombudsman picture and name. The Ombudsmen have continued to advocate for residents with out going into the facilities.

#### Automated Medication Dispensers (AMD) revisions launch

Kimberly Flesch shared that the language in certain AMD materials had been revamped. Flesch shared that a workgroup of providers and CCUs identified barriers after having only minimal usage in the last 2 years. The changes went into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. One of the changes to the policy that replaced “assisting party” instead of “responsible party” due to provider request. Additionally, the number of medications a participant needed to have to qualify for an AMD unit was lowered from 5 to 1. The need for the medication to be prescribed was also removed. The need for the medication to be administered 2 or more times a day was also removed. Changes to the diagnosis was also made, as a participant only need to meet one diagnosis to qualify. Flesch additionally shared that she is monitoring the number of enrollments to see if these changes help to increase usage.

#### Emergency Senior Services- FY 21 grants

John Eckert shared that per Director Basta’s request, \$5 million dollars are going into FY21 to continue with the ESS program that has been very successful. Currently the contracts are being finalized. Eckert asked if anyone one from a CCU on the call wanted to share anything. Linda Hubbartt shared that the program was wonderful and that she was thankful to have the opportunity and appreciated the support. Hubbartt also shared that the IHDA Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program also helped. Eckert shared that information had been he sent out about the \$51 million dollars that are available. Information can be found on the IHDA website, in the first day a total of 100 thousand applications were received. Megan Spitz shared that IHDA will be offering grants to the community agencies to do outreach in communities. Eckert asked Spitz to let the Department know as soon as more information is available.

#### Veteran Independence Program (VIP)

Sophia Gonzalez shared that there are currently 6 Veteran Independence Programs operating in Illinois serving a total of 207 veterans. She shared that the VIP program provides home and community-based services to help veterans stay home and remain in the community. The PSA’s that have active programs are PSA 02 Age Guide, PSA 05 East Central, PSA 08 AgeSmart, PSA 09 Midland, PSA 10 Southeastern, and PSA 11 Egyptian. PSA 04 has expressed interest in restarting the program and the Department has reached out to the ACL Lewin Group contact for assistance. John Eckert added that there have been efforts to expand the VIP program, but the VA Medical Centers have re-allocated the funds and the sales job has to be made with the VA Medical Center to explain how this program saves funds and increases quality of life. Susan Real added that the Marion VA Medical Center has been embracing the program, they still have the 1<sup>st</sup> veteran from 2010 in the program. She shared that Iliana VA Medical Center has an intense caregiver program and they have been learning a lot from that program and how it is designed.

#### 2-Year OASAC Report to the General Assembly

John Eckert shared that the Department is getting closer to getting the 2-year report done and more information will be shared during the FULL OASAC Meeting.

#### Review/approve Agenda for August 24, 2020 full OASAC Meeting:

John Eckert asked everyone to review the draft agenda. There will be a CCRS presentation during the full OASAC meeting. He shared that CCRS is the precursor to the Supportive Living program. He asked if there are any additions and asked for a

motion to approve the agenda. Susan Real made a motion and Mike Koronkowski seconded. All were in favor; the agenda was approved. \

Other Issues, Announcements & Public Comments:

No other issues, announcements or public comments were made.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Hubbartt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Paul Bennett seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 3:01 p.m.