



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16, 2020 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Approved 02.22.2021)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 133 078 7585#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

IN ATTENDANCE:

OASAC Committee Members

Director Paula Basta – Department on Aging
Sherry Barter Hamlin – The Voyage Senior Living
Paul Bennett – Citizen over the age of 60
Amy S. Brown – CRIS Healthy Aging Center
Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus Inc.
Dr. Thomas Cornwell – Village Medical at Home
Kelly Fischer – Pathway to Living
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska – Molina Healthcare of Illinois
Linda Hubbartt – Effingham City-County Committee on Aging
Michael Koronkowski – UIC College of Pharmacy
John Larsen – Cantata Adult Life Services
Sharon Manning – Family Caregiver
Phyllis Mitzen – Citizen over the age of 60
David Olsen – Alzheimer Association Illinois Chapter
Sandra Pastore – Association of Illinois Senior Centers
Susan Real – East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Gustavo Saberbein – Help at Home LLC
Teva Shirley – Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association
Jason Speaks – Leading Age IL
Sara Ratcliffe – Illinois HomeCare and Hospice Council
Jacqueline Rodriguez – SEIU HealthCare – Illinois and Indiana
Walter Rosenberg – Rush University Medical Center
Cathy Weightman-Moore – Catholic Charities LTC Ombudsman Program

Ex-officio Committee Members:

Pam Winsel (for Kelly Cunningham) – Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Gwen Diehl – Department of Veterans Affairs
Kelly Richards – State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Mari Money (Christopher B. Meister) – Illinois Finance Authority
Lyle VanDeventer – Department of Human Services

Department on Aging staff:

Rhonda Armstead, Samantha Brill, Becky Dragoo, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Mary Gilman, Jason Jordan, Sophia Gonzalez, Amy Lulich, Chuck Miller, Lora McCurdy, Robin Morgan, Phyllis Roate, Michael Sartorius, LaRhonda Williams and Lisa Zuurbier

GUESTS:

N/A

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

OASAC Committee Members

Meghan Carter – Legal Council for Health Justice

Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus Inc.

Cindy Cunningham – Illinois Adult Day Services Association

Lori Hendren – AARP Illinois

Dave Lowitzki – SEIU HealthCare – Illinois and Indiana

Susan Hughes – UIC Community Health Sciences School of Public Health

Ancy Zacharia – Home Care Physicians

Ex-officio Committee Members

Daniel Levad – Department of Public Health

Megan Spitz – Illinois Housing Development Authority

Welcome & Introductions:

Director Paula Basta welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Director Basta thanked everyone for all they are doing and shared that as partners we will get through this COVID pandemic. She wished everyone a good and restful Thanksgiving. All members, guests and IDoA staff introduced themselves.

Call to Order:

John Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. David Olsen made the motion and Gwen Diehl seconded. All members voted in favor.

Approve minutes from the Full OASAC meeting on August 24, 2020:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2020 meeting. David Olsen made the motion and Teva Shirley seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by members with no additions or corrections. The minutes will be posted on the Department website.

The Voyage Senior Living CCRS Presentation:

Sherry Barter-Hamlin, Executive Director of the Voyage Senior Living presented on the affordable Senior Living CCRS program. Sherry shared that project goals include to provide affordable assisted living (AL) to seniors with various financial resources, demonstrate a social model of AL (aging in place) and meeting the needs of seniors who have difficulty remaining at home, but who are not ready for nursing home placement. The CCRS combines affordable rent along with state supported services through the Department on Aging's Community Care Program (CCP). The CCRS services provided include 3 meals a day, laundry, housekeeping, transportation, supervision of self-administered medication, personal care, Emergency Response System, Social Activities, and Respite Care. Sherry shared that the Voyage Senior Living works in coordination with the CCU (Shawnee) that complete the assessments for the potential residents for CCRS and that they are the primary referral source. All CCRS buildings are licensed by Illinois Department of Public Health. During the presentation Sherry shared the location information and pictures of all The Voyage Senior Living buildings. Information regarding all CCRS locations in Illinois was also shared. **(PPT attached)** Eckert added that the CCRS are a precursor to the Supportive Living Program (HFS Waiver) and all CCRS sites were grandfathered in. Paul Bennett shared that he is happy that this program is still going.

Dementia Friendly Communities Update:

Becky Dragoo, Division Manager of HCBS shared that Phyllis Roate will be presenting on the Illinois Dementia Friendly Communities. This initiative was established in 2017 to build capacity and support in communities in the State. Roate has been grants manager for Quality of Life, Dementia Care & Social Isolation and a guest speaker for the American Society of Aging. Currently there are Dementia Friendly Communities initiatives in PSA's 02,05, 07, 08, 09, and 11. One million dollars was provided in funding for evidence-based programs. Roate shared that 3 years ago, this initiative was started, and they had to determine how it would fit into the IDOA mission to keep individuals in their home safe. Dementia Friendly America involved the entire community; The Illinois Cognitive Resource Network was started with Rush University as a telephone conversation. Several

kickoff events with Area Agencies on Aging followed that included Dr. Raj. The ACL grant was then discovered and several applied and were awarded. Two communities in PSA 02, Age Guide, north to Chicago and Kankakee and one community in PSA 08, AgeSmart, metro east (Collinsville). These areas became involved with the community; local businesses, banking, health care systems and others. Trainings were geared to each community. For example, what should a bank teller do when approached by an individual with Dementia. How to calm the individual, what should others do (e.g. pharmacist, servers). Trainings focused on supporting and helping the person stay in the community. PSA 02 is having general business trainings with the faculty with Catholic Charities. In Lake County, Memory Café's, library programs, involved CCUs congregate meals and partnerships with Aetna and BCBS. In Kankakee, a Memory Café is doing gardening activities and a local nursery donated flowers and the land was donated. All the community is devoted to having activities like Yoga in Place, Outdoor Memory Café and a Safety Fair. In PSA 08, Marla Fronczak, Collette Jordan and Joey Path have been working to become involved with the community law enforcement, first responders, Adult Day Centers (trainings by the Adult Day within their facilities and in the communities). Savvy Caregiver training offers education to caregivers, Dementia promotion and support through the National Path group. Roate shared information on where this initiative is heading by sharing specifics on the four AAA's that were part of the planning process of this initiative. East Central, PSA 05, the Bloomington area is working on a virtual event for 40 providers. Springfield, PSA 07, is working with representatives from all sectors. Midland AAA in Centralia is in the planning process since all activities were stopped due to COVID. They are renewing planning and education virtually. Egyptian, PSA 11, is also working on the planning process and they have received a lot of support from the alderman. Overall, half of the AAA's have been involved in this initiative. Roate shared that she is happy to guide anyone that is interested. Paul Bennett asked if municipalities and village governments are involved. Roate responded that the participation from these entities has been phenomenal. There have been community days, Dementia Friendly Days, local government and legislators have been very supportive. She also shared that Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton has been a positive role model. Dr. Cornwell asked about partnership with Rush Hospital and the Age Friendly Health System. Roate stated that the City of Chicago has partnered and has incorporated both with a focus on high rises. Lyle VanDeventer asked is if they can work with individuals under the age of 60. Roate shared that any individual with Dementia, under age 60, can be part of the Dementia Friendly America initiative. Amy Lulich shared that an inter-agency collaboration with DRS is part of the draft State Plan and can be further discussed.

FY21 OASAC Priority Areas Update:

John Eckert shared that the FY21 Priority Areas has been approved by the Executive members and updates will be shared as we go through the year. Eckert asked Sandy Pastore to share an update on the small Workforce Stabilization subgroup that met to discuss Gerontology education. Sandy shared that the subgroup has just started meeting again this month. There is still a need to do a labor market analysis, credentials and licensures needed to work in Gerontology. Eckert shared that the group will also be kept updated on the OASAC Subcommittee Meetings. In February, there is a plan to have HFS present on Managed Care Organizations. An update will be provided during today's meeting on Aging Cares by Victoria Emmanuel, Robin Morgan and Mary Gilman. Updates on the IL Care Connection Grant were added. Quality Webinars meeting invites will be forwarded to OASAC. The presentations on Dementia Friendly Communities and Sherry's presentation were great and are part of the priority list.

Department Updates:

Budget/Fiscal

Director Basta shared that the legislative budget was sent to everyone. Stay tuned for the GOMB press release For additional details.

Legislation

Samantha Brill shared that GOMB is talking about session cancellation this year and there are no dates for veto session due to the pandemic.

Reopening Activities & Workgroups

Lora McCurdy shared that the Department continues to talk to the various workgroups. There was a call this morning with the CCUs. There has been regular commitment from everyone as they are all at different stages. A total of 37 ADS sites have reopened and an additional 15 have submitted re-opening plans to the Department for

review. Several senior centers have remained closed, but all are doing remote type of work connecting with seniors. The ADS sites are also doing remote work with adults. McCurdy shared that APS providers have returned to completing FTF visits. CCUs have continued to conduct assessments by phone and the Department has continued to have regular communication with them. The CCUs play a central role in assisting seniors and filing gaps. The Department is lucky to have a supportive network. The Department continues to monitor what is going on in the State with the increase in COVID cases and how to plan. The mitigation plans and monitoring and we continue to get direction from IDPH and sister agencies. Eckert added that some CCUs are doing FTF on a case by case basis. There have been some exceptions for participant's that have Dementia, are hard of hearing or are not answering the phones.

Public Health Emergency & Appendix K:

Amy Lulich shared that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) expires on January 21, 2021 and is supposed to be renewed every 90 days. Appendix K flexibilities provide an ability for HFS and IDOA to introduce flexibilities in current waiver services. The Department worked with HFS to put together flexibilities that were submitted on August 2020 and were approved through January 26, 2021. Appendix K has statewide authority and making sure that these flexibilities are available for both Medicaid and Non-Medicaid participants. During the PHE period there is requirement of non-termination of service and non-reduction of services for CCP participants. There are very few exceptions for this requirement, a guidance was put out and shared earlier this year. The Department continues to work with HFS when questions are received regarding terminations and reductions. Mike Berkes added that Pam Winsel is over all waivers in HFS and thanked her for all her work. Berkes added that there was an APS leverage implemented to balance the risk of COVID against the need of completing FTF visits. He clarified that only the highest priority cases were having FTF visits. Appendix K has now been able to help ADS go out and keep people safe. AMD installation has extended in-service and pre-service requirements. Spouses and guardians can serve as in-home care workers and the Department is currently considering continuing to work in this capacity post-COVID. Background checks have been suspended. There have been several calls with MCO's to talk through how ADS can bill MCO's. Other flexibilities include remote signatures and remote assessments. Over two hundred documents on guidance have been shared. Pam Winsel added that she oversees the Waiver Operations Unit. She stated that the PHE have been extended through January 26, 2021 and they are still waiting for CMS to know if the Appendix K will have to be renewed. She shared that they had never had one extended this long. She thanked the Aging network.

Emergency Senior Services (ESS)

Mike Berkes shared that the Emergency Senior Services grant was initiated in March 2020 to meet the needs of seniors during the pandemic. A total of 2 million dollars was spent in 2020. For FY20, 5 million was sent over to the ESS budget due to the successes we were able to achieve in 2020. These grants are available for individuals over the age of 60 and individuals between the ages of 18-59 that have an APS case. ESS is and will continue to be the payer of last resort. In general, ESS funds are not used for MCO patients but if there are unmet needs there have been instances when funds have been approved depending on a case by case basis. ESS funds are provided as grant agreements to CCUs. A referral form was provided by the Department. All referrals go to the CCUs (the money is used to pay for the service) not given to the individual. Through July, August, and the end of September, \$320K has been spent in services; \$240K has been spent on individuals, and \$8K in bulk spending. A total of 1,300 individuals have been helped; 990 CCP participants and 340 non CCP participants. Berkes shared that we have spent \$179.67 per person with ESS funds and you can make a load of difference by spending this amount. The CCUs have spend bulk assistance on meals, boxes shelf staples and frozen meals. There were an additional 3,500 persons helped that would have not been helped without ESS funds. The Department has received requests from and for individuals that receive other waivers and have engaged with others, we have reached out to MCOs and have tried to assist regardless of who you the individual in need is. Eckert stated that they have helped put out fires, such as issues with bed bugs. Requests have come to Berkes and Eckert to help close meal gaps and help prepare, deliver and make ethnic meals happen. ESS has been helpful in stopping this gap.

Illinois Care Connections (Outcome Data)

Amy Lulich shared that Illinois Care connections grant is moving forward. There have been over 1,000 referrals submitted for older adults. AAA's and CCUs are at our max to provide these devices as of now. She does encourage people to continue to get information and referrals. One fourth of the requests indicated that they need a hot spot/internet access and they want to continue to gather data for the future. Lulich shared that there is still capacity for the DRS clients. A total of 600 devices had been sent out in early Fall. There have been interim

checks and outreach to see how it is going but we will not have data until the post screen after 12 months. UCLA is coordinating with the AAAs and they AAA's are using a three question UCLA Loneliness scale as part of their social isolation outreach. Lulich shared that the Department is looking forward to hearing back from the AAA's on how this goes. Eckert shared that the IATP researchers will help the Department with this data.

State Plan on Aging

Amy Lulich thanked everyone that participated in the three virtual meetings on the State Plan on Aging. There were 100 people registered for each session and great feedback was received. Comments can be submitted in writing and edits will be made to the State Plan draft. The next step is to see how we can continue to work together. The Plan will be submitted to the regional ACL in Mid-December. Feedback and comments were due yesterday but can still be submitted.

New IT Reporting System (Aging Cares)

Victoria Emmanuel shared that the web-based application can be used by the CCUs. It is currently being developed and will be testing at the end of this year to begin using it next year. The system will be able to pull CMIS participant forms manager and get it into eCCPIS, but the design changes a little.

CCA Enhanced Transitions

John Eckert shared that the Bridge Model enhanced transitions is still pending and will be resubmitted as it was not part of the FY22 budget

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Selma D'Souza shared that she has been working with Director Basta and Kelly Richards to develop an internal equity council and submitted a DEI Plan to the Governor's office. This council includes IDOA managers and non-managers working on four goals that include providing unconscious bias training to all staff and reviewing all policies and making sure that all language is culturally appropriate.

IDOA Virtual Conference October 15th

Mike Berkes shared that IDOA had a one-day virtual conference on October 15th with a focus on COVID-related topics. A total of 682 individuals logged in that day and this shows it was very well received. It included a nice panel diverse discussion on Mindfulness that included AAAs and in-home providers. The conference has been recorded and there is a link that can be share with this group. The department Training Team is planning a 1 or 2-day virtual annual conference. Berkes thanked his training team and Michael Dropka, CIO.

Public Comments, Other Issues & Announcements:

Megan Spitz shared that the Rental Assistance Payments are still being processed by IHDA and the mortgage assistance is taking more time to process with lenders. Megan Thornton shared that the Workforce Stabilization workgroup has a meeting tomorrow morning at 10am.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting Linda Hubbartt made a motion and Gustavo Saberbein seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.