

**ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING**

**MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING (ICoA) MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Phyllis Mitzen, Anthony Frazier, Jane Angelis, Julie Bobitt, Nancy Chen, Christine Goleman, Paulette Hamlin, Margaret Huyck, Talat Khan, Britta Larson, Susan Lawler, Sylvia Mahle, Patricia Marton, Robert Mueller, Robert O'Connor, Susan Vega, Cheryl Larson (on behalf of Senator Dave Syverson), Dylan Olthoff (on behalf of Representative Rita Mayfield)

**ICoA MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Melvin Grimes, Kim Hunt, Mubarak Mirjat, Senator Mattie Hunter, Representative Anna Moeller, Senator Brian Stewart.

**VISITORS/GUESTS:**

Jessica Link, Statewide Dementia Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Health

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT ON AGING (IDoA) STAFF:**

Paula Basta, Director  
Lora McCurdy, Deputy Director  
Selma D'Souza, Chief of Staff  
Rhonda Armstead, General Counsel  
Mike Berkes, Division Manager of Planning, Research, & Development  
Amy Brown, Division Manager of Advocacy & Prevention Services  
Glenda Corbett, Special Assistant to the Director on Community Engagement and Equity  
Lisa Dupoy, Administrative Assistant, Division of Community Relations and Outreach  
Amy Lulich, Senior Policy Advisor  
Lynnette Martin, Deputy Division Manager of Community Relations & Outreach  
Lee Moriarty, Deputy Ombudsman  
Katherine Ostrowski, Legislative Liaison  
Iris Schweier, Public Information Officer  
Latorya Simon, Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Zuurbier, Division Manager of Community Relations & Outreach

## SUMMARY

### OPENING:

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Mitzen at 10:03 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was established.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Phyllis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting. Susan Lawler entered a motion. Talat Khan seconded the motion; all members voted aye, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEMENTIA PRESENTATION:

Phyllis introduced Jessica Link, Statewide Dementia Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Jessica stated that the mission of the IDPH Dementia Program is to promote dementia capability in the State through the coordination of high-quality statewide services that support the needs of all people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, their families and caregivers. According to statistics from the *Alzheimer's Association 2021 Facts and Figures*, more than six million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease. In Illinois, 230,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's. Health inequities do exist, according to information from the Alzheimer's Association. Older Black Americans are about twice as likely to have Alzheimer's, or other forms of dementia, than are older White Americans. Older Hispanic Americans are about one and a half times more likely to have Alzheimer's, or other forms of dementia, than are older White Americans. Black and Hispanic Americans are also less likely to be diagnosed than White Americans.

Jessica gave an overview of IDPH's Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee and the Alzheimer's Disease Illinois State Plan. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$1 million in General Revenue Funds were allocated to the Plan. Illinois has three Regional Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Centers. These centers are considered top tier dementia care centers. They provide diagnostic evaluation, treatment, referral, and research. Rush University and Northwestern University cover the Chicagoland area and SIU Medicine covers all downstate Illinois. The IDPH Director appointed Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee (ADAC) reviews all State dementia programs and services, as well as recommends changes to improve State response to this serious health problem. ADAC meetings are held bi-annually and are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Under this Committee is the ADAC Workforce Training and Expansion Work Group. They meet monthly to review progress and make recommendations to help make the State Plan more actionable. The Alzheimer's Disease State Plan was established in January of 2014 and is revised every three years. The Plan is meant to guide dementia efforts in Illinois. The areas of focus for 2020-2023 are training, workforce expansion, early detection of dementia, and increasing public awareness of dementia and the resources available in Illinois.

There are three current grant programs. The first is the Alzheimer's Disease - Awareness of Available Services in Illinois Grant that began October 1, 2021 and expires April 30, 2022. Rush University Medical Center is the grantee. The purpose of the grant is to create a new and upgraded, next generation, Alzheimer's service and awareness platform that will serve as a one-stop-shop for dementia education and resources. It is launching in approximately two weeks with a communication campaign starting the first week of April. The platform for this service will be housed on the Illinois Cognitive Resources

Network webpage at [ilbrainhealth.org](http://ilbrainhealth.org). Two additional grant programs have just been launched. The first one is an education campaign. The Alzheimer's Disease Early Detection and Awareness Campaign's purpose is to educate about brain health, cognitive decline, early warning signs, screening and evaluation, as well as accessing local resources and support after diagnosis. The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) is the grantee. They will have statewide reach, focusing on the underserved and at-risk populations in Illinois, including but not limited to Black, Brown, and rural communities. IPHA will collaborate with local organizations to provide one-on-one service, as well as outreach events. The final grant program is the Alzheimer's Disease Physician Early Detection Training. The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) is the grantee. This program is aimed at increasing early detection and diagnosis of dementia by Illinois physicians and medical providers. These trainings will equip medical workers with best practices for early detection, efficient clinic procedures, and referral procedures all tailored to their local communities. There is statewide outreach with a focus on at-risk and underserved populations.

### **LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN UPDATE:**

Lee Moriarty, Deputy Ombudsman, provided information about the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. She explained that the Ombudsman Program is here to help seniors in nursing homes and long-term care facilities get the things that are most important to them back into their lives. The Ombudsman Program came into existence in 1972 with the Older Americans Act. It started out as a demonstration project and by 1976 every state was mandated to have a State Ombudsman. There are Regional Ombudsmen assigned to all 13 Illinois Planning and Service Areas (PSAs). In addition, there are Long-Term Care Ombudsmen assigned to every long-term care facility in Illinois. There are also volunteer ombudsmen. The Ombudsman Program is currently working to increase the number of volunteer ombudsmen post the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lee went on to explain the purpose of the Ombudsman Program. They advocate to improve the quality of care and the quality of life from the resident's point of view. The resident is the client, regardless of the source of the complaint or who requests services. Ombudsmen want to make sure they are listening closely to what the residents want, need, and deserve. An Ombudsman will regularly visit long-term care facilities and talk with residents about their care and quality of life. They will meet confidentially, on a one-on-one basis. The Ombudsmen also provide education to facilities and community-based organizations, getting the message out, so that in a crisis they will know what services are available to help the resident. It is important to know that an Ombudsman is not a mandated reporter. However, in the presence of a catastrophic event, the situation will be escalated to get additional help to the resident. Lee also said that the Ombudsmen have been meeting with members of Congress to advance residents rights and promote understanding of the Ombudsman Program and how it can be used to help their constituents.

She also covered the Consumer Choice website that includes facility information to help the consumer make educated choices regarding long-term care facilities in Illinois. There is a 'search by zip code' feature that lists all facilities in the zip code area entered. It then gives a profile of the facility, the type of care they provide, services, as well as any amenities available.

The State Ombudsman 2022 Initiatives include increasing awareness of the Ombudsman Program. For the past year, they have been hosting meetings through the Resident and Family Support Council. The meetings are well attended by Ombudsmen, families, residents, people in the aging profession, as well

as State legislators. These meetings help everyone understand the purpose of the Ombudsman Program. Town Hall meetings are also being held and Lee encouraged everyone to spread the word about the availability of Ombudsmen to speak at community events to educate on the services offered. Resident and Family Support Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. and are available through Zoom. The Zoom meeting link is available on the website and Facebook.

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

Director Basta shared that testimony regarding IDoA's proposed FY23 budget was provided to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The proposed IDoA budget includes a 13.6 percent increase from the FY 22 budget and includes funding for new initiatives. At our next Council meeting, Director Basta said staff would share more in-depth details about the final budget. The Director also shared that she was confirmed for another year as Director of IDoA at the March 8 Executive Appointment Committee Hearing of the Senate. She also introduced two new IDoA staff members. Amy Brown is IDoA's new Division Manager of Advocacy and Prevention Services and Glenda Corbett is the new Special Assistant to the Director on Community Engagement and Equity. The Director gave them a warm welcome. Lastly, the Director reminded everyone that May is National Older Americans Month. She said to look for the "Aging My Way" theme promoted by the Administration on Community Living (ACL) and IDoA throughout the month of May.

Katherine Ostrowski provided a legislative update. House Bill 4572 looks to strengthen protections against abuse, neglect, and exploitation by adding suspicious death reporting to the Adult Protective Services Act. It also adds insurance adjusters and investment advisors to the list of mandated reporters. It has passed the House unanimously but is receiving some push back from insurance companies in getting the bill through the Senate. The second initiative is Senate Bill 4024 which is looking to make a small change to the Ombudsman website to clarify the purpose of the Consumer Choice Tool and to make it easier to find. There are two additional initiatives that are being worked on with the Alzheimer's Association, Equality Illinois, AARP, Pride Action Tank, among others. The first of these is Senate Bill 3490 which requires LGBTQ training for anyone contracting with or receiving funds from IDoA. It creates an LGBTQ Older Adult Advocate within the IDoA appointed by the Director. It also creates an LGBTQ Commission on Older Adults tasked with making sure LGBTQ adults needs are being met. It updates the ICoA citizen membership as well, adding more diversity. Lastly, Senate Bill 3707 is an Alzheimer's Association initiative requiring dementia training for Community Care Program (CCP) providers on communications, behavior, and safety risks.

Mike Berkes updated ICoA members about CCP and Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding. He said there is a 10 percent increase in FMAP monies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This extra federal funding will be phased in throughout a three-year FMAP spending timeframe and will be used to expand services. Areas targeted for this funding include fall detection, assistive technologies, and environmental home modifications. Financial support to help improve staffing and retention at our provider partners is also a target of this funding. Workforce retention grants are being given to CCP providers with retroactive rate increases to help attract new workers and retain current staffing levels in order to bring the overall workforce up to the level of demand.

Amy Lulich provided an update regarding the three-year Illinois State Plan on Aging. Regional meetings are now being held at the PSA level statewide, to discuss and review priorities, goals and objectives of

the State Plan. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) are also providing updates on the ways in which they are spending their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the outcomes they expect from this additional funding source.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Phyllis Mitzen reviewed the nominated slate as:

Christie Goleman, Chair; Kim Hunt, Vice Chair; Julie Bobitt, Secretary; and Nancy Chen, Nominating Chair.

Phyllis then asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. She then asked for a motion to approve the nominated slate of officers. Sylvia Mahle made a motion to accept the slate of officers as proposed by the nominating committee. Paulette Hamlin seconded the motion. Phyllis asked for discussion. No discussion was had, and the voting transpired with all voting aye, none in opposition, and no abstentions. The new slate of officers was elected.

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

Phyllis congratulated and welcomed Christie Goleman as the new Chair, offering her the full support of the Council members and the IDoA staff. Christie thanked everyone for this opportunity. Phyllis thanked all the newly elected officers for taking on their respective new officer roles with the Council, as everyone looks forward to new direction and ideas that will come from these new officers.

Thanks and appreciation went out to Phyllis Mitzen for her years of chairing the Council. She was commended on her hard work and dedication as an advocate for older Illinoisans, as well as her leadership, fresh ideas and strong voice used to promote the agenda of the Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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Julie Bobitt, Secretary

Illinois Council on Aging