



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: July 11, 2022 (Approved October 17, 2022)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 245 203 40131#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

In Attendance:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Paula A. Basta, Director, Department on Aging
Sherry Barter-Hamlin, The Voyage Senior Living
Paul Bennett, Citizen member over the age of 60
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska, Molina Managed Care
Linda Hubbartt, Senior Services of Effingham City County
Mike Koronkowski, UIC College of Pharmacy
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter
Gustavo Saberbein, Family Caregiver

Department Representatives:

Sheila A. Baker, Department of Public Health
Robin Morgan for Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Jennifer Hebel, Lora McCurdy,
Sandra Pastore, Chelsey Peters, and Iris Schweier

Not in Attendance:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Introductions & *Call to Order:

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jennifer Hebel to introduce herself and shared that she was recently hired by IDoA as a special assistant for research. Hebel will be working with Lora McCurdy and the Division Managers on research that is of interest to the agency. Hebel came from the Commission of Government Forecasting Accountability. Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. Gustavo Saberbein made the motion and Linda Hubbart seconded.

Approval of April 11, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

Eckert asked for a motion to review and approve the April 11, 2022, meeting minutes. David Olsen made the motion to approve the meeting minutes; Gustavo Saberbein seconded. The

minutes were approved unanimously with the no corrections or additions and will be posted on the Department website.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Review 2022 OASAC Priorities:

Eckert shared that he would like to review the approved priority areas to make sure that we are on top of these. The priority areas include the Workforce Stabilization, this is one of our agenda items for today's meeting. The next priority area discussed is continuing to share information on the work of the OASAC CCU Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee quarterly meetings. Eckert shared that the subcommittee members have agreed to continue to meet for the next year to meet the requirements. Another priority is We are looking at Managed Care and we have had a couple of nice presentations. We also share that Aging regularly meets with main staff that work with managed care and Williams/Colbert Consent decrees. Managed Care continues to grow, and our goal is to be as cooperative as possible because we are all interested in having all services and supports get to our seniors no matter who is providing the care coordination. Looking at elderly waiver services is another priority, and we will be having a discussion later today and requesting feedback. Other priorities include Healthy Aging/Prevention and addressing social isolation and dementia -friendly communities. Eckert suggested that we can check back with Amy Lulich on how the 3-year State Plan on Aging and the IL Care Connections device to reduce social isolation is doing; it was extended to FY23. It is also on our radar to look at continuing to work remote/hybrid. It was shared that Aging has staff going into the office once a week as part of a pilot program with union employees. Mike Berkes added that Merit Comp employees that oversee staff have been trying to go into the office twice a week to make sure operations resume. He added that not all work areas are the same, but they are consistent. There are some mandatory work dates where they are all in the office together or otherwise working remotely. They are looking at the best way to move forward and we all agree that some work maybe done best in the office sitting around FTF and there is also a lot of really good quality work that can be done from afar and we are getting better at that. He shared that our fiscal team is in the office more now. Our planning team is coming to the office more often and the workload continues to increase here. We are in a hybrid blend whether you are in a union or not. Eckert stated that another priority is looking at federal level changes that impact rebalancing, for example the FMAP. He also shared that HFS has applied to start MFP again and they are supposed to hear back in September and learn if they will be receiving the funding. If the funding is received, they will have 18 months to get geared up with staff and put the operational protocol in place. Eckert shared that for the Willams and Colbert consent decrees we have a new court monitor that is going to be starting very soon. The FY23 Implementation Plan final draft is going to the court monitor and plaintiff attorney. IDoA added only one deliverable, the regional ombudsman is soliciting all the Cook County Nursing facilities and all specialized Mental Health Rehab facilities in the state to be invited to the resident council to talk about the role of the Ombudsman and how they can assist them if they are getting push back on trying to move out of a long-term care facility. They will be doing training over the course of the next year or so and we should be approved shortly. Paul Bennett asked is there has been any conversation at all about addressing the front door of Nursing Homes, particularly with the aging population. He stated that he knows they are trying to do something with the mental health areas. Eckert replied that mental health issues are doing a front door diversion, but there is a front door diversion put in place for anybody. They are trying to look at ways to divert the majority including managed care. The new Choices form asks where they choose to go and whether they want waiver services or if they choose to go into a Nursing Facility. If they do choose the Nursing Facility, then we ask if they would like a follow up; either after 30, 60 or

90 days to make sure that short term stays do not become long term. The form also has name of the authorized representative, and the system will trigger a message that a follow up is due. Lora McCurdy suggested that it may be helpful to invite Ali Johnson, the DHS lead for Colbert to attend one of our future meetings. Eckert agreed and shared that it has been some time since we heard from her and she can talk about the new implementation plan and the new court monitor. Another priority is the Data-driven program development and information technology. Berkes shared that Aging Cares is the new comprehensive case management system being built by Aging and DoIT staff. Phase I is moving forward and is set to be completed at the end of December. This system will help us move away from using paper, our 21-page comprehensive assessment will be in the system and available with no internet access. This will help streamline the authorization process. Phase II will be for the billing system, and it will be current tech time which will save time. This phase is scheduled to begin at the end of FY22 or early FY23. The Department will be communicating with the network. Berkes also shared that the new Equity and Social Justice Act holds on some of the strong core values that Aging has been focusing on for some time being Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive. There are specific demographic data fields that the Department is looking at to make sure that we ask those questions in a way that benefits those we are serving. The Equity Social Justice Act will help us better serve our population and the data driven piece is important because it helps us understand if we are missing or hitting our mark as program leaders. Eckert clarified that it is a state mandate, and all agencies must collect the same demographics and cultural information in the same way. Bennett asked if there will be any expectations placed on the providers and others. Berkes responded that it is a data driven program development and we will be using it to our advantage. The Department is currently working through it as it is received. In the future the Department may reach out to the network to talk about ways that we can be consistent and if any adjustments need to be made to the systems. McCurdy added that the Department is trying to navigate this as best as we can. Federal funders are at different places as far as with the data that they require us to collect, and The Department wants to be consistent so that we do not ask clients and providers the same questions. Eckert shared that the Department is also looking at Dementia Friendly Communities and he believes that this is an area that needs to be looked at closer. He suggested talking to David Olsen to look at what else can be done and it is addressed on the State Plan, we can also look at what the AAAs are doing. Director Basta asked Olsen to talk about how we are doing with the APS training. Olsen shared that the APS training roll out started last year and he is very pleased with the partnership with the Department. He also shared that they are still waiting for feedback and are excited to refresh the module for next year's training in October. Director Basta shared that the Department is interested in the evaluation tool and feedback. Olsen responded that he would follow up with the group to further discuss when available and he has been working with Berkes and McCurdy to roll out the CCP training. Berkes shared that the CCP providers will have to have at least 2 hours of training and the curriculum has already been completed. Lastly Eckert shared that Mike Koronkowski will be presenting in August on the UIC College of Pharmacy as we continue to learn about OASAC member organizations.

OASAC Workforce Workgroup Discussion

Eckert shared that when we talked about reconvening the OASAC workforce workgroup we had seven members interested in joining the workgroup. He stated that it has been an issue of having time to reconvene this workgroup and he would not like to identify the same issues that have been identified at a national and state level. There are 7 or 8 things that we all know are impacting the workforce and it is systematic. He would like to look and think about what issues are specific to the aging network and the people we serve. Eckert asked the group to brainstorm ideas and opened the floor for ideas. He stated that Bennett has shared that the Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) was trying to expand their

pool of social workers. Bennett shared that he was thinking that maybe bringing in Joel Rubin, the Executive Director of the Illinois Chapter to talk about what they have done in a future OASAC meeting. He shared that they have done some of the things that the previous workgroup wanted to do in terms of getting some of the schools of social work gerontology programs. He thought we could talk about how we can engage more people into the profession. Director Basta thanked Bennett for the suggestion to have Joel Rubin come speak to the group and added that they also have an older adult committee that works specifically with older adult issues. Sandy Pastore shared that she recently came up with state strategies to help with workforce issues that are specific to Aging. Director Basta reminded everyone that we also need to look at the future of work, the whole report that the Department of Commerce and Economic Development completed. This report includes a section on the state legislators did on direct work care force in the state of Illinois, this report will be shared. Pastore added that there are workforce groups in Chicago that came out with the ARPA funding. It is the JTED workforce training to specifically train people into a field. Perhaps we could get a hold of those that received this funding. Director Basta suggested that Jennifer Hebel may be able to help. McCurdy clarified that the funding came from the Cares Act and added that some of our in-home providers applied and received it. Eckert shared that we would continue to work on reconvening that workgroup and having these discussions.

Department Updates:

CCP Enhanced FMAP Incentive

Berkes reminded everyone that the FMAP incentive was the 10% enhanced match that states received that came about COVID. The Department submitted a spending plan to federal CMS with 7 spending areas. These spending areas included grants and rate increases for the network and we continue to shift gears and pivot to the waiver amendments for new services. The Department is currently working with HFS to better understand the specifics to the expansion and time frames. We are looking at fall detection capability for EHRS. Jennifer Hebel is working closely with us in her new position to help us put together all the necessary information to get back to stakeholders. We are also looking at home modifications a new service, assistive technology, and modifications. The Department is doing our best to change how the waiver looks with federal dollars. The Department submits quarterly updates that go to federal CMS which means we are talking about this a lot; we have both a narrative and budget components that are included on these updates. Berkes shared that the spending was t2020 conclude in April 2020, but because we are not the only state operating agency struggling to get it done, federal CMS extended the spending period through March 25th of 2025. Berkes shared that we are hoping to unwind from the PHE and go through the FTF process. The PHE was expected to end soon based on the last extension but because numbers have been going up as we have not heard this yet. We will be talking to stakeholders as we have along the way before anything is stamped final. Eckert added that we would like to get feedback from each of the members during the August meeting and McCurdy will be talking to the OASAC Medicaid Subcommittee in September. Berkes added that there will also be the formal required public comment periods when we do waiver amendments. McCurdy added that maybe at a future meeting the Department could share some rationale on why those services were chosen and why we think those services would benefit older adults the most taking into consideration the budget impact. McCurdy shared that the Department welcomes feedback on what everyone would they like to see in the service description for home modification, assistive technology and fall detection. What do you all think are the key components to these service definitions? She added that it would be helpful to hear from the people that are actually out there in the field.

ARPA Funding Implementation

McCurdy shared that the Department sent out the ARPA funding and wrote out several new deliverables for that funding. The Department is working closely with the AAAs to look at the Caregiver funding. We are excited about the 4 million in state funding that was in our FY23 budget for Caregiver Support because that adds up to the 5 or 6 million for caregiver support from ARPA funds which is about 10 million dollars that is going to be going out or has gone out. This funding has already gone out and that is for over 2 years. This is a lot of new funding that is going to go to unpaid caregivers, and we are very excited. Maybe we can talk about this in more detail in the August meeting. Specifically, about the deliverables and outcomes we would like to see. Eckert stated that he knows that Susan Real did a PPT at another meeting and maybe that PPT can be shared.

Ongoing Vaccination Outreach and Reopening

Berkes shared that there is another opportunity, additional COVID dollars coming from ACL and the CDC, and the Department is working with a new vendor for vaccination outreach. We will be targeting individuals and getting feedback from hot spots. Vaccine outreach and education has been our assignment from the beginning, and we know that people have been straying further and further away from vaccinations; it is still important to mask and receive vaccinations. We had our outreach campaign in all Illinois and Aging wants to do an additional push with these federal dollars to best help our aging network to reach people that we believe have not been reached. The plan includes to add campaign on TV, radio, social media and go back to the local newspapers, some print and see how that works. Berkes challenged everyone that if they struggled reaching out to a certain group to let the Department know. If anyone is interested or has a marketing or campaign idea to reach out directly to Amy Lulich, who is working closely with the KIVVIT team. Jennifer Hebel shared that she has sat with this team, and they have seen content that is good messaging.

Health Benefit Coverage for Immigrant Adults Aged 42 through 64 Years

Eckert mentioned that we have much of an update on the health benefit coverage for immigrant adult aged 42-64 years, but we have heard about his coverage. McCurdy asked Robin Morgan from HFS on the call if maybe someone from HFS can provide an update during the August meeting. Perhaps information on what this is going to look like for this population. Morgan stated that it would be best to wait for the August meeting for the update. Eckert also shared that they have heard that there will be 10,000 Afghanistan refugees coming and they are not all seniors, but some will be, and it would also be nice to learn more on this topic in August.

Berkes shared that he has a couple more waiver updates he would like to share. The training tracking portal used to back up policy is housed in Aging allows us to centralize all the information for the various trainings that our provider network sit through to become qualified providers. Berkes reminded everyone that the waiver was renewed on August 1, 2021, and one of the commitments that we made under this amendment was to stand up the training tracking portal and send out the policy. He shared that we now have about two thousand workers in our training tracking which is good. He added that we know we have 52,000 workers that we know are part of our aging waiver taking care of adults. Berkes also shared that the 6-month visit policy went into place and we will start seeing older adults during the initial assessment and our annual redetermination will be a 6-month face to face visit and these visits will be starting the first week of September.

Review/approve Agenda for August 22, 2022, Full OASAC Meeting:

Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August upcoming meeting. David Olsen made the motion and Gustavo Saberbein seconded. All were in favor. The meeting agenda was approved as is.

Other Issues & Announcements:

Paul Bennett shared that Age Options is in middle of a comprehensive assessment for constituents living in Suburban Cook County and the response rate has been very low. Bennett thanked Director Basta for sharing that on Facebook and asked if anybody else can share.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Paul Bennett seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 3:00 p.m.