



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: January 9, 2023 **(Approved on April 10, 2023)**

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 2450 059 7106#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

**In Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Lora McCurdy for Paula A. Basta, Director, Department on Aging  
Paul Bennett, Citizen member over the age of 60  
Linda Hubbartt, Senior Services of Effingham City County  
Mike Koronkowski, UIC College of Pharmacy  
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter  
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging  
Gustavo Saberbein, Family Caregiver  
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska, Molina Managed Care

Department Representatives:

Janene Brickey for Kelly Cunningham, Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Amy Brown, Sarah Carlson, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez,  
Jennifer Hebel, Sandra Pastore, Chelsey Peters, and Iris Schweier

**Not in Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Sherry Barter-Hamlin, The Voyage Senior Living

Department Representatives:

Sheila A. Baker, Department of Public Health  
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Introductions & \*Call to Order:

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that he was unsure if Director Basta would be able to join us for this meeting due to conflicting scheduling; Lora McCurdy and Sandy Pastore will be calling in later. Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. Mike Koronkowski made the motion and Linda Hubbartt seconded.

Approval of 10.17, 2022, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

John Eckert asked for a motion to review and approve the October 17, 2022, meeting minutes. Linda Hubbartt made the motion to approve the meeting minutes; Mike Koronkowski seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

OASAC Membership Renewals and Vacancies

Sophia Gonzalez shared that we are in need representatives for Parish Nurse and Hospice Care. We have been in contact with Cathy Weighmen-Moore from Catholic Charities for assistance with filling the Parish Nurse vacancy. There were 8 membership renewals due this year; two of which we are still waiting to hear back from. John Eckert shared that we may be reaching out to SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana for a new trade or union representative since Jaqueline Rodriguez has not been very responsive. It was noted that there are some members that have not completed the required trainings and we will have to determine next steps. Gonzalez clarified that none of the members in this call are there are missing any of the required trainings. There was an internal miscommunication on the trainings and Bonnie Williams (OGC) sent out emails requesting certificates to members that had already completed the trainings. All training certificates that had been submitted to Gonzalez will be routed to Bonnie.

2022 and 2023 CY OASAC Priority Areas

John Eckert reviewed the 2022 OASAC Priority Areas and will be asking for feedback on the keeping these priorities for CY 2023. Both the Workforce Stabilization workgroup and working remote/hybrid priorities will be moved toward the bottom of the list, these are important areas, but we want to focus on OASAC's rebalancing mandate. Sandy Pastore will be providing an update Workforce Stabilization workgroup later during the meeting. Paul Bennett asked if there will be a separate advisory council to address workforce and Eckert confirmed that there will be one combined advisory council. The Department will continue to share the Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee updates and Kim will continue to track reports as this Subcommittee is due to sunset in September 2023.

To cover the Managed Care priority, we will ask HFS present during one of the meetings next year. HFS can speak on the percentage of Medicaid dollars going to long term care facilities. Back in 2000, it was 77% and with the Olmstead Decision the goal was for it to be 50% or less and to have many more individuals accessing waiver services. Bennett asked if information on what is going on with MMAI could also be shared. Eckert agreed and shared that he read that those customers will be going to a different program at the end of 2024. The Department continues working with the Illinois Care Connections, Jennifer Hebel is leading this initiative, and there will be a renewed outreach to the CCUs to try to get as many tablets and as possible and hotspots to people that can benefit. There have been conversations on Quality Webinars and possible training topics aimed at reducing Social Isolation. Eckert shared that many of the staff have been going into the office 1 or 2 days a week and working remotely the other days. Bennett asked about inconsistencies on MCOs completing home visits. Eckert was unsure but stated we can find out.

The Department continues to look at federal level changes that impact rebalancing. Illinois has received FMAP and ARPA funding to help address the population that we are working with. We

will continue to follow up on Colbert/Williams Consent Decrees. The Department is also assisting with the individuals who have a diagnosis and are interested in one of the 23 specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities (SMHRFs). Bennett shared that he would like to hear what the new court monitor's interest in working on the front door new implementation plan. Eckert agreed and stated that the Preadmission Screening Resident Review (PASRR) redesign is the federal requirement and should not be confused with the Choices for Care assessment. Bennett added he thinks some nice changes have been made with the PASRR process, but the other issue is to explore on if we are really implementing the same level of intention that the federal CMS want us to regarding preadmission and discharge planning from day one of admission. Eckert added that there has always been an issue with Aging and the Care Coordination Units when you only have 24 hours mandated notice before someone is discharged. It is difficult to council somebody about community-based options and setting up services in this short period of time. He additionally stated that the Front Door Diversion Program is currently focusing on the SMI population as a Williams Consent Decree deliverable.

The Department is working on a Colbert pilot in Chicago with 3 CCUs to try to identify seniors that are 60+ and don't have an SMI or DD diagnosis, no housing and are Medicaid eligible that might have fallen through the cracks. Each CCU will try to identify 10 participants each. They have reported issues with identifying eligible participants that meet this criterion and we have regular individual calls to try to identify ways to engage individuals. These are individuals that think they are going into a nursing facility, and we want to see if there is another option for them. The CCUs will go back to see them at days 30 and 45 to see if they made the right decision. Linda Hubbartt shared that she thinks nursing homes should develop a discharge plan as soon as someone is admitted. The CCUs are not involved in the discharge plans, even though they have long term relationships with many of the admissions and discharge people. Eckert shared that the PASRR redesign is part of the federal initiative led by HFS and they have a contract with a consulting group, Maximus. IDoA works closely with them to help them understand the CCU role, CCUs complete 140,000 hospital-based screens a year. He shared he has heard the new Colbert/Williams court monitor talk about exit strategies for ending both of the Decrees, which is very promising.

The Department continues to work on data driven program development and adding new staff. Mike Berkes shared that Aging Cares, the case management system for CCP, is coming in August/September for phase I launch. They are currently doing some good end user acceptance testing before going through the same exercise with various provider types. Aging Cares will allow us to have the comprehensive assessment at our fingertips in its entirety for ongoing analysis. Type Actions, Type Reasons (TA/TR) will be revised for programs terminations. This information will be available to help us understand why someone was terminated and where they go. Mike thanked the network partners that have been part of the planning process to this point. Paul Bennett asked how this program relates to someone assessed for Older American Services. Berkes responded that the Department is going to try and tie more of that information together in the background. The Department has good strong communication with all the AAAs and a place holder will be placed out there with phase one specific to OAS services. We are trying to understand more about CCP, but also where people might be receiving other services. Susan Real stated that they have been talking about a comprehensive care plan that included not only CCP services but also the Older American Act services and are anxious to see how this unfolds.

The Elderly Waiver services that is another priority on our list and will be discussed later during the Department updates. John Eckert shared one of the other priorities is Dementia Friendly communities and he heard that Illinois is the number one state in terms of Dementia Friendly

communities and other activities related to this initiative. Susan Real shared that every AAA is part of the long-term care development grant with IDoA, and the expectation is that agencies work in developing a dementia friendly community, at least 1 within a 3-year period. East Central was successful in getting one designated dementia friendly community for Decatur. It is currently being placed on hold, but it is a wonderful experience. Real wants to make sure that everyone in this group recognizes the AAAs role. Eckert added that this is connected to the 3-year State Plan, and we know that the AAAs have been one of the leads and making this happen. We will also continue having council members do updates on activities that they are working on during our FULL meetings. Eckert asked members if these priorities are what we want to continue to work on for FY24 and if there are any other items that need to added, subtracted, or embellished. Paul Bennett commented that he thinks these are good, with the additions of what he has already commented on. Linda Hubbartt agreed as well. Eckert will send update the priorities and share with the members for voting during the next FULL OASAC meeting.

It was also shared that the OASAC reports for the General Assembly are overdue, and we have talked about doing a 4-year report for 2019 through 2022 with a format to look at our priorities and how we address these moving forward. Prior reports were 75-80 pages, and we want to get away from that and just do updates to make sure we are meeting the mandate and continuing to work on our rebalancing. We always get good updates from HFS and IHDA on housing, they have a major push to increase affordable accessible housing and that is promising. Paul Bennett shared that in Suburban Cook County they are experiencing an increase in homelessness among older adults and that would be something to include in that conversation. John Eckert thanked Bennett and added that is something that we need to keep as an item for the Director IHDA has a major commitment to reduce homelessness. Lora McCurdy stated that the Department will be adding a couple of sentences to the federal level changes impacting rebalancing regarding the re-launch of Money Follow the Person (MFP 2.0) initiated by HFS and that we will be participating on their planning committee.

#### IDoA Workforce Stabilization Workgroup Update

Sandy Pastore shared that the Department will make sure we include OASAC and CCPAC members and eventually add others. The first meeting was held in mid-December and there will be another meeting scheduled this month. During the first meeting there was an overview of all the concerns with workforce issues with this population. There are some short-term and long-term things that we will help produce that the workforce needs. Pastore will be meeting with Jesse Lava from HFS to get some estimates on how much it would cost to implement training programs and the gerontology education program to produce workers. HFS does have \$380MIL that they need to invest over the next couple of years. If anyone is interested in joining that committee let her know. There will be a survey sent to the AAAs regarding their workforce and she will be talking to Crystal Wofford and Mike Berkes about involving ADS as well.

#### Department Updates:

##### CCP Enhanced FMAP Incentive 2023 Priority Areas-

Mike Berkes shared that Department has been working well through the FMAP spending plan with the network. This plan included rate increases, grants, and an expansion of new services. On December 30<sup>th</sup> EHRS expansion changes were opened for public comment and will end at the end of the month. Once the public comment session ends, HFS will finally submit to CMS for approval. The Department is adding global positioning to follow the participants and a fall detection capability. We have also been working on the rules with our Legal Division. There will be a need to submit an amendment to address policy changes. The Department also continues

to spend time defining home modifications and assistive devices and technology. We continue to work with Illinois Care Connections to try to meet the needs of older adults. There are 3 big areas for FMAP, and he gave a shout out to Jennifer Hebel who has been helping with the research and language. Linda Hubbartt asked if adaptive equipment will be included with home modifications. The Department plans to address this, and we are asking those in the states that run similar programs, what their programs look like. Jennifer is doing good research across all areas and looking at other states. Eckert added that we will also be keeping ESS even with the waiver service because it does offer flexibilities for emergency situations. Lora McCurdy shared that when we are further down the line with this, we would like to hear from this group about what you would like to see in the service definition for assistive technology and home modifications. Hubbartt shared that with the ESS experience, they know what works and have seen things that make a big difference. McCurdy shared a link to a Long-Term Care Policy guide that came out from the ADvancing States, and it highlights Illinois on all the work that was completed on the Nursing Home rate reform. This report will be sent to the members.

#### Public Health Emergency Update and Unwinding Discussion-

Mike Berkes shared that we are following the PHE unwinding daily/weekly with HFS. A couple of weeks ago there was a meeting with HFS, watching the end of the PHE very closely. We had some federal level changes, and they say that states have the option to go back to pre-COVID to unwind before the sunset of the PHE period. The State Medicaid agency can choose on how they are going to do this. Effective March 31<sup>st</sup> the end of the continuous Medicaid enrollment will come. On April 1<sup>st</sup> the states will be able to terminate enrollment and waiver enrollments for individuals no longer eligible. As the waiver manager, Mike will be attending a meeting tomorrow to better understand this. Once we have a better understanding we will be in strong communication with our network. Janene Brickey clarified that April 1<sup>st</sup> is not literally a flip the switch off: DHS will be sending out termination forms beginning in February, which allows participants and their families to get redetermination forms back in during the month of March and get processed. It is important that you know where your customers are and ensure that their correct address is in on file with DHS. Lora McCurdy stated that it would be helpful to see what will be sent out so that we can send it out to our CCUs that receive phone calls from CCP participants. Brickey will put in a request for a copy of that redetermination form. The Department has shared the tool kit put together and we are currently in Phase 1, updating addresses. The tool kit has been added to our COVID Friday updates email. Paul Bennett asked to make sure that the AAAs are on that distribution email list because they also receive many calls.

#### OASAC CCP Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Committee sunseting-

John Eckert shared as mentioned before the OASAC CCP Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Subcommittee will be sunseting in September 2023, but the Department will continue to gather that information and share with others that may be interested in this information going forward.

#### ESS FY21/FY22 Reports-

Mike Berkes shared that we had a couple of good years with ESS, there are some reports that will be shared in the future but will be discussed today. He shared that the Department has looked back at the most recent completed years FY21 and FY22. In FY21 we spent \$2MIL and in FY22 there was an increase to \$2.5MIL; there was additional spending when you consider bulk purchases. We continue to serve thousands of individuals; in FY21 we served 3,300 individuals and in FY22 4,000, which is positive. The majority of these individuals served are in the CCP program. We have a strong referral uptick across those in CCP program and those

that are not in CCP. In FY22 we served 1,400 older adults that were non-CCP compared to 900 in 2021. We will share these reports for the full meeting.

Review/approve Agenda for February 27, 2023, Full OASAC Meeting:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the February meeting. Linda Hubbartt made the motion to approve the agenda as is and Mike Koronkowski seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was approved. We will have presentations from Cindy Cunningham on ADS and Joe Danner on the Home Care Ombudsman Program.

Other Issues & Announcements:

None.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Hubbartt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mike Koronkowski seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 3:00p.m.