



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: July 10, 2023 (**Approved on October 16, 2023**)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 2452 870 8132#, 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
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
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska, Molina Managed Care

Department Representatives:

Melissa Black for Kelly Cunningham, HFS
Erin Rife, IDPH
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS/DRS

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Sarah Carlson, Becky Dragoo, Selma D'Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Jennifer Hebel, Sandy Pastore, Brian Pastor, Chelsey Peters, and Liz Vogt

Not in Attendance:

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Gustavo Saberbein, Family Caregiver

Introductions & *Call to Order:

Director Basta joined the meeting from Springfield and welcomed everyone to the meeting. John Eckert called for a motion to call the meeting to order. David Olsen made the motion and Mike Koronkowski Paul seconded.

Approval of 04.10.2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

John Eckert asked for a motion to review and approve the April 10, 2023, meeting minutes. Sherry Barter-Hamlin made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Topaz Gunderson-Schweska seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

OASAC Medicaid Enrollment Subcommittee September 5th sunset

John Eckert shared that the Medicaid Enrollment Oversight Committee will be sunsetting on September 5th. He shared the mandate has been met, but the Department plans on continuing to share the reports that include the MCO, fee for service and non-fee for service enrollment numbers. Kim Flesch has done a great job preparing these reports that have been shared during each of the Subcommittee quarterly meetings. The Department will continue to work with the CCUs to ensure that Medicaid applications continue to be completed in ABE and that enrollment efforts continue.

OASAC Membership Vacancies:

Sophia Gonzalez shared there are currently 3 vacancies for OASAC. We need representatives from a Trade or Union, a Parish Nurse, and a Family Caregiver. The Department has received a recommendation for a Family Caregiver. Eckert stated that the Department is also working on removing Parish Nurse representative as a requirement for OASAC. We feel that we have a wide array of membership categories, including another Nursing category. It has also been impossible to fill the Parish Nurse vacancy and the Department has received an audit finding for this ongoing vacancy. Paul Bennett agreed that the Parish Nurse representation should be eliminated.

Department Updates:

PHE Update and Unwinding Guidance

Deputy Director Becky Dragoo shared the PHE Unwinding from involves two pieces for Aging, the continuous eligibility for Medicaid and the expired eligibility for legally responsible individuals (LRI) to serve as paid caregivers. Both flexibilities were authorized during the COVID-19 pandemic. The continuous eligibility was presumed for our participants and now the CCUs must ensure that individuals that were enrolled in the CCP program, do meet the eligibility for Medicaid. The end of this flexibility is colliding with unwinding, the increase in the asset limit for Medicaid eligibility and regular redeterminations. A lot of good work is going on by our CCUs. Education for our older adults about the expiration of the continuous eligibility is the most important. The next step is to disseminate outreach materials HFS has developed.

Deputy Director Dragoo additionally noted that the AAA's, CCUs, and in-home providers are conduit to our older adults; they are doing a fabulous job and we are getting the word out every way we can. Federal CMS is mindful of the notion that some older adults that continue to meet eligibility have fallen through the cracks during the initial period and are sensitive to that. CMS is keeping a close eye on these individuals and are trying to assist the State Medicaid agencies and the operating state agencies to ensure that older adults are provide every bit of education and flexibility. The Department took advantage of the other flexibilities that allowed for legally responsible relatives to be paid caregivers during the pandemic because of the workforce shortage. Individuals had lost employment and were at home with their loved ones. There were many good reasons to allow that flexibility. Dragoo noted that was to have expired May 11th; however, the state filed for a 6-month extension that takes us to November 11th.

The Department must be cautious moving forward and have closed the door to LRI's, a notice was sent out to our network. Now the state must contemplate filling permanently for LRIs through a waiver amendment. The Department is currently working on LRI with HFS and

Federal CMS, stay tuned for next steps. One of our primary concerns is that we do not have any gaps in service for those that had an LRI coming on board during the pandemic. Paul Bennett stated if permission is granted for these LRIs to be grandfathered, he suggested that there be a supervisory visit to ensure the older adult is receiving the service per their care plan. Deputy Director Dragoo thanked Bennett and agreed with him. The Department and HFS have also been focusing on monitoring as they contemplate the waiver and services.

Illinois Care Connections FY24 Grant Enhancements

Liz Vogt thanked everyone for the opportunity to share what is going on with Illinois Care Connections. The state had received money from the federal government 3 years ago to address social isolation with our older adult population since COVID-19 was a big driver of keeping everyone at home and away from families and friends. Technology was one way to fill some of those gaps and we did a partnership launch program with Illinois Assistive Technology Program called Illinois Care Connections. Older adults aged 60 and over are eligible to receive a tablet and technology bundles, that included headphones, keyboards, and tech support. The program has been successful during the last couple of years, and we were able to secure additional funds for FY24. This program will be continued and in addition to the tablets, we are looking to expand and enhance the types of assistive technology devices and equipment that can be offered through the program. Things that are aimed at keeping older adults safe, healthy, and engaged at home. The Department is also looking at expanding referral sources for the program. More information and materials on the program will be provided to assist with connecting with older adults.

Susan Real thanked Vogt for the update and shared that she was pleased to hear that it will include the use of smart speakers. ECIAAA had instituted a pilot before COVID-19 called Reducing Social Isolation Pilot using echo shows. It has been a successful program and replicated in more rural counties. Real offered to share lessons learned on operational processes and added that ECIAAA will continue to use the UCLA loneliness scale to measure performance outcomes and the positive impact of the program. Deputy Director Dragoo shared that all data received from the AAAs is not based on the UCLA loneliness scale. She added that they need to regroup with the AAAs on reporting. The AAAs are doing a terrific job, but not all of them are using the same tool. Deputy Director Dragoo shared that IATP also provides data back on Illinois Care Connections. The data collected becomes the Department's path forward to expand services. Mike Koronkowski asked if there is data on how many people were helped with the initial phase of the contract and what the goals are for expansion. Vogt shared that the Department was able to secure an additional \$500,000 in state funding per year, this took the annual appropriation from \$2M to \$2.5M. We are looking at a 2-year contract with IATP and shared that reports are published online; link was shared in the chat. Real asked for the eligibility criteria for the program. Vogt shared that the only eligibility requirement is that the individual is 60 years of age or older and that they are home, and community based older adults.

MFP 2.0

Deputy Director Becky Dragoo shared that the Department has had numerous meetings with HFS, the lead on the Money Follows the Person (MFP) 2.0. We are currently on the first stage of submitting the Operational Protocol in conjunction with HFS and DHS/DRS and DDD our other state sister agencies participating in the program. Our Department's responsibility has been to shape Aging's role and the role of our CCUs. HFS has identified areas where Aging and the CCUs can be partners. John Eckert added that the plan is to launch MFP 2.0 on January 1st and this will be a 4-year demonstration program. There is a possibility in the future of making this a waiver service as this is an area where the CCUs can have a level of expertise in

becoming transition specialists. Four CCUs have been identified; Alternatives, CCSI in Central Illinois, ECCOA, and Shawnee Alliance in PSA 11. Twenty-two of the state's 102 counties will be covered. We are saying away from Cook County because it would interfere with the Colbert and Williams decrees. At least one dedicated transition Coordinator will be hired in each area by the CCU and IDoA will also have funds to hire a full-time staff to manage this program. Susan Real shared that the program did show some positive results in East Central IL over the years, and she is happy to see it come back.

ICCCU/CCA Bridge Enhanced Choices Pilot

John Eckert shared that the Coordinated Care Alliance Bridge Pilot has been approved for an initial 1-year grant for \$200,000. For this pilot there will be two CCUs chosen, this grant was just recently placed in Amplifund, and we will not be sharing the names of the CCUs at this time. This pilot will use the Bridge Model that Rush Hospital administers to identify people who are at risk of Recidivism. Individuals that are at higher risk when going back into the community from a hospital stay. They will be followed with FTF visits and phone calls to make sure they are taking their medications and following the doctor's orders. There will be some reimbursement to the CCUs from the hospitals for the individuals that are on Medicare. Eckert added that because CCP looks primarily at people who are on Medicaid, we want to make sure that at least 40% of these individuals are on Medicaid. This will be quarterly benchmarks, which will then be reviewed. The Department will ask Bailey Huffman from CCA to present at a future OASAC meeting once the pilot gets going. Eckert thanked Sophia Gonzalez for helping put the contract in Amplifund and working on the performance measures.

Rate Increases

Mike Berkes shared this year's legislative session was very busy from a waiver perspective. The Department had a CCU rate increase that was effective 07.01.2023. All communication came through the Omnibus bill for this rate increase. The rate increases for in-home service providers and adult day services (ADS) providers that includes transportation will be in effect January 2024. The CCU rates do not require a waiver amendment because they are administrative, but the In-home and ADS service rate increase do. The Department is currently working to add in these increases with HFS, ensuring that accountants have everything they need for their projections. The Department is scheduled to submit the Waiver Amendment in August. These rate increases are tied back to the FMAP. In addition, we also have new services on the horizon for EHRS, assistive technology and home modifications. He added that the CCU rate increases came through BIMP which was HB 3087, and both the in-home and ADS rate increases both came through SB1298.

Records Retention Policy

John Eckert stated that the Department has been working on the Record Retention Policy to help the CCUs and providers. The policy was released last week, and it is divided into four sections. The first section is on record retention requirements, things like keeping your records 6 years. Another section is on converting paper records to electronic records. Going forward CCUs will not have to make copies of anything unless it is a document that must go to the participant or provider. There is also a section on obtaining approval to destroy paper copies and another on destroying electronic copies. A couple of checklists were created, that includes a conversion check and a directions (how to) list. These forms will go to the Department's General Counsel to start the process and then sent to the Secretary of State's Office to be approved. Once approved by the Secretary of State, they will send the Department a conversion certification that will then be sent back to the entity making the request.

Paul Bennett asked about the process for records for participants that are leaving the CCU to go to Managed Care Companies (MCO's). Eckert responded that they would be required to keep the records for 6 years. If the participant is going to an MCO, the CCU would share we those records and treat it as a transfer. He added that the MCOs have their own records and requirements. Bennet stated that he imagines the CCU would have to follow a specific process when transferring the record. Eckert thanked Bennett for the great question and stated that he and Sarah Carlson will need to look at what that process would be.

Review/approve Agenda for August 21, 2023, Full OASAC Meeting:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 21st meeting. Susan Real made the motion and Paul Bennett seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was approved.

In August there will be a presentation from our member Meghan Carter from Counsel for Health Justice. Paul Bennett shared that he would love to talk about their AAA Title III ACL Demonstration Project during a future meeting. They will be able to use state funds and they are hoping for the next year's authorization from the Older Americans Act to include unprepared food. Bennett shared that they will be applying for a 6-month no cost extension because they have some deliverables that still need to be completed.

Other Issues & Announcements:

Susan Real stated that she heard Aging was sponsoring a conference on August 24th and 25th. Mike Berkes clarified that we are having the Department on Aging annual conference on October 3rd and 4th at UIS in Springfield and is not aware of anything going on in August. Liz Vogt shared that ICCPHP usually has their HomeCare Association meeting in August and shared the website on the chat. Director Basta shared that AgeGuide is having their summit on the 23rd and the next day CCP Association is having theirs. Melissa Black from HFS shared that she is representing Kelly Cunningham today and she is the Associate Administrator. Melissa Black had been gone for 2 years, working with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. She is excited to be back and happy to see familiar faces. Linda Hubbarth shared that the Illinois Code Pioneer Coalition Springfield summit is in August. Sandy Pastore shared Caregiver Roundtables are currently being scheduled with AAAs across the state. She added that they hope to get a lot of caregivers to the table to hear what is going on. What are the strengths and weaknesses and where are the gaps and opportunities for improvement. Stay tuned for the invite. Director Basta shared that the Department 50th anniversary is coming up in November.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Linda Hubbarth seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 2:48 p.m.