



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: October 16, 2023 (**Approved on 01.08.2024**)  
Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 2469 188 8912#, then press # again.  
WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

**In Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Becky Dragoo, Deputy Director, Department on Aging  
Paul Bennett, Citizen member over the age of 60  
Linda Hubbartt, Senior Services of Effingham City County  
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging  
Gustavo Saberbein, Family Caregiver

Department Representatives:

Lisa Gregory, HFS  
Erin Rife, IDPH  
Angela Simmons, DVA  
Lyle VanDeventer, DHS/DRS

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Sarah Carlson, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Brian Pastor, Chelsey Peters, Melissa Schackel, Beth Skeeters, and Liz Vogt

**Not in Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Sherry Barter-Hamlin, The Voyage Senior Living  
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska, Molina Managed Care  
Mike Koronkowski, UIC College of Pharmacy  
David Olsen, Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter

Call to Order & Introductions:

John Eckert called for a motion to call the meeting to order. Gustavo Saberbein made the motion and Lisa Gregory seconded. He shared that Director Basta will not be joining the meeting today. She will be retiring at the end of the year. Deputy Director Becky Dragoo welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that Director Basta plans to join the November meeting.

Approval of 07.10.2023, Executive Committee meeting minutes:

Eckert asked for a motion to review and approve the July 10, 2023, meeting minutes. Linda Hubbartt made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Susan Real seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

### Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

### Mandatory DEIA Training due by October 31, 2023

Sophia Gonzalez reminded everyone that the 2023 DEIA training is due on October 31<sup>st</sup>. An email reminder was sent out to members that have not submitted a copy of their training certificate and that are not showing as having completed the training on OneNet. Additional reminders will be sent out each week on Fridays. Sophia stated that there were about 20 members that are showing as not completing the training.

### Approve 2024 Meeting Schedules

The 2024 OASAC meeting schedule for both Full and Executive Committee meetings has been created and asked everyone to review it. John asked for a motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule. Linda Hubbartt made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Gustavo Saberbein seconded. The schedule was approved unanimously. Paul Bennett asked for clarification on whether the 2024 meetings were going to be in-person or via WebEx because the agenda shows Chicago and Springfield locations. It was noted that none of the 2024 meetings have been scheduled in-person and the meeting schedule will be revised.

### Discussion on engaging members to enhance participation and make recommendations.

John Eckert shared Bennett reached out to discuss “bored boards” and trying to look at ways to engage OASAC members. OASAC has a wealth of expertise, and it is an opportunity for us to engage members more. Bennett noted that updates are important to educate but it is also important for members to give recommendations and offer their expertise. It was noted that members help drive the agenda and it is good to bring these concerns. The Department is willing to look at other areas and recommendations if they are related to the rebalancing mandate. Bennett shared that the “bored board” ties back to an article he was assigned to in grad school. He clarified that his comment referred to frame things as group and not just tell the group what is going on; instead asking the group for input. Feedback is requested after the Department shares what they are doing rather than what they are thinking of doing.

Deputy Director Dragoo thanked Paul Bennett for his suggestions. She shared that the Department has been trying to do that with other Advisory Committees. The Department did experience a pause with the COVID-19 pandemic and our responsibility as a statewide agency was to ensure services were delivered but our CCPAC, OASAC and other Committee members have been encouraged to provide feedback. Deputy Director Dragoo shared that OASAC has a purpose set forth in statute and we have regulatory responsibilities as an agency that need to continue. There are spaces in these areas as an advisory committee and we would be happy to engage this discussion in the areas we are looking at. Bennett asked if there were any suggestions from CCPAC members that can be shared. Deputy Director Dragoo shared that CCPAC was asked for input and they also discussed new initiatives on the horizon, such as older adults homelessness and exiting incarceration settings. Bennett shared that another emerging issue in the aging community is loneliness and social isolation, which are two different things. These topics can be brought up to OASAC and ask for input from OASAC on how the Department might think about addressing these in the future. Deputy Director Dragoo thanked

Bennett for the idea and stated we will add this to a future agenda. The Department has a contract with IATP to also address social isolation; they provide tools and technology to older adults to mitigate social isolation. An idea was to have experts in the field speak to our advisory committee.

John Eckert noted that since the creation of OASAC's mandate to address rebalancing has been the emergence of MCOs and what we need to look at is how the role of the Community Care Program continues to fit in and the non-Medicaid individuals. Additionally, Lisa Gregory from HFS is spearheading the PACE model for 7 sites that are going to be developed and we will probably talk about this in a future meeting. He added that this is all interrelated and the key is to keep people in their community as long as possible and deflect as many people as possible. We have tried to expand our efforts to deflect people and again, that is going to take the new Elderly Waiver service. Also deflecting people when completing Choices for Care screens and that is all interrelated. Bennett agreed with Eckert and shared that he had an experience with a Care Coordinator from an MCO last week. One of the members from this MCO called them about nutrition programs and other issues about social isolation and loneliness came up and the MCO Care Coordinator was not aware of all the programs and services out there. Deputy Director Becky shared that there has been discussion on turnover of leaders or when they move on. How do we train and educate new individuals coming into the Aging Network? This is one important point that has been discussed that we can never do enough education, especially with new hires.

It was noted that the Department has had OASAC subcommittees in the past that dig a little deeper to get individuals involved outside OASAC. Bennett shared that this may be a good approach because he believes that knowledge is based on training. MCO's are focused on completing their screening tools and getting their data and they may not have awareness on all the community resources that are out there. Lisa Gregory agreed that it is a good point to bring to the table and will have some internal conversation within HFS. Bennett shared that he works with AgeOptions, and they have a federal grant called meal boxes, they had 37 individuals that were terminated for this meal program because they did not respond to a letter, they were sent for a home visit within 60 days. These letters were sent to the individuals and the MCO because they had been under a CCU and moved to an MCO, due to a change in their Medicaid eligibility. This makes us wonder if the MCOs pay attention to the aging network and it is frustrating. Lisa Gregory asked to be reached out to her directly via email with any MCO concerns. Linda Hubbartt thanked Gregory for the opportunity to reach out to her directly with concerns because she has been down this road with ongoing issues of truly managing those community services for individuals.

John Eckert asked if there is any interest on doing a SWAT-type analysis during a subsequent OASAC meeting to talk about what we need to look at or what is wrong about the committee. Where we need to change, or we just want to kind of talk to some of these ideas here or maybe just get a small group to flesh that out a little bit. Paul Bennett shared that from an OSAC perspective, we need to ask what everyone thinks we should be doing. He suggested doing a mini survey that OASAC members would respond to and then five or six questions to see if we can generate some conversations from that. Educational information can also be sent out to remind everyone what the requirements are for OASAC.

## Department Updates:

### 2019 – 2022 OASAC Reports to the General Assembly

It was noted that 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 OASAC reports to the General Assembly were compiled into one report and shared with OASAC. The Department did not receive any feedback from OASAC members; a couple of positive comments were received. The combined report is internally going through final formatting process and will be filed with the Secretary of State and shared with the GA. A copy of the final version will be shared before it gets filed. The Department will start working on the 2023 report that is due January 2024 to be in compliance. This is another area where we can engage members more by requesting feedback and making this report more robust.

### Illinois Care Connections FY24 Grant Enhancements

Liz Vogt shared that the Illinois Care Connections Program started early in 2020 partnering with the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP). Federal ACL and CDC granted funding to the State, and we partnered with DHS to provide technology bundles to older adults and adults with developmental disabilities to combat social isolation during the pandemic. The Department had been operating this program over the last couple of fiscal years and taking data gathered through the intake referral form and follow up calls. IATP conducts phone calls with the older adults that participate in the program to understand if these devices are working for them and if they need additional technical assistance to operate the devices and to understand if the program is having an impact on social connections with their family, friends, and communities. Two webinars were launched in FY24 with the network that were recorded. This fiscal year we have expanded on who we are targeting, our referral sources, and the type of devices and technology that can be provided through the program to any older adult living in the community.

Older adults do not have to be participants in CCP or receiving Older Adult Services to participate in the IL Care Connections program. We are looking at our AAA's, CCU's, and ADS providers as referral sources. The online referral form can be completed online and IATP will assess needs and fulfill the order. The type of devices is being expanded to target underlying areas to facilitate social connectedness among older adults. For example, vision devices, magnifiers, hearing device, mobility devices, smart home technologies, and other types of assistant technology like eating pencils and shower chairs. We have about two and a half million dollars available for the program for the year. \$2MIL is earmarked for CCP participants and \$500,000 of that is earmarked for non-CCP older adults. Vogt asked members to help us get the word out and let individuals know how the program has expanded. Deputy Director Becky Dragoo thanked Liz for the overview and added that if anyone is in Springfield locally or travel to Springfield, she encourages you to stop by IATP's physical location. It is a wonderful facility, and they are always happy welcome anyone to their lab in the building where they design devices.

### EHRIS Expanded Waiver Services

Mike Berkes shared that the Department has received approval from federal CMS to expand our Elderly Waiver service definition for our Emergency Home Response System (EHRIS). We currently offer EHRIS with landlines, without fall detection. Individuals will have a choice between a landline and global positioning with fall detection technology. The fall detection will also be available when participants leave their house. Data obtained from our Critical Event Reporting System and Social Isolation information we know made this our top priority. The Department must work on rule and policy changes, including contract language changes. A training will be put together for Aging Network, so everybody understands the new service. A Care Coordination Unit training is also necessary. The Department is excited about the new EHRIS service, and we are getting closer. As

a reminder, this authority originally came from the Federal FMAP ARPA funds. Paul Bennett commented that it is great news that it was approved by Federal CMS. Berkes thanked Bennett for the comment and added that this stresses the importance of individuals receiving home based community services through a waiver can engage in the community and enjoy their communities. We are keeping them home and keeping them safe, there is no reason why you shouldn't go out and do things you enjoy.

#### Review/approve Agenda for November 13, 2023, Full OASAC Meeting

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Paul Bennett made the motion and Linda Hubbartt seconded. All were in favor and the agenda was approved. Paul Bennet will present on the meal box program at AgeOptions and Dr. June McKoy will present on programs for older adults available at Northwestern during the November Full meeting. Eckert shared that we can add to the agenda the discussion on doing a mini survey on what needs to be changed for OASAC meetings. Bennett suggested they talk before the meeting and see where they can go from there since they need a validation that it is a good idea.

#### Other Issues & Announcements:

None.

#### Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Gustavo Saberbein seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 2:49 p.m.