



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department on Aging

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

Date: October 17, 2022 (**Approved January 9, 2023**)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 246 533 9718#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

**In Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

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  
Gustavo Saberbein, Family Caregiver

Department Representatives:

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

Department on Aging staff:

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

Guests

Robin Morgan (HFS)

**Not in Attendance:**

OASAC Executive Committee Members:

Sherry Barter-Hamlin, The Voyage Senior Living  
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska, Molina Managed Care  
Susan Real, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Introductions & \*Call to Order:

Director Paula Basta welcomed everyone to the meeting. John Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. Paul Bennett made the motion and Mike Koronkowski seconded.

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

John Eckert asked for a motion to review and approve the July 11, 2022, meeting minutes. David Olsen made the motion to approve the meeting minutes; Gustavo Saberbein seconded. Paul Bennett commented that the minutes presented had paragraphs that were too long compared to other minutes. Eckert shared that he has not had a chance to review these

minutes because he was out and asked if it was okay to proceed with the minutes as presented. Eckert noted that he would try to edit the paragraph lengths in the minutes going forward. A note was made for the future, and it was agreed that the minutes presented would remain as is. The minutes were approved unanimously and will be posted on the Department website.

#### Approve 2023 OASAC Meeting Schedules

John Eckert asked everyone to review the draft 2023 OASAC Meeting Schedule prepared by Sophia Gonzales and noted that holidays were accounted for. David Olsen made the motion to approve the schedule; Paul Bennett seconded. All were in favor. The 2023 meeting schedule was approved and will be posted to the website.

#### Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

#### OASAC Workforce Workgroup Discussion

John Eckert shared that OASAC Workforce Workgroup has not reconvened, however, Sandy Pastore will be doing a formal presentation on a workforce survey completed in her area of work and asked for a couple of high points on what was learned with this survey. Pastore shared that the workforce crisis has affected the Aging network and they looked at CCUs and in-home care providers with these surveys. She added that they do plan to look at AAAs as well. A total of 95 in-home agencies responded to the survey, which is about one third of out in-home providers. A total of 47 CCUs answered the survey, which would be all CCUs. We found that the workforce crisis is across the state. We are looking at a shortage of 3,700 in home care providers across the 95 agencies that responded and 324 Care Coordinators across the state. Pastore shared that the Department realizes that we have a lot of work to do. She shared that she was looking at the workforce stabilization report that was completed a few years ago and how many workers we are going to need to replace. The workforce workgroup will be getting back together, and we have some CCPAC members that are interested in joining this workgroup too. We will be looking at solutions. Eckert stated that we have names of OASAC members that have expressed interest in joining and those will be shared with Pastore.

Lora McCurdy asked Pastore to share a little bit more on why the people are leaving the field. Pastore shared that the three main reasons why in-home care workers are leaving the field were better pay and jobs, the type of work and activities they are required to do, the unreasonable expectations of participants and families are demanding, and safety due to violence in a lot of areas. They also listed mistreatment by participants, gas prices, bed bugs, and no career path. The survey also asked how many employees left employment outside the field and found that 47% left the field completely. Another question was regarding family home care aides and found that since the pandemic family home care aides have increased 10% (from 29% to 39%). McCurdy clarified that this is with the allowance of the spouse, the legal guardian flexibility under Appendix K. Pastore shared that for the Care Coordinators it was the same, 25% of the CC staff left the aging network completely.

Paul Bennett asked if the Department might consider looking at some other models and service delivery that might mitigate some of the problems that are showing up in the surveys. He added that years ago when working for LSSI CCU, they used clustered care in which used service teams to provide care and the person was never working alone, but instead they would go out into the home as a group of 2 or 3 home care aides. Bennett also noted that they were allowed to receive a waiver to allow them to bill for the 4 hours of service for 2 people. He shared that there were some interesting findings and thinks that model might address some of the safety issues that were noted on the surveys. Pastore thanked Bennett for sharing and asked if any of

that information could be sent to her. Eckert stated that another thing that has been discussed was bringing guest speakers that are experts on this subject matter. Bennet has suggested in the past that we bring someone from the Association of Social Workers at future meetings to try to learn what they are doing. Eckert added that we will try to include the speakers with what Pastore is doing with reconvening the workgroup.

#### Department Updates:

##### Enhanced FMAP Incentive-

Mike Berkes shared that the CCP Enhanced FMAP Incentive was the additional match received that was approved for some time and that is now moving to waiver service revisions and development of new services. The Department is working on the expansion of EHRS, putting together a definition to work with all stakeholders. This definition can be reviewed during the next Full OASAC meeting. He added that the current EHRS service will be enhanced to include a GPS function that will allow this service to follow the older adult as they go about their day. The participants will also be able to make a choice about the fall detection option, in which the system will alert first responders. The Department plans to submit this service adjustment to HFS in November and then they will submit to CMS. The next step would be to talk about assistive technology and environmental modifications and asked everyone to stay tuned. The FMAP spending plan is moving very well and the spending window closes March 2025.

##### Public Health Emergency-

Mike Berkes moved on to talk about the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and all things unwinding. He shared that when the PHE ends there will be an unwinding process in place and for Aging, there will be FTF visits required for all CCU participants. He noted that on October 13<sup>th</sup> there was an extension to the PHE for another 90 days, if this was the last extension, the PHE would expire January 11, 2023. HFS will also be looking at Medicaid continuous enrollments. There is a toolkit that State partners can use when the PHE ends. Medicaid enrollment has continued without confirming eligibility during the PHE and these individuals have not been asked for verification. The intent of the toolkit is to communicate ahead of the PHE ending.

Kelly Cunningham (HFS, State Medicaid Administrator) shared that they have been emphasizing for the last 6 months to providers and partners that work with Medicaid clients that they have the current addresses on file. There is a public information campaign on the website, with the message to update your address. Lora McCurdy added that the Department plans to continue to allow for a spouse or responsible relative continue to be the home care aid. We would need to change our policy with a waiver amendment, and we know that this would increase accessibility. The Department wants to make sure that this continues to be an option after Appendix K ends.

##### ARPA Funding-

Sandy Pastore shared that the AAA's received \$51MIL in ARPA funds last year and this year that will be ending in 2023. They are just starting to spend these funds as they are getting their programs up and running. They have things like restaurant programs across the State, increases in Title III services and T-Care.

Director Basta added that the Department has held several stakeholder hearing meetings across the State. At these stakeholder meetings, the AAA's talked to stakeholders about what they would do with these funds. Director Basta additionally noted that it is important for this group to know that this was a strategy for the AAAs to tell the people what they were going to do

with these funds and how it fits with our State Plan. She shared that the last meeting was held in Moline, and it was a great experience. Participation from all the stakeholders was received.

Review/approve Agenda for February 27, 2022, Full OASAC Meeting:

John Eckert asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the upcoming November meeting. He shared that we have three guest speakers confirmed for the upcoming Full meeting. Lisa Gregory will speak on the PACE program, Tracey Keene on the health benefit coverage for immigrants, and former Aging Director Dr. John Holton will be going over the increasing access to Aging services for minorities in the State report. There were no additions or changes to the draft agenda. Mike Koronkowski made the motion and Gustavo Saberbein seconded. All were in favor. The meeting agenda was approved as is.

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; Gustavo Saberbein seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 2:32 p.m.