



Older Adult Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 15, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Approved August 21, 2023)

Call in: Dial: #1-415-655-0002 Access code: 2464 151 6824#, then press # again

WebEx: Please see Outlook invite for Video Option

IN ATTENDANCE:

OASAC Committee Members

Director Paula A. Basta – Department on Aging
Sherry Barter Hamlin – The Voyage Senior Living
Paul Bennett – Citizen over the age of 60
Meghan Carter – Legal Council for Health Justice
Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus Inc.
Suzanne Courtheoux – Ombudsman Association- Legal Aid Chicago
Tom Culberson - Quad County Home Health, Hospice, and DME
Cindy Cunningham – Illinois Adult Day Services Association
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska – Molina Healthcare of Illinois
Lori Hendren – AARP Illinois
Kathy Honeywell – North Shore Senior Center
Linda Hubbartt – Effingham City-County Committee on Aging
Sara Jean Lindholm– Citizen over the age of 60
Dave Lowitzki – SEIU HealthCare – Illinois and Indiana
June McKoy - Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Jay Mukoyama – The Clare
David Olsen – Alzheimer Association Illinois Chapter
Susan Real – East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Walter Rosenberg – Rush University Medical Center
Gustavo Saberbein – Family Caregiver
Jason Speaks – Leading Age IL
Ancy Zacharia – Home Care Physicians

Ex-officio Committee Members:

Erin Rife – Department of Public Health
Kelly Cunningham – Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Gwen Diehl – Department of Veterans Affairs
Evan Ponder – Illinois Housing Development Authority
Kelly Richards – State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Lyle VanDeventer – Department of Human Services

Department on Aging staff:

Mike Berkes, Sarah Carlson, Glenda Corbett, Becky Dragoo, Selma D’Souza, John Eckert, Sophia Gonzalez, Jennifer Hebel, Emily Howerton, Lee Moriarty, Chelsy Peters, Melissa Schackel, Latorya Simon, Gloria Simmons, Beth Skeeters, Dana Wilkerson, LaRhonda Williams, Liz Vogt, and Lisa Zuurbier

GUESTS:

Lynne Bergero (Telligen), Nancy Contreras (Kivvit), Sarah Hamilton (Kivvit), Bailey Hoffman (CCA), Ali Johnson Toliver) (IDHS), Annie Mattix (Kivvit), Neal Stevens-Jackson (Kivvit),

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

OASAC Committee Members

Tracey Colagrossi - Association of Illinois Senior Centers
Michael Koronkowski – UIC College of Pharmacy
Susan Hughes – UIC Community Health Sciences School of Public Health
John Larson– Cantata Adult Life Services
Kimberly Stoerger (Palermo) – Illinois Healthcare Association
Sara Ratcliffe – Illinois Home Care and Hospice Council

Ex-officio Committee Members:

Christopher B. Meister) - Illinois Finance Authority

Welcome and Introductions:

John Eckert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the call. Sophia Gonzalez called off the members and guests appearing on WebEx and all other callers to identify themselves. Eckert introduced Erin Rife, she replaced Sheila Baker and is the Assistant Bureau Chief of the Long-Term Care Bureau.

Call to Order & Approve minutes from the Full OASAC meeting on February 27, 2023:

John Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. Linda Hubbartt made the motion and Paul Bennett seconded. All members voted in favor. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2023, meeting. Sarah Lindholm made the motion and Sherry Barter-Hamlin seconded. There were no additions or corrections noted. The minutes were approved unanimously by members and will be posted to the Department website.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Long Live Illinois Campaign Presentation:

Sarah Hamilton, the managing Director at Kivvit stated they have been working with the Department on Aging for about one year on the Long Live Illinois Campaign. This campaign was directed at seniors to make sure that everyone is up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. Hamilton shared that she and her colleagues will be presenting on the work that Kivvit has completed for the past year. A creative strategy was developed when everyone had returned to their pre-pandemic lives to keep everyone safe. This campaign reminded seniors of the joy of everyday life and emphasized the importance to staying up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines to never risk losing out on life again. A series of ads and materials were produced in 10 different languages both written and on-line, that included newspapers and radio announcements to ensure that all seniors received the messaging. The first step in the campaign was research to make sure they knew where people were located who may have been under vaccinated or not vaccinated, who their trusted voices were, the population of the state, among other information. The campaign initiated at the state fair last summer during Senior Day and was followed by presentations at several public events. They produced over 30 static graphics, ten videos and nearly a dozen pieces of printed materials that were distributed. Several ads that were season theme specific were shared on the PPT. Annie Mattix shared that additional resources are available, including tool kits that include social media graphic videos and fact sheets that were translated into multiple languages. Mattix added that these are all available on the Department on Aging website. Everyone is encouraged to use these and share to keep the message alive. Neal Stevens-Jackson provided an overview of the metrics for the campaign. He shared that they saw high engagement from month to month on all platforms. They looked at how many times their ads were shown and noted that over 45,000 clicks on vaccines.gov were obtained. It was noted that by using a digital campaign they were able to make changes based on what they saw was working or not working. Liz Vogt thanked the Kivvit team for the phenomenal job with the campaign and laying out the metrics (**PPT attached**).

Paul Bennett shared that he was impressed with the materials and added that the agency he works for is trying to

do a lot of work right now in the South Suburbs of Chicago to try to reach out to individuals on the booster shot. He asked if there was any material that could be shared. Bennett also asked for information on Kivvit because he is not familiar with the organization. Hamilton responded that she would be happy to send the information and added the Kivvit website in the chat. Kivvit is a public affair and communication firm based in Chicago that works on awareness campaigns and outreach all the time. Hamilton shared that in terms of reaching out to hard-to-reach populations, there are some toolkits with materials that can be downloaded on the website. A question was asked via chat, asking if there is a way to measure the impact in terms of increased percentages for seniors vaccinated rather than clicks or views of the material. Hamilton responded that Kivvit, and the Department decided to send people directly to vaccines.gov to ensure that they didn't have to take multiple steps and no they are not able to track what these people did after they went to this website. Director Basta shared that one of the things that she has noticed when speaking to seniors is that they are very confused about vaccines, and they have a lot of questions, and we must continually have a very strong message. She added that they need to continue to stay safe and healthy and we must get out in a general way to our network and out older adults. Director welcomed partners that deal with older adults daily to share their insights and what they are hearing. Eckert added that even though OASAC was formed to look at rebalancing and making sure that home services are available to older adults, initiatives like this are important. He also acknowledged the efforts by everyone involved to keep people at home safe with vaccine information available was a good plan, even though it is hard to measure. Bennett stated that they have been looking at statistics of longevity and it is interesting that in 2020 there was a downward trend in Illinois and neighboring states in 85+ population. He is guessing that the decline was related to COVID older adults that lived in nursing homes. Susan Real thanked Director Basta for recognizing their work and is happy to hear about the successful efforts by Kivvit. She shared that what they discovered downstate was that there was confusion and reluctance in rural areas on taking the vaccine. She asked the Sarah Hamilton what they learned in terms of the rural barrier. Hamilton responded that there will always be certain populations, geographies where there will be hesitancy and they found that consistent messaging and outreach in a non-heavy-handed way works best.

Colbert/Williams Consent Decrees Update:

Eckert re-introduced Ali Johnson Toliver the state lead for the Colbert Williams Consent Decree, she will be providing an update on some of her activities. Johnson shared that she is the compliance officer, and she works out of the Department of Human Services and the Office of the Secretary. She provided an overview on the two lawsuits against the State of Illinois that alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She added that both lawsuits resulted in these settlements, the Williams and Colbert Consent Decrees. For the Williams Consent the class members are adults who have mental illness and reside in specialized mental health rehab facilities or SMRFS and can live in the community with specific services and supports. There were roughly 3,000 Williams class members in 2021. The Colbert class members are adults who reside in Cook County skilled nursing facilities, and they can live in the community with services and supports. Specific to the Medicaid eligible population, there are roughly 20,000 Colbert class members and we are at 198 Cook County Nursing facilities. The primary service delivery service for class members to transition to the community is under the comprehensive class member transition program, a DHS Division of Mental Health grant funded program. There are 11 community agencies called Prime agencies that facilitate all the services from outreach and engagement assessment service planning transition, housing support and post-transition follow up and care management in the community for up to 18 months. These Prime agencies are contracted to transition 400 Williams class members and 450 Colbert class members to the community annually. Johnson added that this is the state's primary mechanism for helping these class members transition to the community, but HFS also provides their community transitions to in imitative with their Medicaid health plans.

Johnson shared that Managed Care Organizations may also be working with Williams/Colbert class members to help them transition to the community. The comprehensive class member transitions program and the community transitions initiative operate like parallel programs. Also, the State of Illinois is required to offer community options and services in placement to individuals prior to their admission into a SMRF. The Division of Mental Health also has a grant funded program called the Front Door Diversion Program that have 6 providers that target individuals in 46 hospitals in Cook County, which will soon be statewide. Achievements include that they have transitioned 470 Colbert class members so far out of 550 that were required this this year based on the implementation plan requirements. Since the inception of the program, they have transitioned 3,715 Colbert class members to the community from Cook County Nursing homes. Also 270 out of 425 Williams class members have been transitioned out this fiscal year. A total of 3,615 Williams class members have been transitioned out of

Illinois SMRFs into the community since the inception of the program. Under the front door diversion program, a total of 288 diversions have been completed to date. Johnson shared that a new court monitor was appointed in August 2022. Catherine Dupree. She has a lot of experience as a court monitor in other states. If any additional information is needed, you can look at the IDHS Olmstead webpage (**PPT attached**).

Bennett asked if they have been looking at what programs and services people are using to build a prevention program of diversion in case the decree sunsets. He stated that he hopes that as the outcome of the consent decrees we learn something and make changes. Johnson agreed that preventing more class members in the first place is absolutely the state's goal and includes looking at what is available, what is being utilized and not utilized that should be to prevent individuals from entering SMRFs in the first place. The Department on Aging is looking into preventing unnecessary admission into skilled nursing facilities but looking at the state's capacity to meet the needs of this population. John will talk more on this subject during the updates. Sara Lindholm asked if the occupancy level has declined in any way because of these activities. Johnson confirmed that it has, the SMRFs are at the lowest it has been since the inception of the Williams Consent Decree. Kelly Cunningham added that the Community Transition initiative is a program around 3 years old and it is a contractual requirement for the MCOs. It tracks the set of standards regarding the number of transitions by each plan for Colbert and Williams. Suzanne Courtheoux asked if substantial compliance is obtained, will there still be programs available to help people transition out. John shared that he will be talking about MFP 2.0 and other pilots during the updates.

Leading Age Presentation:

Jason Speaks talked about Leading Age Illinois and some of their initiatives. Leading Age is the state affiliate of two national associations in Washington D.C and Argentum. Leading Age has been around for 90+ years and they represent the full continuum of care for senior care and services (HCBS, Senior Housing, Life Plan Communities, Assisted Living, Supportive Living and Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation). Speaks shared that they provide education to provider members of all types, annual meeting and expo, a senior living conference, and an honoring excellence awards program every year. The goal is to always provide the best care to seniors. Speaks shared that they will be having their annual Assisted Living Bootcamp in Springfield tomorrow and will have providers throughout the state join them. Sheila Baker, the Deputy Director of the Office of Health Regulation will be presenting. They also have a Leading Leadership Academy with the goal of taking in new and experienced Executive Directors, future leaders and administrators on the Nursing Home side and train them on how to be better leaders for their staff and teams.

Speaks shared that one of their initiatives is bringing the CCRCs, Life Plan Communities to Illinois to provide seniors services in their homes, as long as feasible; recognizing that there are other segments of the continuum but understanding that some people want to stay home with their families. CCRCs are private pay and are no cost to the State. HB3060 just passed last week both House and Senate voted yes. The Department of Public Health will be charged with writing the rules for that program. Another initiative is regarding the sliding scale insulin in Assisted Living residency requirement. There is a rule that if a resident is unable to self-administer then they do not meet the residency requirement unless they get a private duty home care nurse to come in. Members feel that they already have a nurse in their community and those nurses know the residents best. HB3171 has also passed with all yes votes in both chambers is now headed to the Governor. HB1814 is another initiative that has passed, and it requires the formation of an assisted living advisory board, the Governor would appoint an assisted living advisory board, which would provide representatives, advocates, and stakeholders. There are currently about 550 assisted living facilities, and it makes sense to have an advisory board to look at issues, analyze and make recommendations. Adult Day Services is another priority initiative for Leading Age, they have an affiliation partnership with the Illinois Adult Day Services Association and are looking to expand and get additional funding. The Nurse Licensure Compact which allows a nurse to have one multistate license with the ability to practice in the home state and other compact states. Illinois is not part of this program, and we would like to see IL join about 36 other states. The Medication Aides are individuals that have met the qualifications for licensure and assist with medication administration while under the supervision of a registered professional nurse (RN) in Assisted Living, Supportive Living, and Nursing Homes and again Il is not part of this program. (**PPT attached**)

Director Basta thanked Jason Speaks for the presentation and shared that legislation was passed last year that required a senior housing advisory council that meets quarterly. Selma and Glenda who are on this call are special assistants for that project and she believes that the Assisted Living advisory council should be speaking to the housing council. Dr. June McKoy commented that in terms of the sliding scale insulin there is a concern for

using sliding scale insulin because they have been shown to leave patients in a hyperglycemic state and they have seen a lot of hospitalizations at Northwestern Hospital. She believes people should have set doses that can be adjusted but not to give someone a license to follow a broad range outside of the hospital. She added that it is not as simple as it appears, and it can pose dangers to older adults. Dr. McKoy stated that she would love to see the bill regarding the use of CNAs to pass medications. She shared that this is a concern because they are struggling right now to get nurses trained and these are LPNs, associate nurses, and RNs. She added that the knowledge base of CNAs is amazing, and they are respected because they are the first eyes on the patient, but their knowledge is not good enough. She believes this would put older adults at risk. Speaks thanked Dr. McKoy for her opinion.

Department Updates:

Legislative Update

Gloria Simmons shared that SB1826 which is the Department's initiative passed the Senate and is now over at the House on a second reading. This initiative expands the definition of mandated reporter to include investment advisors and clarifies the definition of abuser, this is an important as financial exploitation continues to be the most prevalent type of elder abuse reported to the Adult Protective Services. Simmons shared that the Department looks forward to getting this initiative on the third reading and passing the House.

Budget/Fiscal

Emily Howerton shared that she has a quick budget update, the senate and the house are still in discussion regarding the FY24 budget. They are supposed to adjourn at the end of the week. Once that happens be on the lookout for the budget with all the agencies included.

Legally responsible individuals as home care aides

Deputy Director Becky Dragoo shared that LRI (legally responsible individuals) and allowing spouses, power of attorneys, representative payees, and legal guardians to serve as paid homecare aides was part of the flexibilities that CMS allowed States via the Appendix K. Aging and the State Medicaid Agency filed the appendix to allow flexibilities and now it is expiring. A notice was sent out on April 26th to the Aging network to raise awareness and let them know that we will no longer allow in-home service agencies to hire new LRI's, beginning May 12. The Department is looking internally on how we can ensure that those participants that have a legally responsible individual, that came during this flexibility, are continuing to receive care. Deputy Director Dragoo asked everyone to stay tuned for more information. Bennett asked if these LRIs that came in during the flexibility will be grandfathered in. Deputy Director clarified that the Department is considering that right now, discussing internally since the flexibility expires in November.

PHE Unwinding efforts.

Liz Vogt shared that the Department has been very busy sending guidance to all providers on the expectations moving forward. Policies and regulations are being revised for when the PHE expires on May 11th. We do have a little more time, 6 months, after the PHE expires with the Appendix as has been mentioned. We do anticipate there will be some additional guidance coming related to the LRIs but as of right now all the pre-Covid policies, procedures, and regulations are in effect. She added that all policies are posted on our partner portal.

Emergency Senior Services

Berkes stated that ESS was born out of COVID, and the Department had to get these funds out the door to our network partners quickly. These funds had to go out to our CCUs to fill gap services when the world shut down and we have been working with ESS every year since 2020. As this service continues to grow, we have taken the quality improvement approach and continue to target those funds for areas we know are most beneficial. ESS will continue in FY24, and we are very fortunate that we had Melissa Schackel join our team to help us improve how we deliver ESS. Additional resources will be put out for our CCU partners and network. We will move forward with ESS short term and long term, as we are studying this gap filling fund and there could be a permanent component. Eckert added that Melissa has been good at updating the guidance. There is a new ESS email, and we have a new fact sheet, there will be a PPT training soon. Also, we have been trying to break out the DME we have been purchasing to make sure that ESS is the payor of last resort. Other sources like Medicare should be used if possible. Many utility requests have been received because these have been going up and Melissa is working on fact sheets to ensure that everyone has information on how to stay cool and reduce these bills. Susan

Real asked if ESS is only available to CCP participants. Eckert clarified that ESS is not only available for CCP participants, but also outside of CCP if there is a need. There is a referral for AAA's that can be completed, which can be recirculated.

CCA Bridge Pilot

Eckert shared that the Department approved for an award for the Care Coordinated Alliance (CCA) and Rush to do and Enhanced Choices Bridge Pilot. We will start off with a couple CCUs that will be following people leaving hospitals that are frequent flyers or in real danger of being recidivated back into the hospital. They will have a dedicated Social Worker to follow these individuals for a period when they go home to make sure they stay in the community. Bailey Huffman shared that they are looking forward to selecting the CCUs and moving forward with the project starting July.

MFP 2.0

Eckert stated that the DHS DRS MFP 2.0 will launch in calendar year 2024 and it will be a 4-year pilot and we have the CCUs on board. It is still in the planning stages, and we are working on the operational protocol that will be the guidance that goes back to federal CMS. About 22 counties will be covered and they will have dedicated transition coordinators that will identify people that can go back to the community with supports after being in NH's.

Other Issues & Announcements:

New member Tom Culberson representing Hospice introduced himself, he is the Executive Director of his county Home Health of Hospice downstate.

Sophia Gonzalez shared that there are currently two vacancies for OASAC: Parish Nurse and Trade or Union Member. She also reminded everyone that the 2023 Annual required Ethics and HDP trainings are due by June 30th.

Motion to Adjourn: a motion to adjourn the meeting; Linda Hubbardt made a motion and Dr. June McKoy seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.