



JB Pritzker, Governor
Mary Killough, Director

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Older Adult Services Advisory Committee (OASAC)

Meeting Minutes approved 11.17.2025

September 15, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

OASAC Committee Members in attendance

Director Mary Killough, CHAIR – Department on Aging
Lisa Gregory, VICE CHAIR – Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Sherry Barter Hamlin – The Voyage Senior Living
Paul Bennett – Citizen over the age of 60
Adam Bursua – University of Illinois - Chicago
Meghan Carter – Legal Counsel for Health Justice
Tracey Colagrossi - Association of Illinois Senior Centers
Theresa Collins – Senior Services Plus Inc.
Suzanne Courtheoux – Ombudsman Association- Legal Aid Chicago
Cindy Cunningham – Illinois Adult Day Services Association
Topaz Gunderson-Schweska – Molina Healthcare of Illinois
Lori Hendren – AARP Illinois
David Olsen – Alzheimer Association Illinois Chapter
Sara Ratcliffe – Illinois Home Care and Hospice Council
Susan Real – East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Becca Reinstorf – Quad County Home Health
Gustavo Saberbein – Family Caregiver
Nicole Spencer – Family Caregiver
Tom Zablocki - SEIU HealthCare – Illinois and Indiana

Ex-Officio Committee Members in attendance:

Angela Clarke – Governor’s Office
Corbin McGhee – Department of Insurance
Evan Ponder – Illinois Housing Development Authority
Kelly Richards – State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Angela Simmons – Department of Veterans Affairs

OASAC Committee Members not in attendance

Kathy Honeywell – North Shore Senior Center
Linda Hubbartt – Effingham City-County Committee on Aging
Susan Hughes – UIC Community Health Sciences School of Public Health
Dave Lowitzki – SEIU HealthCare – Illinois and Indiana
Martha “Faye” Meaderds - Citizen over the age of 60
June McKoy - Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Jay Mukoyama – The Clare
John Larson– Cantata Adult Life Services
Walter Rosenberg – Rush University Medical Center
Ashley Snavelly – Illinois Healthcare Association
Jason Speaks – Leading Age IL
Ancy Zacharia – Home Care Physicians

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Ex-officio Members not in attendance:

Erik Hanson – Department of Human Services
Erin Rife, VICE CHAIR – Department of Public Health
Christopher Meister – Illinois Finance Authority

IDoA and State staff in attendance

Bresha Brewer, Pricilla Chapman, Becky Dragoo, John Eckert, Fabian Eghiabumhe, Adrienne Grover, Monica Farquhar (HFS), Joe Gardner, Sophia Gonzalez, Jennifer Hebel, Derek Hedges, Michelle Hoersch, Patience Horton, Emily Howerton, Iris Huber, Sally, Lisnek, Audrey Jensen, Binaya Lohani, Glenda Love, Carrie Marcy, Theresa McKeon, Cynthia Mester (HFS), Lee Moriarty, Sandy Pastore, Jamie Richno, Melissa Schackel, T’Kira Siler-Wilkerson, Beth Skeeters, Marqus Thurmond, Liz Vogt, Roberta Vojas, and Joslyn Washington.

Guests

Marcy Elamin (Cook County HHS), Richard Juarez, Sr. (Solutions for Care), Sandra Kester (Abcor), Amber Knox (Alternatives), Meisha Lyons (Catholic Charities), and Erin O’Leary (IL Finance Authority).

Welcome and Introductions

Director Killough welcomed the committee members and guests to the OASAC meeting and thanked everyone for joining us. John Eckert announced Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez is the new Division Manager for Home and Community Services. She will be bringing a wealth of knowledge coming from the administration community and was a regional coordinator who understands the Older Americans Act front to back. Prior to that she worked for the Federal Government and Age Options Area Agency on Aging.

John Eckert also announced Adrienne Grover and asked her to introduce herself to the group. Adrienne is the new Deputy Division Manager for Advocacy and Preventive Services coming with a strong social services background. I was the Local Housing Authority Director of the Section 8 Program for several years.

Director Killough wanted to convey that Department has worked very hard to backfill positions and that we are larger than we have ever been, and we are almost fully staffed.

Also joining us today is Angela Clark. I’m the Senior Advisor, Health and Human Services in the Governor’s Office and privileged to be here with you. John Eckert noted that we’ve had a hard time getting a appointee from the Governor’s Office and we are so glad to have you on board.

Call to Order

John Eckert asked for a motion to call the meeting to order. Motion by David Olsen and seconded by Gustavo Saberbein. All members voted in favor and the meeting was called to order.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from the Full OASAC meeting on May 5, 2025

John Eckert noted that we will hold on approving the May 5th minutes until the November meeting and we will have two sets of minutes to approve at the November 17th meeting. We will try to be a little more diligent with having the minutes prepared in the future.

Public Comments

None.

Member Presentation: Medication Safety, Adam Bursua, PharmD, MBA, CPPS

John Eckert welcomed Dr. Adam Bursua who is one of our newest OASAC members working at UIC as a pharmacology expert and he's going to present on medication safety and talking a little about his role at the university. Dr Bursua facilitated his presentation about medication safety and older adults. The presentation was made available to members and guests and is posted on the OASAC website.

A discussion followed regarding automated medication dispensers (AMD) both in an outpatient pharmacy setting and those authorized through the Community Care Program (CCP) for in home use by older adults. Currently the Medicaid waiver service through IDoA provides approximately 200 AMDs, but it's definitely underutilized. UIC has Medication Therapy Management Services, depending on the individual, there are different levels that can be provided. It's likely that each of these health systems has their own sort of resources available and would encourage patients to seek those resources. Also, a common and growing medication problem is a pill may change color, shape, and imprint from one month to the next. This can be quite disturbing for patients.

Director Killough sees opportunities to address this area through Training, Fact Sheets, SHIP (Medicare, Medicaid), and Best Practices that can be shared with the network. John Eckert discussed putting together a short-term work group and asked that if anyone was interested to please put their name in the chat (T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson). John Eckert also mentioned that the Department provides Quality Webinars to the provider network that reaches 200-500 people at a time, and we might consider this presentation for that audience. In addition, we need to also consider the use of vitamins as certain vitamins have interactions with medications. The 28-page Person Centered Plan of Care (PCPOC) recently had the medication list domain updated from 10 slots to 25 slots. Additionally, the closure of small pharmacies is impacting areas with no nearby pharmacies for patients, making mail order a very good option.

Member Presentation: Cindy Cunningham, Illinois Adult Day Services Association

John Eckert discussed that the Department has been looking for ways to assist the Adult Day Services (ADS) sites to increase their capacity and growth. Cindy Cunningham provided a presentation and update on the status of the Adult Day Services. The presentation was made available to members and guests and is posted on the OASAC website.

A discussion followed regarding who the contacts are at IDoA and the IL ADS Association. Cindy Cunningham, cemcunningham@gmail.com, is a volunteer for the Illinois Adult Day Services Association and available to contact for assistance or questions regarding Adult Day Services. At the Illinois Department on Aging, T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson is the Deputy Division Manager for Home and Community Services and the Department's point of contact for Adult Day Services, TKira.SilerWilkerson@Illinois.gov, 217-558-8067.

Revised Bylaws Review

John Eckert briefed that the OASAC bylaws need updating since they were established in August 2004. We have found a good template that we can adopt for the revision. A draft of the bylaw's revision has been shared with the Department's Legal and Executive Staff and plan to share with the OASAC Executive Committee next month. The plan is to have it ready for approval at the November 17th meeting.

Department Updates

Federal Funding and State Budget

State Budget update provided by Teri McKeon, IDoA Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Payments are moving for FY2026, contracts have been rolled out and everything should be working smoothly from the payment and contract side for everybody. If you have questions or problems, please let us know.

Federal Funding updates provided by Becky Dragoo, IDoA Deputy Directory. The State Budget was enacted and was approved as submitted. There were some holdups at the federal level. The most pressing, at the moment, the way the legislation stands, is that individuals between the ages of 60-64 that are being served by the waiver; the Community Care Program (CCP), and the Persons Who are Elderly waiver, potentially fall in the bucket that will require work. We are hardened by the notion that there's some flexibility in that language that individuals that meet certain medical conditions might not be required to serve in that capacity. Individuals that are being served, that receive services under the waiver, have been determined eligible for nursing home placement. We are working closely with our colleagues at HFS to navigate this new turf. Stay tuned as we move forward and understanding what that language means in particular to IDoA's population being served by the waiver. We have just over 5000 people who fall into this category.

The other provision that is applicable potentially to Aging is the requirement to do redeterminations more frequently, every 6 months. Care Coordination Units (CCUs) and our care coordinators play a vital role assisting older adults navigate applications for Medicaid and Medicare, so we are concerned with the increased frequency of the assessment. Stay tuned as we work with our colleagues at the state Medicaid agency to understand how they view that new language, its implementation and where we'll move forward.

There are some changes in eligibility for Medicaid that we're currently working through. Our rules and statutes refer back to the eligibility provisions of HFS and DHS. A lot of language to work through to determine how that impacts our population being served by the waiver. Those are the larger Medicaid provisions.

On another note, the most recent proposal for older Americans Act and related funding holds older Americans Act flat again, and it did remove the new funding for Adult Protective Services programs which virtually all of them are run out of state units on aging and supported by general fund revenue.

Another funding source that we're not seeing any movement on at the federal level is the funding from the Federal to State partners in the senior employment and other employment activities. Funding for National Able and those types of partners, directly to those partners from the Feds, has not been authorized in the new spending. The Department on Aging did receive funding for, for us that we in turn sub grant out for those purposes. But the word that we're hearing is that state funding will not be received by National Able, and that funding overall for Title Five Programs will end in 27.

AmeriCorps sub-grantees received their federal funding, which was terrific news because the state and the Department on Aging contributes 10 % back to those sub-grantees to help because the funding is insufficient, and so once that Federal funding was released, we were able to release funding to our partners that work in the AmeriCorps space.

Multi-Sector Plan on Aging

Michelle Hoersch, Michelle.Hoersch@Illinois.gov, Chief Planning Officer, Multisector Plan on Aging, provided a presentation on the Multi-Sector Plan on Aging (MPA). The presentation was made available to members and

guests and is posted on the OASAC website. Additional information can be found on the IDoA website <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/>, under Providers and Partners look for Multi Sector Plan for Aging.

Legislative Initiatives

Bresha Brewer presented the Legislative updates. August 28th, the Governor signed into law:

HB 1226, which was an initiative of AARP and IL Secretary of State that increases the age at which Illinois drivers must take a behind the wheel driving test from age 79 to age 87.

HB 1287, which was an initiative of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman initiative requires nursing homes to have a AEDs in their facilities effective date by 1 January of 2030.

Veto Session will be October 14, 15, 16 and 28, 29, 30.

Persons Who are Elderly Waiver

Derek Hedges, Division Manager, Division of Planning, Research and Development provided updates on the Persons Who are Elderly Waiver. First is the waiver amendment, which is for the Direct Care Worker rate increase that was included through legislation that has a proposed effective date of 1/1/2026. That waiver amendment was submitted to federal CMS on August 28th, our 15 day meeting with Federal CMS and HFS was on September 8th. There's nothing that we see that would delay the approval of that waiver amendment. We have our communications for the stakeholder community developed and waiting for the approval to happen so that we're ready to go when it does.

The Rate Study includes all Community Care Program (CCP) waiver services, all of the Care Coordination Unit (CCU) services, and the Adult Protective Services (APS) billable services. We have met with a rate study contractor to do the rate study. We've come to an agreement with them. We're finalizing the contract with them, and then we have a kickoff meeting scheduled with them for October 10th. There will be lots of communications for the stakeholder community following that so the providers will have opportunities to engage with the rate setters.

Lastly, I'd like to give an update on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). Statewide aggregation process started up back in March of 2024, and then in April of 2024, it was put on a pause until just recently. A team from IDoA with HFS and HHA Exchange, who is the statewide aggregator, all met last week to reinvigorate the discovery process, go over anything that may have changed since the last time it was done. We worked through that last week, and we anticipate that we're going to send out a notice to the stakeholder community in the next week or two. We anticipate in early November that the Welcome Letters from the statewide aggregator will be sent out to the stakeholder community again. We're looking at training for the providers in early February and then the go-live date for EVV statewide aggregation is planned for March 1, 2026. There will be some things that happen in between the Welcome Letters in November and the go-live March 1st. There will be some information sessions most likely in December. There will be an EVV session for Providers at the IDoA Conference in October conducted by HFS and HHA Exchange. There are monthly listening sessions that HFS does as well.

Susan Real had a question regarding what the statewide aggregator program wants to accomplish, and Derek Hedges explained. For every in personal care service, they're required to capture an electronic visit and that consists of 6 data points that the software has to capture: location, service provider, date, time, person receiving the service, and the service they're receiving. Our system is already required to utilize an electronic visit verification (EVV) system. So now there's an agency at the State level who's going collect all of those visits and aggregate them for reporting purposes, but also to verify them against claims that get submitted to the Feds for federal matching and is in response to the Cures Act.

Review Rebalancing Initiatives

John Eckert discussed the Rebalancing Initiatives. The Rebalancing Initiatives were made available to members and guests and are posted on the OASAC website. Also discussed was the Olmstead White Paper from 2000, fiscal year 1998, 77 % of the \$2.3 billion in Illinois was spending for Medicaid for all ages was going towards institutional care. The goal of Olmstead and our rebalancing was to get it below 50 %. Money follows person demonstration is going to be gearing up very soon.

IDoA Conference, Peoria Civic Center, October 15-16, 2025

Director Killough reiterated that the IDoA Conference is open to everyone. There are almost 300 people registered so far. The goal is to get together as a network to deal with all the changes and to work through them. An email invitation was sent to members and guests for the Conference.

OASAC Member Annual Training Requirements:

Beth Skeeters briefed that the annual training requirements for OASAC members were sent via email in April. It is requested to complete the training at your earliest convenience, but it must be completed before the end of the calendar year.

OASAC Voting Members Whose Terms Expire in December 2025:

Tracey Colagrossi	David Olsen
Cindy Cunningham	Susan Real
Lori Hendren	Jason Speaks
Susan Hughes	Tom Zablocki

Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates:

OASAC **Full** Membership meetings - Mondays once each quarter from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

1st Quarter: February 23, 2026

2nd Quarter: May 4, 2026 - *tentative* in-person meeting

3rd Quarter: August 3, or September 14, 2026

Dates to avoid / potential conflicts: US Aging Conference July 18-21, 2026

Illinois State Fair August 13-23, 2026

HCBS Conference August 23-27, 2026

4th Quarter: November 16, 2026

OASAC **Executive** Committee meetings - Mondays once each quarter 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

1st Quarter: January 12, 2026

2nd Quarter: April 6, 2026

3rd Quarter: July 13, 2026

4th Quarter: October 6, 2026

Other Issues & Recommendations:

Paul Bennett mentioned that some may remember Bart Colaski, who was the Executive Director of the Care Coordination Unit (CCU) Association and a CCU Director, passed away last week.

Motion to Adjourn:

John Eckert requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gustavo Saberbein made the motion and Sherry Barter-Hamlin seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 P.M.