



Department of Health

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MINUTES

NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer's Disease
and Other Dementia
Monday June 10, 2024
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Council Members and Representatives:

Members Present in Person: John Cochran (NYSOFA), Michael Jabonaski (NYSDOH), Suzanne Sullivan (NYSEED), Maxine Smalling (NYSOMH), Elizabeth Smith-Boivin, Dr. Denise Cavanaugh, Lisl Maloney (NYSOCFS), David Okrent, Esq, Dr. Carol Podgorski, Catherine James

Members Present Virtually: Dr. Louise Belzie, Jed Levine, James Taylor, George Shaw (OPWDD)

Members Absent: Teresa Galbier, Dr. William Higgins

NYSDOH Staff Present: Lynn Young, Katie Mahar, Susanne Coburn, Cassandra Tysn, Tracy Sinnott, Kim LaBarge, Felicia Segelken, Michael Chittenden, Karly Boyd, Anna Sofia Winans, Susan Root, Sue Lawless (DLA), Jessica Dell'Anno (DLA)

Others Present: Bill Gustafson (Alzheimer's Association), Kyle Fitzgerald (Alzheimer's Society of Ontario), Jessica Hogle (Alzheimer's Society of Ontario), Kathryn Carol

Note: The meeting was conducted in-person and via Webex. The meeting was recorded.

Welcome and Roll Call:

Mr. Jabonaski called the meeting to order at 11:04AM. Ms. Sinnott conducted the roll call, noting that there was not an in-person quorum present.

Mr. Jabonaski provided an update regarding work occurring in the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Coordinating Council to improve efficiency in meetings and leading to an increase in policy recommendations.

Mr. Jabonaski addressed the Open Meetings Law and remote attendance of Council meetings. He discussed in-person quorum requirements, as well as extenuating circumstances. Ms. Lawless explained that the statute for the Open Meetings Law could not be changed and reiterated that an in-person quorum would need to be present for any official voting purposes.

Mr. Jabonaski provided detail on direction he was given to advise the Council to create a list of priorities and goals to present to Department of Health leadership. He explained that the initial preparation for the goals and priorities has been initiated internally. Once priorities and policy changes have been suggested by the Council, a matrix will be created. The matrix will include recommended timelines for completion, resources, and associated costs. These recommendations and the matrix will be moved forward for review for the next state fiscal year. Information will be sent out to Council members via email. The Council will have an opportunity to discuss and finalize recommendations at the September meeting. Providing goals and recommendations to leadership will be an annual expectation from the Council, with the help of the Department of Health team. For reference, the Council members will be provided with the Goals and Recommendations they previously created.

Mr. Jabonaski also explained that the Master Plan for Aging will be reviewed, while evaluating priorities and determining where the Council's priorities and goals fit into the state's plan. Ms. Smith-Boivin suggested breaking down allocation of current funds when creating the matrix. Ms. Sullivan asked if there were specific areas that the Council should focus on when preparing the matrix. Mr. Jabonaski explained that focusing on Master Plan for Aging goals would be beneficial but encouraged looking at all goals and priorities. Mr. Cochran requested clarification about the request, which was provided by Mr. Jabonaski, including the plan for a matrix and current fiscal allocations. Ms. Sinnott confirmed that an email will be sent out to all Council members to continue discussion regarding priorities.

Ms. Mahar welcomed members from the Alzheimer's Society of Ontario to the Council meeting.

Ms. Mahar spoke about the loss of long-time Council member, Dr. Carl Cohen, who passed unexpectedly on April 27, 2024. Dr. Cohen was the founder the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease at Downstate. Ms. Smith-Boivin recommended, on behalf of the Council, that the minutes reflect Dr. Cohen's over ten-year contribution to the Council.

Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2023 and March 4, 2024:

A quorum was not present, the minutes could not be approved.

Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Overview:

Dr. Carol Podgorski provided a presentation on reflections from the Finger Lakes Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease (CEAD). Dr. Podgorski provided an overview of what the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease are tasked with, including early detection and diagnosis, as well as disease management and education. She reviewed accomplishments of the Finger Lakes Center of Excellence, as well as barriers that they encounter.

Dr. Podgorski highlighted changes in the last eight years, since the Center was initially funded, including adjustments that were made for telemedicine, increases in availability of disease modifying therapies, as well as additional models of care, and the workforce shortages.

Dr. Podgorski provided information into Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO). She detailed the purpose of the Project Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes as the opportunity for specialists to train primary care physicians (PCP) through a virtual platform, to educate teams of doctors and other interdisciplinary teams through a hub and spoke model. Ms. Young added that similar models are used throughout the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease. Ms. Smalling included detail on the partnership with New York State Office for Mental Health, for providing psychiatric services to Nursing Homes

accepting patients from psychiatric hospitals, as well as others with documented mental illness in those skilled nursing facilities through Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes.

Dr. Podgorski provided an overview of other evidenced-based care models, including the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Model (ADC) introduced by University of California/Los Angeles (UCLA), as well as the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model.

Dr. Podgorski discussed physicians' shift in focus to early diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment, due to increases in treatments available with early diagnosis.

Dr. Podgorski also highlighted what hasn't changed in the last eight years, including care coordination efforts with patient and family centered care. She also reviewed barriers in reaching the primary care community to encourage initial diagnosis in the primary care office, and the need to continue to expand the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease. Dr. Podgorski stated that the annual amount that the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease receive has not changed, with increased demand for services.

Dr. Podgorski advocated for a discussion regarding reimbursement for visits, as well as workforce shortage support. Ms. Smith-Boivin also discussed the efforts of collaborating between Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease and the Regional Caregiver Support Initiatives for Care Consultation support.

Dr. Podgorski, Ms. Mahar, and Ms. Young were able to answer questions posed regarding services provided at the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease.

BOLD Update:

Ms. LaBarge provided an update on the Building our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) initiative, highlighting the goal to provide education on early detection and diagnosis to a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), or Rural Health Clinic (RHC). The team is collaborating with the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease on this educational effort and a meeting will be held with the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease on September 12, 2024, to discuss further plans.

Ms. LaBarge provided detail on the second priority under Building our Largest Dementia Infrastructure initiative, which is providing brain health training at local level. The Alzheimer's Disease Program staff has been working with the Erie County Department of Health, along with the Alzheimer's Association Coalition Chapters to coordinate this effort.

Ms. LaBarge explained that the last priority is to integrate messaging between the Department of Health and the Bureau of Chronic Disease, to continue to spread awareness.

Ms. LaBarge provided detail on other states and cities that were funded under the Building our Largest Dementia Infrastructure initiative, as to how the awardees are communicating with one another.

Master Plan for Aging (MPA) Update:

Mr. Cochran provided a brief update regarding the Master Plan for Aging, including next steps of providing recommendations from the Advisory Council to the Master Plan Council. Mr. Jabonaski added that he has been meeting with the Master Plan team regularly to discuss priorities as well.

Member Announcements and Public Comment:

Mr. Levine announced that CaringKind will be starting a pilot program in the Bronx, bringing blue zones for a four-week pilot project, to maintain health throughout the lifespan and expand healthy life and healthy cognitive life. CaringKind will be working with RAIN on this project.

Ms. Lawless stated that she will be phasing out as the legal counsel for the NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementia. She introduced Jessica Dell'Anno as the new counsel for the Council. Ms. Lawless also provided information on a due date for the next Council report, to assure timely submission. Mr. Jabonaski thanked Ms. Lawless for her time spent on the Council.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58PM.