



DRAFT MINUTES

NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer's Disease
and Other Dementia
Monday, September 8, 2025
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Council Members and Representatives:

Members Present In Person: Michael Jabonaski (NYS Department of Health), John Cochran (NYS Office for the Aging), Elizabeth Smith-Boivin, Dr. David Hart, Maxine Smalling (NYS Office of Mental Health), Suzanne Sullivan (NYS Education Department), Julie Kelleher (NYS Office of Children and Family Services), Dr. Denise Cavanaugh, Dr. Donna de Levante Raphael

Members Present Virtually: Teresa Galbier, Jed Levine, Catherine James, George Shaw (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities), James Taylor, David Okrent, Esq.

Members Absent: Dr. Louis Belzie, Dr. William Higgins, Dr. Carol Podgorski, Dr. David Hoffman

NYSDOH Staff Present: Katie Mahar, Tracy Sinnott, Kimberly LaBarge, Felicia Segelken, Cassandra Tsyn, Susanne Coburn, Rose Gardner, Michael Chittenden, Jordan Gobrecht

Others Present: Charles Williams (NYS Office for the Aging), Dr. Tina Sadarangani, Christopher Smith (NYS Office of Mental Health), Sandra Arnold, Fran Hess, Mary Jacome, Arielle Coq, Heather O'Conner, Bill Gustafson

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

Welcome, Announcements, and Roll Call:

Mr. Jabonaski called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. Mr. Jabonaski requested the Council send their top priorities to be included in a position paper that will be presented to leadership.

Ms. Sinnott conducted roll call and indicated a quorum was not present. Mr. Okrent provided information to the Council regarding proposed updates to the Open Meetings Law, potentially allowing Council members attending virtually to count towards a quorum.

Ms. Smith-Boivin acknowledged Dr. de Levante Raphael's appointment, welcoming her to the Council. Mr. Cochran announced that Dr. David Hoffman has been appointed to the Council as well but was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Cochran reminded the Council that state agencies should appoint an alternate designee, to ensure a quorum is reached if the if the primary state agency designee is unable to attend.

Mr. Cochran shared that the Commissioner of Health recognized June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Mr. Cochran continued to share information on Olmstead working groups, and progress towards development of the State's Olmstead Plan.

Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was not present for the approval of the minutes.

Neurology and Research Update:

Dr. David Hart provided an update from the Alzheimer's Association International Conference. Dr. Hart's presentation included updates on disease modifying therapies, as well as results of the US Pointer Study and the importance of lifestyle interventions.

Reimagining Dementia Support: How CareMobi Empowers Families and Community Providers to Achieve Better Outcomes:

Dr. Tina Sadarangani conducted a presentation about the benefits of Adult Day Services and information regarding CareMobi, a free technology-based application that provides support for Caregivers by allowing communication with the informal caregiver and the staff at Adult Day Services and/or homecare staff. Dr. Sadarangani described that the program also encourages communication between informal caregivers and leads to improved interdisciplinary support. Dr. Sadarangani shared that CareMobi is still in early stages, focusing on helping caregivers navigate a system that is not designed for them, but relies on them.

Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Update:

Ms. LaBarge provided an update on the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) initiative. Ms. LaBarge provided information about the public awareness campaign and presented new materials including the Brain Health Brochure and the Erie County Brain Health newsletter. Ms. LaBarge updated the Council about events where public awareness materials have been displayed throughout New York State. Ms. LaBarge informed the Council about trainings that have been conducted with three local health departments: Oswego County, Washington County, and Erie County. Ms. LaBarge stated a Year 3 BOLD award letter has not been received at this time. In Year 3, the goal is to focus on training in federally qualified health centers, with support from two Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease, Montefiore Health System, and Glens Falls Hospital.

Master Plan on Aging Update:

Mr. Cochran shared that the Master Plan for Aging was released for public viewing. The next steps will be how these recommendations can be developed into policies and begin to address some of the identified barriers.

Member Announcements, Public Comments:

Ms. Smith-Boivin asked about the availability of the blood-based biomarker testing in New York State and if this is covered for individuals. Ms. Mahar will follow up and provide an update to the Council regarding coverage and availability. Ms. Smith-Boivin shared that Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created a Rural Health Transformation Program, and a proposal was

made to the Department of Health by the Alzheimer's Association to expand on education in Rural communities already initiated by the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructures (BOLD) focus on Brain Health.

Dr. de Levante Raphael asked for clarifications about trainings for Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) training focus on Federally Qualified Health Centers. The Council had further discussion about the importance of early detection. Ms. Smalling recommended that the Council focus on support for primary care physicians and other providers in making a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Mr. Taylor shared that Dr. Barak Gaster (University of Washington) created a toolkit to provide Dementia training to primary care physicians. The Toolkit will be disseminated through the American Academy of Family Physicians to family physicians. Mr. Taylor provided information about future possibility of general practitioners to use and provide support for individuals who are facing long wait times for an appointment with a neurologist. Mr. Taylor shared additional updates to the Council about the Alzheimer's Association International Conference. Mr. Taylor also shared connections with American Academy of Neurology (AAN) and the upcoming Brain Health Summit and the importance of collaborations with the Alzheimer's community and extensive wait times for neurology assessments. Mr. Taylor provided a general overview of the legislation for the Bridge Act to address the Social Security Disability Insurance 29-month wait for young onset Alzheimer's individuals.

Mr. Gustafson identified the importance for the Council to review and identify what the dementia training requirements in long-term care should be in New York State, related to the Master Plan for Aging.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.