



DRAFT MINUTES

NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer's Disease
and Other Dementia
Monday, June 8, 2026
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Council Members and Representatives:

Members Present in Person: Michael Jabonaski (Department of Health), John Cochran (New York State Office for the Aging), Teresa Galbier, Elizabeth Smith-Boivin, Dr. David Hart, Catherine James, Maxine Smalling (New York State Office of Mental Health), George Shaw (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities), Thania Fernandez (New York State Education Department), Julie Kelleher (New York State Office of Children and Family Services), James Taylor, Denise Cavanaugh, Dr. Carol Podgorski, David Okrent, Esq., Dr. David Hoffman

Members Present Virtually: Dr. Lous Belzie, Jed Levine, Dr. Donna de Levante Raphael

Members Absent: Dr. William Higgins

NYSDOH Staff Present: Tracy Sinnott, Katie Mahar, Kimberly LaBarge, Cassandra Tsyn, Susanne Coburn, Rose Gardner, Kim Botto, Felicia Segelken, Jessica Dell'Anno (Division of Legal Affairs), Michael Chittenden, Carol Rodat, Fernando Gomez, Laura Agnew (Public Affairs Group), Alisha Ko (Public Affairs Group)

Others Present: Charles Williams (New York State Office for the Aging), Casey Schenk (New York State Education Department) Erica Salamida, Heather O'Connor, Mary Riley-Jacome, Arielle Coq, Wendy Weller, Erica Rodriguez, Suzanne Syzdek, Alban Maino

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

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM. Council co-chair, Mr. Jabonaski shared the following statement: "As members of the New York State Coordinating Council for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia, we are committed to conducting all meetings with mutual respect, professionalism, and civility. Everyone's input is valued, and we ask that all comments and interactions remain courteous and focused on our shared mission. Thank you for helping us maintain a productive and collaborative environment."

Roll Call:

Ms. Sinnott conducted roll call. It was determined that a quorum of Council members was present.

Announcements:

Mr. Cochran welcomed the Council and shared that the New York State budget passed on May 28, 2026. Mr. Cochran reported continued efforts to engage with stakeholders and agencies on

the recommendations within the Master Plan for Aging to build out and frame goals and objectives.

Mr. Jabonaski provided information regarding the Department of Health funding in the budget. Mr. Jabonaski and Mr. Cochran informed the Council that all budget information is available on the Division of Budget website and expressed their appreciation for achieving an in-person quorum.

Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Brain Health Public Awareness Campaign:

Ms. LaBarge provided a brief description of the Public Awareness Campaign and introduced presenters, Ms. Riley-Jacome and Ms. Agnew. Ms. Agnew provided an overview of the placement of the two Brain Health Public Awareness Campaigns, including learned experiences and outcomes from the campaigns. Ms. Riley-Jacome shared information on the data collected from surveys, including reach and impact of the campaign in the targeted communities. Ms. Riley-Jacome provided survey results regarding the knowledge gaps identified and differences in knowledge and behavior across diverse populations.

Mr. Jabonaski asked if there is a correlation between the impact of substance abuse, specifically fentanyl use, and risk factors for dementia. It was noted this correlation was not studied for this particular campaign. Mr. Taylor asked if this information would be published for public review and asked for clarification on the cost associated with the campaigns, as well as if any work is done collaboratively with other states. Ms. LaBarge noted that collaboration is ongoing with other states with Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) funding. Ms. LaBarge informed the Council that a link is available on the Department of Health website. Ms. Mahar advised the Council that staff participates in bi-monthly meetings with other Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) awardees. Ms. Mahar provided a broad overview of funding sources for the campaign. Dr. Hoffman informed the Council that there are several national organizations, such as the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, who identify states ahead in implementing this program and share their successes across the country for those who are building out their programming. Ms. Smith-Boivin shared that Alzheimer's Association partners with the New York State and New York City Departments of Health on both cooperative agreements to provide brain health resources on the Association's website.

Further discussion occurred between Council members about the impact of younger adults becoming a fast-growing group of caregivers, as well as focusing on overall health. Ms. Smalling also discussed the correlation between the numerous risk factors in a population that doesn't have urgency to address their medical situations. Dr. Hoffman shared that nine years ago the Lancet Report identified ways to reduce dementia risk in a reasonable way, and the need to focus on spreading this message to those who have the highest risk. Mr. Cochran asked if we can help facilitate and encourage healthy living by the way the infrastructure is designed and supported. Ms. Smith-Boivin shared three tools that align with the discussion provided by the Alzheimer's Association: Building Healthy Habit Builder, modified presentations on Health Habits, and Brain Health at Work. Ms. Kelleher shared that the consequences of declining brain health to many also correlate to the most vulnerable, therefore raising the risk of a person living with dementia becoming a victim of abuse. Mr. Taylor shared that the American Academy of Family Physicians will be disseminating a toolkit to educate Primary Care Physicians on Early Detection.

Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) New York State:

Ms. LaBarge introduced Ms. Botto, the new full-time Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Project Coordinator, to the Council members. Ms. LaBarge will provide an email update to the Council members regarding New York State and National updates from Dr. Hoffman.

Approval of Minutes: April 28, 2025, September 8, 2025, December 1, 2025, March 9, 2026.

A quorum was present for the approval of the minutes. Ms. Smith-Boivin motioned the approval of the April, September, December, and March meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by multiple Council members. All Council members approved of the meeting minutes.

Neurology and Research Update:

Dr. Hart provided the Council with a neurology and research update. He informed the Council that he will be attending the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London and will have more to report at the September Council meeting.

Memory Lane TV Presentation: Free Therapeutic Streaming for Every New Yorker Living with Dementia and their Care Partners

Mr. Cochran introduced Mr. Maino as the presenter for Memory Lane TV. Mr. Maino presented a slide deck on Memory Lane TV, a therapeutic streaming platform designed specifically for people living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Maino provided details about the program and shared that the goal is to reach all New Yorkers with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Mr. Levine asked the cost to access the platform. Mr. Maino informed the Council that the current cost of the service is \$8.00 per month, per household, or an investment of \$100,000 overall. Mr. Maino clarified that the funding is not currently in place and that the program was in need of further support and endorsement. Ms. Smith-Boivin noted that the request for use of contract funds towards Memory Lane TV was denied.

Member Announcements, Public Comments:

Ms. Smith-Boivin requested that the Alzheimer's Disease Program staff send out requests for agenda items for each Council meeting. She also requested that a discussion on the Council's top priorities be added to the next meeting's agenda. Ms. Mahar also advised Council members that they can email any agenda requests and these requests will be considered for future Council meetings. Ms. Sinnott also shared that the Council's top three priorities will be included in discussions about the 2027 Council report. Ms. Smalling and Ms. Smith-Boivin asked for an agenda item to provide history and details for Alzheimer's Disease Programs funded by New York State. Ms. Mahar proposed extending future meetings by one hour to provide further opportunity for presentations and discussions. Council members were in agreement. Mr. Taylor shared that the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act and Bridging Relief in Delayed Government Enrollment (Bridge) Act will be discussed in Washington DC on Tuesday June 9, 2026. Mr. Levine shared CaringKind will be having a program to discuss the Medical Aid and Dying Act in August.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm