

PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL

EST. 2015

Meeting Minutes

LTCC Meeting Date: October 13, 2022

Start & End Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.

Location/Format: Hybrid in-person and WebEx Meeting w/ Dial-In Option; PA Office of Administration, Health and Human Services Delivery Center, 2525 North 7th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-Hiltop Conference Room 115.

Council Members in Attendance

Sen. Michele Brooks (*Designee*: Joan Bradbury) *
Janice Cameron, PA Council on Aging (PCoA) Representative
Maria Collett, Senator (*Designee*, Tom Holroyd)
Representative Gary Day (*Designee*: Shannon Walker)
Glenda Ebersole, Executive Director LTCC
Sec. of Transp. Yassmin Gramian (*Designee*: Danielle Spila)*
Nancy Hodgson, PhD, RN, Academic Representative
Insurance Commissioner Mike Humphreys (*Designee*: Katie Merritt) *
Diane Menio, Caregiver Representative
David Nace, MD, LTSS Physician Representative
Teresa Osborne, Consumer Advocacy Representative
Rep. Steve Samuelson (*Designee*: Charles (Chuck) Miller)*
Missy Shupe (Wyatt), LTSS Consumer Representative
Adrian Peter Sipes, PA Bar Association, Elder Law Section Representative
Acting Sec. of Human Services, Meg Snead (*Designee*: Jennifer Hale)*
Megan Stedjan, Nonprofit Skilled Nursing Facility Representative
Robert Torres, Council Chair, Secretary of Aging
Lon Wible, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Representative
Heshie Zinman, Consumer Advocacy Representative
Mark Baylis, State Veterans Commission Designee
Eric Beittel, Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance Representative
Margie Zelenak, Assisted Living/Personal Care Home Representative

*Attended on member's behalf

Council Members Not in Attendance

Nicole Anders, Adult Day Center Representative
Shona Eakin, LTSS Consumer Representative
Mark Gusek, LTC Managed Care Representative
George Hartwick III, County Commissioners Assoc. of PA Representative
Lydia Hernandez-Velez, Consumer Advocacy Representative
Samella Hudson-Brewton, Senior Community Center Representative
Acting Secretary of Health Dr. Denise Johnson (*Designee*: Megan Barbour, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Health)*
Robert Marino, Caregiver Representative
Vini Portzline, Center for Independent Living of Central PA, LTSS Consumer
MG Mark Schindler, The Adjutant General (*Designee*: Travis Davis)
Mike Sokoloski, Homecare Representative
Kimberly VanHaitsma, PhD - Academic Research Representative
Robin Wiessmann, PA Housing Finance Agency Executive Director/CEO (*Designee*: Danielle Rudy)*
Matt Yarnell, Consumer Advocacy Representative

PDA Staff in Attendance

Kevin Atkinson, Management Analyst
Stephanie Cole, Special Assistant to the Secretary
Jack Eilber, Deputy Communications Director
Karen Gray, Communications Director
Emily Holladay, Deputy Director
Steven Horner, Deputy Secretary
Daniel Myers, Legislative Director
Sasha Santana, Executive Secretary

Committee Members & Guests in Attendance*

Carl Berry
Austin Cawley
Katie Dotto
Kathy Gillespie
Mike Grier
Natalie Krak
Barry Lowan
Caolinn Martin
Rebecca May-Cole
Drew Svitko
Margot Troutman
Linda Walker
Louis Wolkenstein

**Only the attendance of members and guests who logged into the meeting via the WebEx platform can be captured unless the individual indicated otherwise.

Discussion Items and Summary

Welcome & Approval of Meeting Minutes

Secretary Torres opened the meeting with a welcome to members and attendees and made the following announcements:

- Secretary expressed his appreciation and thanked council members who have served on the LTCC and whose terms have expired as well as those who will continue to serve.
*LTCC members ending their service on the Council are as follows, George Hartwick, Lydia Hernandez-Velez, Bob Marino, Diane Menio, Vini Portzline, Shane Nugent, Lon Wible.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Margie Zelenak and seconded by Heshie Zinman to approve the August 11, 2022, Council minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Governor's Office Update

PA Temporary Nurse Aide Program - Deputy Secretary of Policy, Natalie Krak

Updates:

- DOH submitted a letter to CMS for a new deadline extension on October 6, 2022, for all CNA's to be tested and added to the CNA registry.
 - Received a statewide waiver approval for PA Nursing homes until April 5, 2023, or the end of the public health emergency, whichever takes place first.
- DOH communicated this information using skill nursing messaging board last week.
- Finalizing a joint letter to be sent to nursing facilities on ways to support.
- Establishing deadlines for TNA's.
- Working with Credentia (the contractor for TNA testing), associations and partners to advertise opportunities to become an RN proctor in PA.
 - Received an overwhelming response to date.
- Encouraging TNAs to check CNA 365 for new test dates.
- Thanked council and several stakeholders, SEIU, Leading Age, PHCA, for their work and support on the joint advocacy letter sent to federal level.

Commonwealth Updates

PA Lottery Update

Pennsylvania Lottery – Drew Svitko, Executive Director:

- Sales and profit are softening.
- Currently the most saturated gaming market in the US.
- Skill machines (unregulated slot machines) hurt scratch-off sales to about \$150 million annually. Totaling \$650 Million since tracking in 2017.
- In the process of modernizing lottery over the next few years, reinvesting and upgrading equipment. Some of the machines are 20+ years old.
 - **HB 2538** – Amends the State Lottery Law to extend the expiration of the 20% profit margin requirement by five years until June 30, 2029. If not extended, could result in \$760 million loss of profits that fund senior programs through FY 2027-2028.

Q: How much lottery money goes to older veterans via allocation to the Veteran’s homes?

A: Lottery is only responsible for generating money and putting in the lottery fund. That is between the legislature and Governor’s office. Specifics are unknown.

Comment: During this administration, PDA has had a strong collaboration between DMVA with the Vet Connect project, also making sure the AAAs are well informed of veterans benefits.

Comment: AARP prepared a letter of support of HB 2538.

PA Department of Aging (PDA) - Secretary Torres reported on the following updates:

- **Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Press Conference** – PDA collectively held a press conference with State Police, DMVA, Banking & Securities and the Office of Attorney General to share the creation of a FAST team to act as an internal shared resource for the AAAs to refer financial exploitation cases.
- **Financial Exploitation Specialists** – Approved hiring of two investigators and an elder justice attorney to build the financial abuse specialist team to serve as a shared resource, for AAA network, to assist with investigating exploitation of older adults.
 - Secretary Torres educated the council, stating that the team of specialists is an internal resource for AAA’s, not a public facing group. Concerns should be filed through other appropriate processes as directed.

- **Financial Exploitation (FE) Taskforce** – Held the last meeting of the task force in this Administration. During the meeting members want to continue meeting and working to implement recommendations in the new administration.
 - Law Enforcement Training to take place on October 25, 2022, at the PA Farm Show Complex as a joint effort conducted by PDA, Office of Attorney General, DHS and Temple University providing resources and tools to law enforcement to investigate financial exploitation cases.
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** – Secretary Torres sent a letter to the PA General Assembly encourage them in assisting constituents by directing them to the PA MEDI program during open enrollment. Open enrollment began on October 15 and ends on December 7.
- **Medicare Advantage Plans** – In September, PID and PDA received a request from Chairman Ron Wyden, US Senate Finance Committee asking for examples of Medicare Advantage marketing misrepresentation consumer complaints. PID and PDA shared information back to the Committee.
- **Advisory Council on Elder Justice in the Supreme Courts** - Administration for Community Living (ACL) awarded the PA Supreme Court a 3-year grant to evaluate and improve the PA Guardianship system.
- **Older Adults Benefits & Rights (B&R) Booklets** – Benefits and Rights booklets are now available in Spanish and have been distributed to local AAA, stakeholders and are available by request.
- **LGBTQ Aging Summit & Institute on HIV & Aging** – Was held virtually on October 6 and 7, 2022. This event was the 2nd LGBTQ summit and reached 27 states and several international locations. There were over 600 registrants vs. 300 participants in 2018.
- **Intergenerational University Connections Program** – The program is currently engaged with 12 Universities and continues to expand. The dual partnership with older adults and students is proving to be very beneficial for older adults in providing purpose to older adults which is part of PDA’s Mission and Vision.

PA Department of Aging – Stephanie Cole, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Aging

Overview provided of the FY 2020-2024 State Plan on Aging that is linked [here](#).

- The State Plan on Aging is a plan required by ***Older Americans Act*** and contains key elements listed below:
 - Mission, Vision & Core Values.
 - A review of structure, AAA’s, councils, and programs.
 - PA demographics in aging and emerging trends.
 - Objectives and strategies with measurable outcomes guiding work of PDA for the next four years.

- PDA has 5 goals which are explained in detail within the slides.

Comment: Request to share letter sent to CMS in an effort to share with congressional leaders on behalf of AARP.

Secretary: Will share the public letter, as requested.

PA Department of Human Services (DHS) – Jennifer Hale, Director of the Bureau of Policy and Regulatory Management for DHS’ Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), provided departmental updates as follows:

Act 54 Funding Updates:

- **Home & Community based Living awards amounts:**
 - \$250 million to the Long-term Living Program
 - \$74.9 million to Personal Assistant Service Providers
 - \$6.9 million to Adult Day Service Providers
 - \$535,000 to Residential Rehab Providers
 - \$5.5 million to the LIFE Program
- **Home & Community based providers:**
 - Payments apply to all provider types including Act 54
 - Information is provided on DHS website
 - Letters were sent via mail to providers who will receive funding
 - Listserv announced to personal care homes, assisted living residences and nursing facilities not enrolled in MA to allow them to receive funding
 - Medicare providers will receive payments via gross adjustments.
 - Files being prepared with anticipated pay dates for Act 54 in late October or early November 2022.
- **OBRA/CHC Waiver:**
 - On August 15, CMS approved an OBRA waiver amendment to increase personal assistant service rate by 8% as part of ARPA spending plan.
 - Appendix K amendments have been in effect since January 2022.
 - Amendments to waivers with proposed changes will be sent out to public for commenting by the end of October or early November 2022.
 - Detailed presentations were presented at management long-term services and Support Sub Committee meetings.
 - Information is posted on the DHS website
- **ARPA:**
 - Home based and community service quality plan – improves service available to participants receiving H&CB services.
 - H&CB services eligible for up to \$40,000 by applying starting July 1.
 - 633 applications submitted and 536 approved for payment.
 - First round of applications sent in September 2022
 - Second round will be sent in October 2022

- OLTL announced availability of reporting portal for Act 24 of 2021 payments, strengthening workforce payments and adult day service payments.
 - Released to providers via a Listserv on September 29.
 - Portal guide provided for providers with any questions
 - Additional presentation provided on portal
 - Demonstration completed at LTS&S subcommittee
 - First reports due November 30, 2022

Q: When will the amounts be posted from personal care and assisted living?

A: Will be posted this or next week.

Open Session

Secretary Torres: The next LTCC meeting will take place on *Thursday, December 08, 2022*.

Dr. Nace provided an update on the Hillman Foundation Healthy Aging Challenge award. There were four recipients who received \$500,000 each. The projects focus on integrating specialized training and dementia caregiver support. To learn more about the awards visit the webpage [here](#) for additional details or contact Dr. Nace for details.

2022 Meeting Dates:

The next LTCC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am

