

**PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL

EST. 2015

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council
Date:	Thursday, December 10th, 2020
Start & End Time:	10:00 a.m. to 11:41 a.m.
Location/Format:	WebEx Meeting w/ Dial-In Option

Council Members in Attendance

Janice Cameron - <i>PA Council on Aging</i>	Anne Henry - <i>Nonprofit SNFs</i>	Kenneth Potter, Esq. - <i>PA Bar Association, Elder Law Section</i>
Brig. Gen. Anthony Carrelli (Designee: Andrew Ruscavage) *	Nancy Hodgson, PhD - <i>Academic Research</i>	Nicole Pruitt - <i>Adult Day Centers</i>
Sen. Maria Collett (Designee: Tom Holroyd also attended)	Sec. of Health Dr. Rachel Levine (Designee: Lori Gutierrez) *	Mike Sokoloski - <i>Homecare</i>
Rep. Gary Day (Designee: Shannon Walker also attended)	Joyce McClary - <i>LTSS Nurse</i>	Sec. of Aging Robert Torres <i>Council Chair</i>
Rep. Pam DeLissio (Designee: Charles Miller also attended)	Sec. of Human Svcs. Teresa Miller (Designee: Jennifer Hale) *	Margie Zelenak - <i>Assisted Living Residences & Personal Care Homes</i>
Shona Eakin - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>	David Nace, MD - <i>LTSS Physician</i>	Major General Eric Weller
Kimberly VanHaitsma, PhD - <i>Academic Research</i>	Teresa Osborne - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Diane Menio – <i>Caregiver</i> (Designee: David Johnson) *
George Hartwick III - <i>County Commissioners Assoc. of PA</i>	Robert Marino - <i>Caregiver</i>	Heshie Zinman - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>
Jessica Altman, Insurance Commissioner (Designee: Emily Holladay) *	Sec. of Transp. Yassmin Gramian (Designee: Danielle Spila) *	

*Attended on member's behalf

Council Members Not in Attendance

Lydia Hernandez-Velez - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Mark Gusek - <i>LTC Managed Care</i>
Vince Portzline - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>	Sen. Michele Brooks (Designee: Ryan Dellinger)*
Samella Hudson-Brewton - <i>Senior Community Centers</i>	PA Housing Finance Agency Executive Director/CEO Robin Wiessmann (Designee: Gelene Nason)*
Lon Wible - <i>Area Agencies on Aging</i>	Matt Yarnell - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>
Shane Nugent - <i>For-Profit SNFs</i>	Eric Beittell - <i>LTC Insurance</i>

PDA Staff in Attendance

Maria Dispenziere, Deputy Legislative Director	Carolyn Green, Legislative Director
Stephanie Cole, Director of Special Projects	Faith Haeussler, PA Council on Aging Exec. Director
Karen Gray, Communications Director	Margaret Barajas, Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Jack Eilber, Deputy Communications Director	Thomas Snedden, Director of PACE
Glenda Ebersole, Policy Director	Kevin Longenecker, Chief of Older Americans Act Division
Angelia Bixler, Digital Director	

Committee Members & Guests in Attendance*

Art DiLoreto, P4A WC	Christine Flipovich, PA House
Missy Shupe, Long-term care nurse WC	Joan Bradbury, PA Senate
Maria Hastie OC	Erin O'Dea, PA House
Linda Walker AC	Jennifer Ebersole, Alzheimer's Association
Laura Ness WC	Matt Seeley, PA Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC)
Dave Golin, DHS	Jeff Iseman, PA Statewide Independent Living Council (PA SILC)
Carl Feldman, DHS	Rick Hamp, DMVA
Pam Auer, Center for Independent Living	Amy Mountain
Kaori Kelly, At-Home Quality Care	Chuck Miller, PA Senate
<p>OC = Outreach Committee; AC = Access Committee; QC = Quality Committee; WC = Workforce Committee</p> <p>*Only the attendance of guests who logged into the meeting via the WebEx platform was able to be captured unless the individual indicated otherwise.</p>	

Meeting Minutes

#	Discussion Items	Summary
1	Welcome	<p>Secretary Torres announced the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Nace has been reappointed to the LTCC. • The LTCC currently has a vacancy that is in the process of being filled.
2	Approval of October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes	A motion to approve was made by Margie Zelenick and seconded by Kimberly VanHaitsma. The minutes of October 8, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.
3	SOLO: Strengthening Older Lives Online	Janice Cameron, Chair of the Social Isolation Task Force, PA Council on Aging presented a new online resource guide for older adults. The guide was developed by the Risk Committee of the Social Isolation Task Force as a tool to help older adults thrive through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The focus is holistic, with tips for mental, spiritual, and physical health. The Kaiser Family Foundation surveyed older adults and found that 48% in poor or fair health stated that they feel anxiety or depression due to the pandemic. Social isolation can lead to a 50% increased risk of dementia, 68% increased risk of hospitalizations, and a 32% increased risk of stroke. The SOLO guide is being presented in peer-led, small group settings in order for older adults to increase mental, spiritual, and physical health and reduce instances of social isolation. The guide can be found in English here and in Spanish here .
4	Commonwealth Updates	<p>PA Department of Aging (PDA) - Secretary Torres reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual ADRD Forum was held on November 5. Roy Hamilton, MD. MS., touched on important topics such as the

impact of racial disparities and inequities in early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of dementia.

- Findings of recently released Financial Exploitation Study of older adults were discussed. An interagency workgroup was able to meet twice, gather information and develop some recommendations. PDA extended invitations to private sector members to convene a broader task force to develop further recommendations and solutions to address this problem. The first meeting of the ADRD Task Force will be next Wednesday, December 16, 2020.
- PDA discussed pilot partnership with Slippery Rock University. Feedback from students studying recreational therapy and working with assigned older adults has been very positive and the University will offer these service-learning opportunities in the spring semester.

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 24 Cost Reporting allocated funding from the federal CARES act to assist providers with COVID-19 related costs; OLTL issued cost reporting guidance to those OLTL providers who would receive this funding. Several webinars were held for nursing facility and non-nursing facility providers. A recording of each webinar along with the slides can be found on the DHS LTC Providers webpage. Providers received an announcement from OLTL announcing the launch of the DHS CARES Act funding tracking tool for the purposes of Act 24 cost reporting final report. Providers were asked to reference the US Department of Treasury FAQs for additional support.
- OLTL is evaluating any needs for revisions to Appendix K (Reference 1915 C Waiver Appendix K). An application was submitted to extend the Appendix K provisions until March 5, 2021, which also included revisions to support alternative settings for HCBS when necessary and for adult day services to be provided remotely. Draft guidance has been circulated on how adult day can be billed for remote services. Final guidance on this will be released in the coming weeks.
- Adult daily living and LIFE centers are following guidance and monitoring reports of positivity rates per “Guidance on Temporary Closures”; centers continuing to operate in counties with substantial community spread provide, in writing, mitigation efforts.
- RRHCP – As of December 1, this program continues to complete many assignments and they also have about 585 assignments in process. The top three assignments include facility assessments, testing, and facility consultations. DHS continues to participate in media briefings, coordinating with other offices on the continuation of RRHCP to provide added support and technical assistance.

PA Department of Health (DOH) – Deputy Secretary Cindy Findley

Provided an update on the vaccination rollout across the state. She indicated that Philadelphia has its own vaccination program. The “PA Plan” includes the other 66 counties across the Commonwealth. The vaccination is free and the administration cost must be waived. Both doses have to be the same product; currently Moderna and Pfizer. Pfizer requires ultra-cool storage. It comes in very large quantities- 975 is the minimum. Providers need to be able to vaccinate a large group of people in a short period of time. Moderna needs to be frozen. Minimum dose order is 100. No mixing is required. The Department has been told that the first batches of vaccinations will be minimal.

CVS and Walgreens have partnered with the CDC to vaccinate skilled nursing facilities, then Personal Care Homes. All vaccinations need to be recorded into their system within 24 hours.

Questions:

Q: CDC’s advisory committee on immunization practices prioritized healthcare workers for Phase 1A access; this includes providers of healthcare services in the home. To help avoid confusion, would it be possible to clarify if home care and home health workers are included in Phase 1A?

A: The best resource for questions would be our vaccine plan. We did put it up on our website and we received great feedback on the plan. The plan is very fluid. As we learn new information we adjust the plan accordingly. We consider the plan as an interim plan and welcome feedback. We’re going to post a document that people can reference and identify where they might be within the phases. We do not want to provide any barriers for people who want to receive the vaccine and will not mandate that the vaccine be taken, but we want to get the vaccine to anyone who wants to receive it.

Q: What is the plan if LTC, including personal care, did not opt for the CVS/Walgreens program?


A: If they did not opt in for the CVS/Walgreens program, then we will work with that facility to figure out how we can get vaccinations into the facility. We are working with our pharmacy partners in the communities to help coordinate the logistics on how we can reach all populations.


Q: What phase will at-risk non-residential older adults be included in?

A: Right now, +65 are Phase 1. Phase 1 has A and B and they would be in B.

Q: Personal care is in 1A but assisted living is in 1B, can you clarify?

A: 1A is skilled nursing facilities, 1B is all other facilities; but we were editing the plan this week.

		<p>Q: Will those administering the vaccine in LTC facilities from CVS/Walgreens come with the materials to address allergic reactions?</p> <p>A: Yes, they are going to be trained, as professional administrators, to be able to handle adverse reactions.</p> <p>Q: If PA is scheduled to receive the vaccines next week, does this include CVS/Walgreens receiving the vaccine?</p> <p>A: We indicate to the CDC how many doses we want, what site it should go to, and then that is how it is transferred. With CVS/Walgreens, we will let them know how many residents and staff are in skilled nursing facilities so they can start vaccinating those facilities.</p> <p>Q: Can nursing homes require that all residents receive the vaccine as a condition to be admitted to a home or remain a resident?</p> <p>A: That is not DOH's decision to make; if they decide that they are going to request anyone to receive the vaccine, that would be their decision to make.</p> <p><u>PA Insurance Department</u> – Emily Holladay, Deputy Legislative Director</p> <p>Announced open enrollment for PENNIE, PA's state-based insurance exchange. This enrollment period closes on January 15, 2021. There is vaccination coverage FAQ being developed. The FAQ will include what to do if you feel as though you are covered but are being told that you are not.</p> <p>Q: My understanding is the federal government is covering the cost of the vaccine, why do we need a state FAQ?</p> <p>A: They will be covering the cost, but we wanted to offer a resource for individuals for questions. There are many different types of insurance coverages and a few nuances where coverage might not be provided. We wanted to offer a resource with concise information.</p> <p><u>PA Department of Transportation (PennDot)</u> - Danielle Spila, Director of the Bureau of Public Transportation, stated that transit agencies are continuing to offer services. There has been a 50% reduction in ridership. PennDot is in the process of developing an online application for the shared-ride program. This should be available by the late spring.</p>
5	Vet Connect	<p><u>PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA)</u>- Rick Hamp, SGM (Ret), Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs presented on Vet Connect. Presentation found here:</p> <p></p> <p>PA VETCONNECT briefing to LTCC, 10</p>

6	Pa Department of Aging - Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman Presentation	<p>Margaret Barajas, Director of Ombudsman, PA Department of Aging shared the following presentation:</p>  <p>LTC Council SLTCO 12_10_2020.pptx</p>
7	Open Session	There were no public comments during this session of the meeting.
8	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

New Action Items

#	Action Item	Actionee(s)	Deadline	Status
1	Link to the vaccination plan was requested. It is embedded here and will be distributed separately.		2/18/21	Complete

Old Action Items

#	Action Item	Actionee(s)	Deadline	Status
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