

**PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL

EST. 2015

Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council
Date:	Thursday, February 18, 2021
Start & End Time:	9:58 a.m. to 11:29 a.m.
Location/Format:	WebEx Meeting w/ Dial-In Option

Council Members in Attendance

Insurance Cmmr. Jessica Altman (Designee: Emily Holladay) *	Anne Henry - <i>Nonprofit SNFs</i>	Kenneth Potter, Esq. - <i>PA Bar Association, Elder Law Section</i>
Eric Beittell - <i>LTC Insurance</i>	Lydia Hernandez-Velez - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Kimberly VanHaitsma, PhD - <i>Academic Research</i>
Teresa Osborne - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Nancy Hodgson, PhD - <i>Academic Research</i>	Mike Sokoloski - <i>Homecare</i>
Janice Cameron - <i>PA Council on Aging</i>	Samella Hudson-Brewton - <i>Senior Community Centers</i>	Sec. of Aging Robert Torres <i>Council Chair</i>
Sec. of Transp. Yassmin Gramian (Designee: Danielle Spila)	George Hartwick III - <i>County Commissioners Assoc. of PA</i>	Lon Wible - <i>Area Agencies on Aging</i>
Sen. Maria Collett (Designee: Tom Holroyd) *	Robert Marino - <i>Caregiver</i>	PA Housing Finance Agency Executive Director/CEO Robin Wiessmann (Designee: Gelene Nason) *
Rep. Gary Day (Designee: Shannon Walker) *	Joyce McClary - <i>LTSS Nurse</i>	Margie Zelenak - <i>Assisted Living Residences & Personal Care Homes</i>
Rep. Steve Samuelson (Designee Charles Miller) *	Sec. of Human Svcs. Teresa Miller (Designee: Jennifer Hale) *	Heshie Zinman - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>
Shona Eakin - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>	David Nace, MD - <i>LTSS Physician</i>	Joan Bradbury
Mark Gusek - <i>LTC Managed Care</i>	Vini Portzline - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>	

*Attended on member's behalf

Council Members Not in Attendance

Lori Gutierrez	Shane Nugent - <i>For-Profit SNFs</i>
Diane Menio - <i>Caregiver</i>	Shannon Walker
Nicole Pruitt - <i>Adult Day Centers</i>	Brig. Gen. Anthony Carrelli (Designee: Andrew Ruscavage) *
Sen. Michele Brooks (Designee: Ryan Dellinger) *	Matt Yarnell - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>
Sec. of Health Dr. Rachel Levine (Designee: Lori Gutierrez) *	

PDA Staff in Attendance

Faith Haeussler, PA Council on Aging Exec. Director	Karen Gray, Communication Director
Maria Dispenziere, Deputy Legislative Director	Jack Eilber, Deputy Communications Director
Glenda Ebersole, Policy Director	Sasha Santana, Executive Secretary

Committee Members & Guests in Attendance*

Carl Berry, PA Providers Coalition Association WC	Matthew Seeley, PA SILC
Angelia Bixler	Andrew Sharp, Governor’s Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Art DiLoreto, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A) WC	Kimberly Shetler, PA Department of Aging
Katie Dotto, PA Homecare Association (PHA)	Missy Shupe, Long-term care nurse WC
Jennifer Ebersole, Alzheimer’s Association	Pete Tartline, PA Health Care Association (PHCA) WC
Kristin Faust, PA Department of Health (DOH)	Janel Gleeson
Dr. Darryl Jackson	Linda Walker, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit AC
Kristen Wierman	Lou Wolkenstein, The Investment Advisor QC
Kathy Gillespie, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging QC	Carolyn Mendez-Luck
Maria Maletta Hastie, LIFE Geisinger OC	Terri Henning, PHA
Samantha Koehler	Richard Adams
Erin O’Dea	

OC = Outreach Committee; AC = Access Committee; QC = Quality Committee; WC = Workforce Committee

*Only the attendance of guests who logged into the meeting via the WebEx platform was able to be captured unless the individual indicated otherwise.

Meeting Minutes

#	Discussion Items	Summary
1	Welcome	Secretary Torres opened the meeting with a welcome to members and attendees.
2	Approval of December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes	A motion to approve the minutes was made by Teresa Osborne and seconded by Heshie Zinman. The minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.
3	Commonwealth Updates	<p><u>PA Department of Aging (PDA)</u> - Secretary Torres reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging MCOs/OLTL – Meetings to address procedural and workflow issues were conducted by Steven Horne and discussions over the past three months have been very productive. • Financial Exploitation Task Force – Task force continues its work to develop solutions that are more proactive in identifying, addressing, and preventing instances of abuse. PDA working with public and private sector representatives. Several inter-agency MOUs have been entered into to facilitate information sharing.

- **Pilot Program with Slippery Rock University** – Program is expanding into the spring semester. More students, older adults and AAAs have engaged for the spring semester.
- **Protective Services** – Consultant, RTI, has been engaged in order to review data capture, look at workflow, provide recommendations to improve data collection, make systems more efficient and enhance outcome data to help make appropriate referrals, measure effectiveness of service, etc. Next steps include evaluating actions to implement recommendations.
- **Dementia Friends** – Work completed with Jewish Healthcare Foundation to make Pennsylvania dementia friendly. Almost 5,600 individuals have been trained to become a Dementia Friend and 224 have been trained as Dementia Champions to help train others.

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:

- Provided information to the Council on the community vaccination strategy for phase 1A. Guidance was also added for Adult Protective Services staff. Meetings were held to discuss Rite Aid/MCOs collaboration to coordinate vaccines administration.

PA Department of Health (DOH) – Kristen Faust, Deputy Director, Office of the Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Health

- Provided updates on Covid-19 vaccinations and data across PA. There is more predictability coming from a Federal Level.
- Orders were issued for providers that mandated 80% of doses be distributed within 7 days of receipt. Additional requirement added that vaccine providers must have phone option for scheduling vaccine appointments.

Q: Bob Marino: Vaccine Dashboard: Why is there a difference between figures on vaccine map and those on the table by county? I’m looking at 877k versus 1.3 million administered.

A: The numbers don’t entirely match because that 1.3 number is partial vaccinations administered; 436k is whole (both doses)

Q: Rep. Gary Day: On the Your Turn Tool, once a senior signs up to register, what are the guarantees? Is there redundancy built into that to make sure that everyone is accounted for?

A: The Your Turn tool is one to use to find out if they are eligible. It is not a registration tool that would sign them up for an appointment or necessarily match them with an appointment. We have some additional thoughts we are having around that. It’s most helpful for those in 1B to find out when it’s their turn. We share the concern and want to make sure those in 1A are getting vaccinated as quickly as possible.

		<p>Q: Representative Samuelson – Clarification – Are home and community-based caregivers a part of the 1A vaccination effort? A: Yes, caregivers, paid and unpaid, are a part of the 1A group.</p> <p><u>PA Insurance Department</u> – Emily Holladay, Deputy Legislative Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 27th - Trump signed the “No Surprises Act”, which states that providers and facilities need to give patients the cost information prior to the service. It goes into effect in 2022. PENNIE open enrollment period is from February 15- May 15, 2021. <p><u>PA Department of Transportation (PennDot)</u> - Danielle Spila, Director of the Bureau of Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transportation – Ridership is down. Federal funding from the Cares Act is helping to maintain services Shared ride – offer free transportation for vaccine appointments for seniors funded through existing programs at the AAAs <p>Q: Teresa Osbourne: Many AARP Members are asking about the upcoming toll increases. When is that list going to be available? A: The list was just posted today.</p>
5	Vet Connect	<p><u>PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA)</u>- Richard Adams, Acting Director, State Veterans Homes and Commandant of SW Veterans Center, PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. presented the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Veteran home follows safety guidelines to provide safe environment for employees and staff veterans. Three clinics are scheduled for residents and staff in homes. Data was provided of estimated vaccination results in each facility.
6	Senator Casey’s Office Update	<p><u>Samantha Koehler</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congressional activity focused on pandemic response. Senate Select Committee on Aging – 1st congressional hearing on social isolation and racial disparities. Congress also working on reconciliation bill. Contact information was provided to the Council for future connections. Senator Casey’s focus is on fraud and scams. They are working on their annual book that outlines the year’s scams and fraud. There is a reconciliation package being worked on. It includes provisions for senior services and facility support. <p>Q: Secretary Torres: Senator Casey recently held a hearing on technology, is this something that will have continued interest? A: Yes, we have been working with the AAAs and hearing the different issues. The Access Act was just introduced and would bring technology into nursing homes and other facilities.</p>

		<p>Q: Secretary Torres: Can you talk more about how the reconciliation package might support AAAs in the vaccination efforts?</p> <p>A: I am not yet sure if extra funding for this will be included in the package. There is currently \$1.4 billion for OAA services.</p> <p>Q: Margie Zelenak: Will there be funding going directly toward personal care and assisted living facilities, or is the funding going through the state?</p> <p>A: There is not specific funding for this currently, but it may be added in the Senate.</p>
7	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

New Action Items

#	Action Item	Actionee(s)	Deadline	Status
	Secretary Torres asked for areas of interest from LTCC Members so that meetings are in line with the priorities of the members	LTCC Members	4/8/2021	Unknown

Old Action Items

#	Action Item	Actionee(s)	Deadline	Status
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