

PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL

EST. 2015

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council (LTCC)

Date: April 14, 2022

Start & End Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:03 a.m.

Location/Format: Hybrid PDA and WebEx Meeting w/ Dial-In Option

Council Members in Attendance

Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman (Designee: Katie Merritt) *

Eric Beittel, Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance Representative

Sen. Michele Brooks (Designee: Joan Bradbury) *

Janice Cameron, PA Council on Aging (PCOA) Representative

Glenda Ebersole, Executive Director LTCC

Sec. of Transp. Yassmin Gramian (Designee: Danielle Spila)*

Acting Secretary of Health Keara Klinepeter (Designee: *Susan Coble, Director of Bureau of Community Program Licensure and Certification)

Robert Marino, Caregiver Representative

Diane Menio, Caregiver Representative

David Nace, MD, LTSS Physician Representative

Rep. Steve Samuelson (Designee: Charles (Chuck) Miller)*

Missy Shupe (Wyatt), LTSS Consumer Representative

Acting Sec. of Human Services, Meg Snead (Designee: Jennifer Hale) *

Mike Sokoloski, Homecare Representative

Megan Stedjan, Nonprofit Skilled Nursing Facility Representative

Adrian Peter Sipes, PA Bar Association, Elder Law Section Representative

Sec. of Aging Robert Torres, Council Chair

Kimberly VanHaitsma, PhD - Academic Research Representative

Lon Wible, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Representative Matt Yarnell, Consumer Advocacy Representative

Margie Zelenak, Assisted Living/Personal Care Home Representative

*Attended on member's behalf

Council Members Not in Attendance

Maria Collett, Senator (Designee, Tom Holroyd)

Representative Gary Day (Designee: Shannon Walker)

Shona Eakin, LTSS Consumer Representative

Shane Nugent, For-Profit Skilled Nursing Facility Representative

Mark Gusek, LTC Managed Care Representative

Lydia Hernandez-Velez, Consumer Advocacy Representative

George Hartwick III, County Commissioners Assoc. of PA Representative

Teresa Osborne, Consumer Advocacy Representative

Robin Wiessmann, PA Housing Finance Agency Executive Director/CEO
(Designee: Gelene Nason)

Vini Portzline, LTSS Consumer Representative

Nicole Pruitt, Adult Day Center Representative

Heshie Zinman, Consumer Advocacy Representative

MG Mark Schindler, The Adjutant General (Designee: Travis Davis)

Nancy Hodgson, PhD, RN, Academic Representative

Samella Hudson-Brewton, Senior Community Center Representative

PDA Staff in Attendance

Maria Dispenziere, Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary

Jack Eilber, Deputy Communications Director

Karen Gray, Communications Director

Carolyn Green, Legislative Director

Steven Horner, Deputy Secretary

Emily Holladay, Deputy Legislative/Policy Director

Sasha Santana, Executive Secretary

Committee Members & Guests in Attendance*

Carl Berry

Caroline Beohm

Katie Dotto

Mike Grier

Lori Gutierrez

Faith Haeussler

Rebecca May-Cole

Melissa Myers

Danielle Rudy

Matt Seeley

Margot Troutman

Lou 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

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

- Welcomed Adrienne Peter Sipes and Megan Stedjan as they recently joined the Council.
- Secretary shared his gratitude to Margie Zelenak for advocating on behalf the LTCC by presenting the Blueprint Report at the Long-Term Workforce hearing held by the House Aging and Older Adults Committee. PDA provided copies of the Blueprint to Chairman Day, Minority Chair Samuelson and Representative Shusterman. Limited print copies are available however electronic copies are also available by visiting the PDA website [here](#).
- LTCC Council member listing is now available via the PDA website.
- The Council members will be receiving a survey following this meeting to assist us in how to best facilitate future meetings.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the February 10, 2022, minutes was made by Lon Wible and seconded by David Nace, MD. The minutes of the February 10th Council meeting were unanimously approved.

Commonwealth Updates

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

- **Property Tax Rent Rebate (PTRR)** – Discussed Governor’s proposal to increase property tax rent rebate amounts this year with a one-time rebate bonus that would double the amount. Welcomes Council’s support to pass this bill.
- **Advisory Council on Elder Justice of the Supreme Court** – Administration for Community Living has issued competitive grant opportunity to improve guardianship systems. Consideration is being given to submitting a proposal for Pennsylvania which would be well positioned because of all the work done over past several years on development of guardianship tracking system.

PA Department of Health - Lori Gutierrez, Policy Director and Melissa Myers, Executive Policy Specialist

Provided an overview of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders [website](#) implemented in accordance with Act 9.

- Act 9 became effective on April 10, 2022.
- Joint press release issued by DOH and Aging on April 14, 2022.
- Multiple agencies and stakeholders assisted with providing information for the website.
- Available in different languages.
- Information included is from accredited sources.

Q: Is there a formal feedback process?

A: Yes, email Melissa Myers, melismyers@pa.gov or Lori Gutierrez, logutierre@pa.gov

Comment: Secretary congratulated the program area on progress made on development of this website.

Comment: Alzheimer’s Association link available for DOH to link to additional resources and community support.

Q: Will this information be provided on the PDA Aging Newsletter?

A: Yes, this information will be included.

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:

Updates and Primary Focus of OLTL – Effort to increase the coordination of behavioral health services for CHC participants. Stakeholders expressed interest on what the department is doing to provide access.

- The first webinar was held on April 12th
 - Approx. 90 attendees participated.
 - Webinars geared towards nursing staff education on how to access behavioral health services.
 - Joint effort between OLTL, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the behavioral health managed care organizations and CHC.
 - The webinars were hosted by PA Healthcare Association.
- Additional collaborators include DOH and LeadingAge PA.
- Presentations were provided by OLTL, CHC, and behavioral health MCOs and providers.
- Additional webinars: Tuesday, April 26 and May 3, 2022, from 2:00pm-3:30pm. An announcement will go out and be posted on the website.

ARPA Updates:

- Reviewed funding opportunities specific to home and community-based quality improvement initiatives to help improve these services.
- Information will be announced next week.
- Funding will address housing, health, employment, food insecurities, technology, and training.

Follow up information from the February meeting:

- Question concerning vaccination rates. Vaccination rates data is posted to the website under Covid-19 data. The data reflects time period through September 2021.

- Survey to go out in May for information related to boosters.
- Once the survey information is completed it will be shared with the Council and posted to the website.

Commonwealth Update – Susan Coble, Director, Bureau of Community Program Licensure and certification, PA Department of Health

Faith Haeussler, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, PA Department of Health

Highlights from 2021 – Nursing Homes and Quality Assurance

- 688 facilities in the last year which represents 87,270 beds.
- 2-3 facilities are closing their doors.
- 4,797 total surveys completed in 2021.
- 618 were recertification surveys through CMS.
- 1,406 revisits
- 3,974 on-site visits, includes complaints and Covid-19 surveys.
- 758 Covid-19 surveys

Complaints 2021:

- 4,185 substantiated 33%. 4,125 were completed.
- Most frequently included quality of care, infection prevention and control, free of accidents and hazards, procurement, storing, preparation and servicing.
- Total number of incidents reported was 45,690
- Hospital transfers were 10,378 and others 5,089.

Faith Haeussler presented on Covid-19 updates

- Covid-19 case counts are down and at the lowest since August 2021 and continuing to decline.
- Opportunity to reflect on how DOH can be best prepared moving forward.
- Cases will continue to rise and fall.
- Variants will continue to change.

- Created 3 E's
 - Evaluate threats
 - Empower individuals
 - Enable care.
- 3 additional monitoring systems
 - Baseline Preparedness
 - Emerging threat
 - Surge response
- Interested in feedback and speaking with interested parties.

Q: Is there a timeframe in mind for a final product?

A: What is being built now is the framework with teams working from 6-7 different areas.

Q: When will information be available for Council members?

A: Members can reach out to Faith Haeussler, no exact date yet available.

Open Session

Secretary Torres: The next LTCC meeting will take place on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Lou Wolkenstein – brought to the Council's attention transportation access issues which are creating problems in Allegheny County.

Secretary requested that Lou send an email to Executive Director Ebersole for follow up.

- Danielle Spila agreed to look into issue.
- Currently there is a driver shortage.
- Will follow up with access information.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.