

**PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

# LONG-TERM CARE COUNCIL

EST. 2015

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting:</b>	Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, August 24, 2017
<b>Start &amp; End Time:</b>	10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, Keystone Conference Center

### Council Members in Attendance

Acting Insur. Cmmr. Jessica Altman	Brian Hudson, Sr. (Designee: Gelene Nason)*	Diane Menio - <i>Caregiver</i>
Joan Bradbury, <i>LTC Managed Care</i>	Dr. Jason Karlawish - <i>Academic Research</i>	Acting Sec. of Human Svcs. Teresa Miller (Designee Jen Burnett also attended.)
Sen. Michele Brooks (Designee: Chloe Zittle, Esq.)*	Kathleen Kleinmann - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>	Dr. David Nace - <i>LTSS Physician</i>
Brig. Gen. Anthony Carrelli (Designee: Andrew Ruscavage)*	Commissioner Ted Kopas - <i>County Commissioners Association of PA</i>	Shane Nugent - <i>For-Profit SNFs</i>
Dr. Mario Cornacchione - <i>Academic Research**</i>	John Kordish** - <i>PA Council on Aging</i>	Sec. of Aging Teresa Osborne, Council Chair
Representative Pam DeLissio (Designee Lauren Rooney also participated.)*	Ray Landis - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Vini Portzline - <i>LTSS Consumer</i>
Lynn Fields Harris - <i>Senior Community Centers</i>	Holly Lange - <i>Area Agencies on Aging</i>	Kenneth Potter, Esq. - <i>PA Bar Association, Elder Law Section</i>
Sen. Art Haywood (Designee: Liana Walters, Esq.)*	Acting Sec. of Health Dr. Rachel Levine (Designee: Lori Howe-Gutierrez)*	Nicole Pruitt - <i>Adult Day Centers</i>
Rep. Tim Hennessey (Designee: Erin Raub)*	Thomas Lilly, JD, CLU - <i>LTSS Insurance</i>	Mike Sokoloski - <i>Homecare</i>
Anne Henry - <i>Nonprofit SNFs</i>	Robert Marino - <i>Caregiver</i>	Matt Yarnell - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>
Lydia Hernandez-Velez - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>	Joyce McClary - <i>LTSS Nurse</i>	Heshie Zinman - <i>Consumer Advocacy</i>

\*Attended on member's behalf

\*\*Participated in Council meeting via teleconference

### Council Members Not in Attendance

Tim Coughlin - <i>Assisted Living</i>	Sec. of Transp. Leslie Richards (Designee: Emma Lowe)
---------------------------------------	---

### PDA Staff in Attendance

Teresa Osborne, Secretary	Melissa Myers, Legislative Director
Margaret Barajas, PA State Long-Term Care Ombudsman	Chuck Quinnan, Council Executive Director
Julia Brinjac, Policy Director	Donna Reinaker, Council on Aging Executive Director
Kellie Kask, Executive Assistant	

### Committee Members & Guests in Attendance

Norris Bennis, PA Health & Wellness	Vicki Hoak, PA Homecare Association <b>WC</b>
Sandra Curlee, Long Term Care Insurance Specialist <b>AC</b>	Jeffrey Iseman, PA SILC <b>OC</b>
Debbie Dare, CaringPlans Associates	Kenneth Martz, PA Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Art DiLoreto, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging <b>WC</b>	Margie Zelenak, PA Assisted Living Association <b>OC</b>
Maria Maletta Hastie, LIFE Geisinger <b>OC</b>	Andrew Zwally, Greenlee Partners

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

**Meeting Minutes**

#	Discussion Items	Summary
1	<b>Welcome</b>	<p>Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Acting Secretary of Human Services Teresa Miller and Acting Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman on their recent appointments by the Governor.</p> <p>Council Executive Director Chuck Quinnan explained the emergency evacuation protocol.</p>
2	<b>Introduction of Members &amp; Guests &amp; Remarks by Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller</b>	<p>Members and guests introduced themselves.</p> <p>After the introductions, Acting Secretary of Human Services Teresa Miller spoke to the Council about her new role and reemphasized her commitment to breaking down silos, realigning services where possible, and finding new opportunities to work collaboratively with the Department of Aging and other agencies on issues of long-term care and health and human service-related needs.</p>
3	<b>Approval of June 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes</b>	<p>A motion was made, and the June 15, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.</p>
4	<b>Commonwealth Updates</b>	<p>Secretary Osborne provided updates regarding the FY 2017-18 State General Fund Budget, Governor Wolf's unification proposal, and the Trump Administration's proposed 2018 Federal Budget. Highlights are as follows:</p> <p><u>FY 2017-18 State General Fund Budget</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fiscal/revenue package passed by the Senate in late July awaits consideration by the House of Representatives, with the House currently scheduled to return to session on September 11.</li> <li>• The Department of Aging continues to monitor spending and its obligations under federal law and is in close communication with the Governor and his Budget Office.</li> </ul> <p><u>Unification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While language to unify the Departments of Aging, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Health, and Human Services into a new Department of Health and Human Services was not included in the budget-related package passed by the Senate in July, the Governor has called on the four departments to work as one agency inside and outside of unification.</li> <li>• Secretary Osborne thanked the Council and committee members in attendance for their work in developing guiding principles on unification for the Governor and General Assembly.</li> <li>• She also noted that State Senators Lisa Baker, Michelle Brooks, and Camera Bartolotta introduced Senate Resolution 157, which would establish a process for determining whether any or all the departments included in the unification proposal should be unified by, among other things, appointing an efficiencies director to chair an Evaluation Committee. The resolution awaits consideration by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.</li> </ul> <p><u>Trump Administration's Proposed 2018 Federal Budget</u></p> <p>The proposed budget calls for a \$42 million reduction or 10% cut to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 202 program. This is part of a broad reduction of HUDs 2017/18 funding, which has the potential to remove the part-time social workers that are on site at many Section 202 housing complexes to help</p>

		<p>seniors gain access to services and supports. In addition, it would impact the ability of operators to cover maintenance and other costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It eliminates funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Meals on Wheels (MOW) became the poster child for the Trump Administration's proposed skinny budget back in March as many cities and counties across the country use these flexible funds – funded at \$3 billion this year – for a variety of projects from housing to repairs to life-enriching services for youth, employment training for adults, and home-based services for persons with disabilities and seniors.</li> <li>• Funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which helps older adults get public service jobs, is eliminated as well as funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), known in Pennsylvania as APPRISE, which helps beneficiaries navigate the Medicare program.</li> <li>• The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (\$3.4 billion) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (\$121 million) are slated for elimination. These programs, respectively, help elderly and low-income people pay their heating and power bills and help homeowners make their homes more energy efficient with grants of up to \$6,500.</li> <li>• Reduction of spending at the Department of Transportation by \$2.4 billion or 12.7 percent. President Trump did not indicate which programs he would cut, but it is anticipated that senior transportation will likely be targeted.</li> <li>• President Trump's proposed budget also eliminates Health Professions and Nursing Training Programs (\$403 million). The President's budget states that these programs "lack evidence that they significantly improve the nation's health workforce." Instead, President Trump wants to provide scholarships and student loans in exchange for service in areas with nursing shortages.</li> </ul> <p>Secretary Osborne noted that PDA is in close contact with Senator Casey's office about these funding cuts/eliminations, and that he is working hard to ensure that seniors and people with disabilities are able maintain these programs going forward.</p>
5	<b>Topical Presentations</b>	<p><u>Opioid Crisis</u> Ken Martz, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Department of Aging Policy Director Julia Brinjac provided a PowerPoint presentation on the opioid crisis. Mr. Martz's presentation included a brief history, research on effective outcomes across the nation, components of effective treatment, and response initiatives (e.g., The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act). Mr. Martz's also discussed substance use disorders among older adults and the unique challenges they face. Ms. Brinjac's remarks focused on the Department of Aging's efforts to address the issue of addiction among seniors, including the agency's involvement in creating safe prescribing guidelines for geriatric pain and the utilization of Cures Act funding for academic detailing (physician to physician education).</p> <p><u>State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program</u> State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Margaret Barajas provided an overview of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and highlighted the following issues being raised by the Pennsylvania Empowered Expert Resident (PEER) Advisory Council, which represents the interests of long-term care consumers before governmental agencies: 1) the shrinking number of SSI beds available within personal care homes in Pennsylvania; and 2) the need for an increase in</p>

		the personal needs allowance for residents. A PowerPoint presentation and handouts were provided.
6	<b>Priorities Discussion &amp; Next Steps</b>	<p>After lunch, members had a robust conversation regarding the selection of the Council's next priority. Issues discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term care insurance</li> <li>• LGBT individuals and the lack of data collection and a statewide law prohibiting discrimination</li> <li>• Expanding the Act 150 Program to include individuals 60 and over who become disabled after turning age 60</li> <li>• Shortage of direct care workers and difficulties with recruitment and retention</li> <li>• Impact of the Trump Administration's proposed cuts for the 2018 budget</li> <li>• Aging waiver enrollment and wait time</li> <li>• Medicaid reimbursement rates</li> <li>• Paperwork requirements for LTSS providers</li> <li>• Housing options &amp; consumer education</li> <li>• Nursing home transitions</li> </ul> <p>After a lengthy discussion, the Council unanimously voted to adopt the issue of <b>recruitment and retention of direct care workers</b> as its next priority. Secretary Osborne informed the members that Council Executive Director Chuck Quinnan would be coordinating with the committee chairs to schedule conference calls to begin looking at this issue. She also asked the members to think about what resources the committees may need in performing their work (e.g., involvement of other state agencies, experts in the field, etc.)</p>
7	<b>Open Session &amp; Announcements</b>	<p>There were no public comments during the open session portion of the meeting.</p> <p>Secretary Osborne reminded members that the Council's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.</p>
8	<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

#### New Action Items

#	Action Item	Actionee(s)	Deadline	Status
1	Have the committees start meeting to work on the Council's next priority: <i>recruitment and retention of direct care workers</i>	Committee chairs & Chuck Quinnan	ASAP	Completed
2	Organize a Community Health Choices update presentation for the Council's October 19, 2017 meeting	Dep. Sec. Jen Burnett & Chuck Quinnan	Before the next meeting	Completed