



Ohio Advisory Council for Aging

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

10:00am to 12:00pm

PRESENT:

Governor's Appointments: Chair Wengerd, Vice Chair Walton, Louis Borowicz, Semanthie Brooks, Misty Crosby, Stephanie Garrett, Marian Schuda, Denise Shockley

Ex-Officio Legislative Appointments: Senator Wilson, Allen Bruce (proxy for Senator Craig)

Ex-Officio Cabinet Agencies: Kris Lintner (ODM), Adreana Tartt (MHAS), Stacy Collins (DODD), Heidi Turner (JFS)

Welcome

At 10:00am, Chair Lori Wengerd called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and participants to the meeting.

Council Procedures

Roll Call

Alex Lapso called the roll and a quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Alex Lapso asked that the members review the minutes from the previous meeting. Phil Walton moved to accept the meeting minutes. Misty Crosby seconded the motion. Without objection the minutes from the April 14 meeting were approved. The approved minutes will be uploaded to the website.

Director's Report

Director McElroy provided updates...

Current Status

- We are still in the midst of the pandemic, but the tide is shifting in our favor.
- Ohio is now, on average, at less than 50 cases per 100,000 people.
- Effective June 2, Governor DeWine lifted the vast majority of public health orders.
 - Relative to the aging network, the Governor rescinded the adult day and senior center orders.
 - The orders pertaining to nursing home and assisted living access and testing remain in effect.
 - Some orders may have been lifted, but the continuation of the long-term care orders reflects that this virus is still placing older adults and those in long-term care at risk.

- We have a new landing page to address where we currently are in the pandemic and provides specific information for COVID-19 Resources for Congregate Living including Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Adult Day Services and Senior Center settings. ([The Road Back: COVID-19 Resources for Congregate Settings | Department of Aging \(ohio.gov\)](#)).
- We will also be issuing tool kits and other resources for senior centers to provide additional assistance at this time.
- If questions arise concerning long-term care access and visitation, we are encouraging people to contact the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman for assistance.
 - The office continues to provide assistance, manage complaints, provide clarification to individuals as well as facilities, and monitor ongoing matters.
 - The office has helped countless individuals throughout the pandemic and we're grateful for their work and dedication.
 - The office can be contacted at either 614-282-1206 or OhioOmbudsman@age.ohio.gov

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force

- A vendor has been selected to help advance the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force.
- Sage Squirrel will assist the department in managing the task force by facilitating meetings and helping to draft and format the final report that will address findings and offer recommendations.
- The department coordinated with the Department of Administrative Services' procurement process to select Sage Squirrel.
- We look forward to the work ahead of us.

Vaccine Update

- ODA continues to support vaccinations through the Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program, in partnership with the Ohio National Guard, in long-term care facilities, homebound populations, affordable senior housing, adult day and senior centers.
- To date, we've administered nearly 15,000 vaccinations for affordable senior housing residents reaching approximately 380 senior housing communities.
- We will continue to take referrals for homebound residents and schedule clinics through June 30. If you are aware of vaccination needs in your area, please connect them with the RAP program.

Provider Relief

- The Ohio Office of Budget and Management, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging, released 4.95 million dollars in additional funding to support adult day and senior centers who serve older Ohioans by offsetting some of the added costs of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are to support restarting and continuing services through this emergency. This is in addition to the \$4.8 million provided in December 2020 for pandemic cost recovery and safe operational expenses.

Budget (State)

- The state operating budget for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 continues to advance through the legislative process.
- Continue to meet with members of the General Assembly, in both the Senate and the House, to address the department's priorities and answer any questions.
- Director McElroy thanked the Advisory Council, specifically Chair Wengerd, Vice Chair Walton, and Semanthie Brooks, for submitting a letter of support for the Department of Aging's budget to the Ohio Senate.
- The Senate is slated to pass their version of the budget this week.
- At that point, the Senate's version will go back to the House for concurrence, thus sending the bill to Conference Committee.

- Conference Committee is an opportunity to address any differences across the multiple versions of the budget bill, compromise, and negotiate on what will be the final product the House and Senate will vote on before sending the bill to the Governor for his action.
- The goal is for the Governor to sign the bill on or before June 30 so the appropriation provisions in the bill are in effect for the new state fiscal year beginning July 1.
 - Unless otherwise stated, the policy provisions in the budget are in effect 90 days after the Governor’s action.

Budget (Federal)

- Most recently, President Biden announced the administration’s proposed \$6 trillion budget.
- Within the proposal are key provisions that directly impact and may also indirectly impact the aging network and those we serve, including:
 - Increasing and supporting the home and community-based workforce.
 - Roadway infrastructure improvements which may help the home health care workforce and transportation providers meet the growing needs of our population.
 - Increase and expand broadband to underserved areas.
 - An investment in health care research, with a focus on Alzheimer’s disease.
 - Increase the investment to address the opioid crisis, including a direct reference to help older Americans.
 - Help address homelessness and expand homelessness prevention efforts.
 - Expand health care affordability and access.

Older Americans Act- American Rescue Plan Act

- ODA received its Notice of Award for approximately 51 million dollars for Title III and Ombudsmen services. These dollars are set to be released through the federally approved intrastate funding formula to the area agencies on aging.
- These dollars are able to be spent through 9/30/24 and are a strong needed investment into the aging network.
- Funding is across allowable Title III lines including supportive services (adult day, personal care, transportation, housing), congregate and home-delivered meal services, disease prevention and health promotion, and caregiving support.

Advisory Council Direction

- Within the last year, we have been able to rebuild this group, establish leadership, adopt a committee structure, and begin important conversations around implementing SAPA priorities.
- There’s more work to be done.
- Director McElroy thanked everyone for completing the SAPA survey—this is helping the department and council leadership in identifying how the advisory council can best support implementing the provisions and priorities of the SAPA.
- The committees are where we can best move forward with SAPA conversations and recommendations.
- Please utilize the results of the survey to advance those conversations.
- Director McElroy encouraged collaboration across the committees.
 - Reach out to each other for thoughts and feedback.
 - Please consider joining other committee meetings to listen-in and hear from others to gain an appreciation on their work and their approach.

Legislative Updates

SB 58 and HB 78 – These are companion pieces of legislation that authorize the use of electronic monitor devices in long-term care units. The Senate passed both bills unanimously on May 19.

Home Health Licensure – This is a standalone Bill/Legislation...HB179. The House added Home Health Licensure to the Budget Bill. The Senate Sub Bill removed the provision. The Omnibus has reinserted Home Health Licensure and offered new language.

The expansion of PACE, the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Committee Report Out - Highlights

Misty Crosby – Best Practices

- The Committee met as a group May 17 and May 26
- May 17
 - Presentation that was focused on maintaining independence
- Highlight additional opportunities for the AAA network to align with the SAPA focused areas
- The importance of engaging with non-funded stakeholders through the committee's work
- The possibility of recommending that Ohio becomes an Age Friendly state.
- Front Door expansions
- Wrong Door concept
- Next Steps – Formalize a list of Best Practices to be delivered to the Advisory Council that ODA could be considered implementing
- Engaging other state agencies

Semanthie Brooks – Policy

- Committee met May 6
- Looked at the House proposed Budget
- Moving forward with the SAPA
- SAPA will be the blueprint
- Identify areas where the legislative committee would want to continue to have input
- Looked and asked questions about the surveys
- Access to Care has been moved as a priority
- Health Living is also a priority
- Promoting the idea of Ohio becoming an Age Friendly Community

Phil Walton (for John Corlett) – Education and Outreach

- Committee met May 20
- Focused on the SAPA Plan
- Two ODA's guest presenters
 - Tessie Pollock – discuss the role of the department outreach; as well as the department's Education function in support of an expansion of the SAPA
 - Ashley Davis - Focused on working with key stakeholders both state agencies and external
 - Training will take place in September
- Brief discussions on asking other representatives at other state agencies to talk with our committee regarding support
- Advisory Council Survey on the SAPA – John would like to form an educational session for committee in the future
- Next Committee Meeting – July 15 at 1pm.

Advisory Council Updates

Tessie shared some highlights of resources that ODA has been utilizing.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15

John Ratliff reminded everyone that June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Please wear purple to show your support.

Ethics Training – August 11

Alex Lapso reminded everyone of the upcoming Annual Ethics Mandatory Training. This training will take place at our regular August Ohio Advisory Council meeting. If not able to attend, you can complete the virtual online Ethics Training. We will shorten the meeting to allow time for this training.

Meeting Adjourned

Stephanie Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Semanthie Brooks seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting of the Advisory Council for Aging adjourned at 11:54am.