

## **Ohio Advisory Council for Aging**

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021

10:00am to 12:00pm

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Governor's Appointments:**

Chair Wengerd, Vice Chair Walton, David Bass, Louis Borowicz, Semanthie Brooks, Stephanie Garrett, Marian Schuda

#### **Ex-Officio Legislative Appointments:**

Senator Craig, Margaret Simmons (Senator Craig's staff representative)

#### **Ex-Officio Cabinet Agencies:**

Kris Lintner (ODM), Stacy Collins (DODD), Mark Hamlin (ODH)

#### **ODA:**

Director McElroy, Assistant Director Carlson, Stacy Browning, Ashley Davis, Alex Lapso, Tessie Pollock, Jennifer Stires

### **ABSENT:**

#### **Governor's Appointments:**

John Corlett, Misty Crosby, Diane Redden, Denise Shockley, Manish Srivastava

#### **Ex-Officio Legislative Appointments:**

Representative Ginter, Representative West, Senator Wilson

**Ex-Officio Cabinet Agencies:**

Adreana Tartt (MHAS), Heidi Turner (JFS)

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**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. Louis Borowicz moved to accept the meeting minutes. Stephanie Garrett seconded the motion. Without objection the minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting were approved. The approved minutes will be uploaded to the website.

**Director's Report**

- Director McElroy introduced Assistant Director Jenny Carlson to the Council members.
  
- Rate Increases
  - Many associations and key providers who are routinely engaged in the legislative and rule process were invited and attended the stakeholder meetings. Certain providers not represented by a broader organization may not be aware of the rate increases. o4a also had a seat at the table.
  - We should be able to communicate via notice to AAAs and the provider network to formally announce new rates.
  - Kosher and therapeutic meals will not receive an increase. This is because the language passed (but also vetoed) only addressed regular meals and their deliver methodology (i.e. hot meal, verses frozen packages verses bulk carrier delivery). Additional considerations for deliver methodology will be addressed downstream. This was agreed to by involved stakeholders. Some may still argue that this is problematic.
  - On the whole, these increases will be favorably received. What we may hear is that the rates are not sufficient enough or are being proposed too late to support a challenged workforce. Nursing homes received substantial investment in this budget, so certain HCBS providers may feel that, compared to NFs, the HCBS investment is insufficient.
  - Either way, we can anticipate our providers requesting additional increased next budget cycle. We welcome those conversations.
  
- September was Falls Prevention Awareness Month. Our popular 10 Million Steps to Prevent Falls campaign made its return.

- Nearly 1,600 Ohioans walked 18,301 miles – **or 47.8 million steps** – in the name of falls prevention.
  - This is equivalent to walking around the perimeter of Ohio 16 times.
  - People contributed by attending walking events, participating in walking groups, posting to social media, and viewing webinars produced with the help of our STEADY U Ohio initiative partners.
  - Area agencies on aging were valuable partners in this year’s campaign, contributing 46.5% of the total steps and 36% of participants through their events and groups.
  - Direction Home Akron-Canton (AAA 10B) contributed the most steps (9.8 million) of any single partner.
  - Look for a press release with the final results this week.
- We are currently seeking college students to participate in the winter/spring 2022 session of Ohio Scholars in Aging.
    - The program is a collaboration between ODA and the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education.
    - We are accepting applications through October 31.
    - The program is open to emerging professionals in a variety of careers, including nutrition and allied health sciences, city and regional planning, gerontology, social work, or other relevant focus areas.
    - Participants must complete minimum 45-hour internship or project with a community organization, attend 3 sessions with ODA, spend a day at their AAA, and give a poster presentation at the OAGE spring conference.
    - Info is at [www.aging.ohio.gov/scholarsinaging](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/scholarsinaging)
- ODA awarded \$5,355,420 in coronavirus relief funds to offset the additional costs of providing senior nutrition services during the pandemic.
    - 75 providers (53 senior centers and 22 adult day services providers) serving 42 different counties, were selected via a grant process supported by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management.
    - This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of relief funding availability for these providers.
    - Funds assist with the safe re-opening and operation of meal programs, including home-delivered and congregate meals.
    - Funds offset costs associated with COVID-19 operations, including sanitation supplies, PPE, emergency preparedness, technology, and other expenses.
- The Administration for Community Living requested information about Ohio’s COVID-19 vaccination plan and response. We provided information on:
    - The Regional Rapid Response Assistance Program (R<sup>3</sup>AP);
    - Vaccine clinics at affordable senior housing;
    - Homebound vaccine administration; and
    - Ohio’s vaccine maintenance program for congregate care settings.
- Last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a report on the impact of state vaccination efforts from Jan-May 2021.
    - Ohio’s vaccine plan from the beginning prioritized older adults and their caregivers in congregate settings as well as the community.

- HHS estimates that vaccines prevented 13,000 new infections, 5,300 hospitalizations, and 1,800 deaths among older Ohioans.
  - We are deeply grateful to our many aging network partners and other key contributors to Ohio's vaccine plan.
  - This information validates that the network's responsiveness and flexibility during the most significant public health crisis of our lifetimes saved lives.
- ODA celebrated National Malnutrition Awareness Week (Oct 4-8) by promoting the release of 12 new nutrition education fact sheets.
    - The sheets were produced by our Elder Connections Division with assistance from the Communications and Government Outreach division.
    - They cover topics such as fat, fiber, protein, salt, vitamin D, vitamin b12, physical activity and other areas of nutrition.
    - They are available for download at [www.aging.ohio.gov/nutrition-ed](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/nutrition-ed)
  - ODA's SFY 2021 Annual Report has been published. It is available on our website.
  - Watch our website and social media accounts in October and November for messaging on key timely topics such as flu prevention, Medicare open enrollment, fire safety, medication safety, and more.

### **Legislative Report**

- Yesterday, the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review approved the rules that accommodated the rate increases.
- Controlling Board approved ARPA dollars that ODA received. That approval occurred September 20.
- HB23 – First Responders receiving Dementia training. This bill received its third hearing.
- SB58 – (electronic devices) is scheduled for its third hearing tomorrow.
- HB122 – to further authorize and expand tele-health services and require virtual visitation for LTC residents, in the event in-person access is restricted. The bill continues to be heard in the Ohio Senate.
- SB217 – Passed last week by the Ohio Senate (release criminal background).
- PACE – Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly. Alex attended an in-person tour of the McGregor PACE site in Warrensville Hts on October 1. The tour was hosted by McGregor and the PACE Coalition. Also in attendance were Senator Romanchuk, Representative Roemer, and staff from ODM.

### **Advisory Council Procedural Updates**

- December Meeting Location – ODNR Building D (next door to Building E)
- Election of Council Leadership – It is time to consider elections for advisory council leadership. Goal is at the first meeting in calendar year 2022 to post elections and approve any substitutions or amendments to our bylaws.
- Meeting Cadence and Attendance – Working on the new schedule for next year meetings. We need to determine the frequencies of the meetings for next calendar year. Requirement is 4 meetings per year (current regulation). There were great discussions

over the cadence and attendance of the meetings. It was agreed to discuss this topic at a later time.

### **Committee Report Out**

- **Best Practices**  
Ashley – Met on August 11 and discussed the SAPA.
- **Policy Committee**  
Semanthie – Met on July 8. Reviewed many rules with Tom Simmons. Spent a lot of time discussing SAPA and get rid of solos.

### **SB 24 Task Force Update**

- The background, findings summary and next steps of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force – SB24 were explained to the group.

### **Round Table Discussion**

- The group did a round table discussion on the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force-Listening Sessions.
- Majority of the group thought it was a very good idea to have the listening sessions. Marketing, Education, and finding good resource programs for the communities are very important. It was also suggested to plan a resource guide related to dementia. The focus should also be on Caregivers.
- Tessie will provide notices for the public meetings.

### **Ethics Training**

Jen Stires provided Ethics training for the group during the meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Louis Borowicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Stephanie Garrett second that motion. Without objection, the meeting of the Advisory Council for Aging adjourned at 12:00pm.

