



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

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**Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN
Conference A**

Attendees were able to join virtually over Zoom.

The meeting was livestreamed and is available on the FSSA Indiana YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@FSSAIndianavideos/streams>

Dr. Burke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Members in attendance: Dr. JoAnn Burke, Becky Anspach, Judith Schoon, Kelli Tungate, Jennifer Lantz, Katie Ehlman, Dan Mustard, James Goen, Deb Lambert

Members not in attendance: Margaret Smith, Megan Springer, Robert Bischoff

There was a quorum, so the May, July, September, and November 2023, minutes were voted on and approved.

Dr. Burke reported that there was a virtual meeting of the executive committee to put forth a slate of candidates. Nominations were also accepted from the floor. The slate of candidates is as follows: Dr. Burke, Commission Chair; Vacancy, Membership Vice Chair; Katie Ehlman, Vice Chair of Programs and Presentations; Judith Schoon, Vice Chair of Partnerships; Dan Mustard, Secretary. Dr. Burke opened nominations to the floor, and Becky Anspach was nominated for the Membership vacancy. There were no other nominations. Deb Lambert moved to accept the slate of candidates, Kelli Tungate seconded, and the slate of candidates will stand through 2024.

Dr. Burke introduced Katie Ehlman, Vice Chair of Programs and Presentations. Katie reminded the Commission that the Programs committee asked each advisory committee to take a deeper dive into the work of their committee and report to the Commission during 2023. She asked the Commission if they want to continue this work with the advisory committees, and perhaps include subject matter experts in particular areas of interest. Or would the Commission like to select some topics of interest that are important to the work of the state.



The feedback from the Commission was leaning toward selecting topics of interest that are important to the work of the state. Equally important to the group is the continued sharing of information regarding PathWays from the Division of Aging (DA), Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), and Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP). Dan Mustard agreed to present in March on housing issues, and a request will be made to OMPP for updates on PathWays and the waiver transition in May.

Shannon Effler, Director of Geriatric Programs for IU School of Medicine, serves as the state's Dementia Strategic Plan Coordinator and presented an update on Indiana's Dementia Strategic Plan. The epithet for this plan was House Bill 1422 that was approved and has been entered into the Indiana Code. It states that Indiana will operate a Dementia Care Specialist Program (DCSP) under the oversight of the Division of Aging. She mentioned the Alzheimer's Association has a national initiative to encourage all states to operate a program such as Indiana's. The goal is to evolve Indiana's Aging Network to a dementia capable system.

The funding covers one full-time employee at each Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in a position called Dementia Outreach Specialist. Each specialist will be responsible for internal training and education within the AAA. Shannon is confident the DCSP will launch in the next couple of months. A performance evaluation next year will come from the DA, Kristen LaEace and I4A, and legislators as this is in Indiana Code. Preliminary evaluation metrics that likely will be used are the number of trainings completed, number of educations completed, data collection from pre-tests and post-tests, and referrals. Kristen LaEace, I4A, interjected that data collected will be shared with the Dementia Advisory Committee relative to the Dementia Strategic Plan, and to the State Plan on Aging. She said there will be a focus on clinical health outcomes with this grant as well as stressing the need for community connections with clinicians and services that can support those outcomes.

Dr. Burke introduced Shayla Pinner, Deputy Communications Director for FSSA. Shayla is supporting the DA, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), and Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) with the roll-out of PathWays. Currently, there are billboards, commercials, pharmacy signage, and a new website regarding PathWays. There is also a promotional kit that includes brochures, flyers, and direct mailers. The online promotional page also includes the commercials. At this point, all of these are informational. In February, the call to action at the end of those promotional items will become "enroll" instead of "learn more."

As it is now, users are directed to the PathWays website where there is a host of frequently asked questions. There is also a comparison plan of all the plans which was recently updated. Members will receive notifications about the plan, what is to be expected, and enrollment. Members and/or caregivers can call Maximus for enrollment at 8-7-PathWay4. The website, in.gov/pathways, is being updated to make promotional items available to interested members. Communications are consistently changing and evolving based on feedback and needs.

Andrew Bean, Deputy Director for the Division of Aging, advised of the recent announcement of the Governor's 2024 Next Level Agenda which includes the Multi-sector Plan on Aging. FSSA and the DA have been instructed to begin work on this 10-year plan that will involve public, private, and independent sectors focusing on the growing aging population. The focus will be on

housing, transportation, employment, income security, intergenerational interaction, and the health and well-being of aging Hoosiers. Dr. Burke reiterated that the Older Americans Act is not just for older people on Medicaid, but for all older people.

Cathy Robinson, Deputy Director of the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), talked to the Commission regarding the just released Medicaid forecast, the waiver transition to DDRS from DA, and other shifts and realignments that are occurring within those divisions. Beginning with the Medicaid forecast, Cathy outlined steps to understand the drivers behind the variance in the state portion of the shortfall. Understanding the drivers of the variance will allow for solutions to be as tailored as possible for the people served. She identified several different drivers associated with the variance including lower Medicaid prescription drug rebates, delayed implementation of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) rates, and unanticipated growth in enrollment and utilization of the Aged & Disabled (A&D) waiver and attendant care (ATTC) services. These drivers do not encompass the entire shortfall.

Cathy explained the strategies being implemented will minimize as much as possible impact to those being served across the Medicaid program while remaining focused on addressing the drivers of the Medicaid forecast. Large contributors of the variance are from the A&D waiver. Strategies include reviewing service plans and reducing automatic approvals, ensuring compliance of the service definition, including a Structured Family Caregiving (SFC) provision for Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs), scheduled trainings, reviews, and future planning sessions regarding pediatric eligibility, pausing Expedited Waiver Eligibility (EWE), and monitoring waiver slots. Waiver redesign was also discussed as it will likely begin once all transitions are complete. A robust question and answer session followed Cathy's presentation.

Dr. Burke asked that all committee reports be postponed until the March meeting as time was running short.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), highlighted a few important topics in the education packet including the happenings in the Indiana General Assembly. Language has been reworked making it more clearly understandable. Representation of congressional districts was another important discussion. An alignment of sorts is being explored so that representatives from generally the same area of the state will be assisting participating Hoosiers so that someone from the northern part of the state is not trying to assist someone in the southern part of the state. Another update, Senate Bill 109, would provide FSSA and the DA with additional flexibility to contract outside of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council for Adult Protective Services (APS).

Dr. Burke adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. (ET).