



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging
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**Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2023
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN
Wabash Hall Conference Rooms 4 and 5**

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, Deb Lambert, Jennifer Lantz, James Goen

Members not in attendance: Margaret Smith, Dan Mustard, Megan Springer, Katie Ehlman, Robert Bischoff

There was not a quorum, so the previous minutes were filed for approval at a future meeting.

Erin Wright, Director of Access & Engagement in the Division of Aging, updated concerning the resignation of Barbara Blackford from the Commission on Aging. Currently, vacancies on the Commission are Congressional Districts 1, 2, 9, and 1 at Large. There is no one currently under consideration for these positions on the Board of the Commission on Aging through the Governor's office.

Peggy Welch, Chief Advocacy Officer for FSSA, presented to the Commission Indiana's Direct Service Workforce Plan in the context of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Reform. The plan is to create and implement a data-driven, community-informed, state-wide plan--Indiana Direct Service Workforce Plan—to improve the recruitment, training, support, and retention of Direct Service Workers (DSWs) across home and community-based settings. Direct Service Workforce development has been addressed as a critical issue because of managed LTSS, but is an initiative that is larger, and encompasses more, than just managed LTSS. An informative Q & A period followed.



Leslie Huckleberry, Director of the Division of Aging, reported on leadership changes within FSSA, most notably the impending departure of Allison Taylor as Director of Medicaid. Cora Steinmetz is coming in as the new Director of Medicaid and will be leaving her role in the governor's office as Health Policy Director. Leslie also mentioned another Medicaid addition is a new Care Programs director. Holly Cunningham Piggott has come on board to oversee all the managed care programs in Medicaid which will include PathWays, HIP, Hoosier HealthWise, and Hoosier CareConnect. Another update was regarding expedited waiver eligibility that was discussed in a few past meetings. CMS approved making that a permanent part of the A & D waiver, and we are the first state in the country to make that a part of the 1915c waiver. More information is forthcoming.

Erin Wright returned with a presentation regarding the Older Americans Act and the Area Plans on Aging which is a federal requirement. Indiana has 15 Area Agencies on Aging serving 16 different designated planning and service areas. While this is a requirement of the Older Americans Act, it is intended to encompass the AAAs overall efforts on behalf of older adults and caregivers in their communities. The most recent plans were submitted in 2021 for federal fiscal year 2022-2023. Erin explained that Indiana follows a 2-year cycle for our area plans that generally follows a 4-year cycle for our required state plan with the intent that they are connected and reflective of one another. Guidance was issued in February of this year with the plans submitted in June. Upon approval, the Plans with updates will be effective through September 2025, and a complete, new Area Plan for each AAA will be required for the next cycle for FFY 2026-2027. Erin listed the components of the update to the Area Plan and advised that corrections and clarifications from AAAs are being done. A final Division of Aging review will be completed by a minimum of two DA staff using a standardized template and process. Leslie Huckleberry will give final approval and letters will go to AAAs by the end of September for October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025.

Dr. Burke provided an update on the Living Better Living Longer Collaborative. She continues to encourage thinking about the change to managed care and the impact on local communities. As more people are living in residential settings instead of institutional settings, people will require assistance from local first responders. Local governments have likely not budgeted for an increase in calls for first responders, and local zoning ordinances likely do not support accessory dwelling units, so the Living Better Living Longer Collaborative has focused on work within local communities.

Judith Schoon, chair of the Shared Decision-Making committee, reported that she has spoken with several representatives and a few guardianship judges. At least one judge is seriously considering allowing advocacy in their court for someone who is under guardianship.

Deb Lambert, Emergency Housing Advisory Committee chair, has become part of a nationwide group that does elder abuse shelters. They have a repository of documents that we will likely need for this program. Our work continues.

Dr. Burke said that she has stepped in as the interim Family Caregiver Advisory Committee chair as Megan Springer is unable to continue in this role. A meeting is scheduled for August that will include some DA members, and Dr. Burke is looking for some good feedback.

Dan Mustard, chair of the Housing Support Advisory Committee and Senior Center Coalition, will report at the next meeting.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), began with an update about the AAA annual conference that was in mid-July. She also noted that her packet would be sent in two parts this month. At the conference, CICOA Aging and In-Home Services was recognized with an innovative achievement award for their product called PostBook. Kristen informed the Commission that Northwest Indiana Community Action Corporation is finalizing a merger with a housing organization. While this is for the entire community for multiple populations, our older Hoosiers will benefit as well. This is the second AAA to merge with a housing organization in our network. Thrive Alliance was the first. Thrive West Central, in Terre Haute, is housed within an economic development organization. The economic development organization arm is the recipient of a significant READI grant which is a program of one of the economic development departments in Indiana. The legislature appropriates money for this grant program, and regional entities and local units of government can submit an economic development plan for different eligible activities. Thrive West Central focused their application on developing housing for their region.

Kristen also informed that I4A and the I4A Education Institute submitted their senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP) grant renewal to ACL. They were awarded the next five years to continue to manage that program for Indiana. There continues to be increases in what ACL can put toward the programs nationally. It is a formula grant that is available in each state in which entities compete to manage that program. In some states, that program is administered as a joint program along with the senior health insurance program. I4A is also piloting a partnership with the Center for Independent Living in Fort Wayne, The League, and it is the first partnership that focuses on persons with disabilities and not just older adults. Currently, state partnerships are with AAAs and senior centers.

Dr. Burke adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. (ET).