

Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council
Spring Grove Hospital Campus, Dix Building Basement
08/23/2017 1:00pm-3:00pm
Minutes

Co-Chair(s) in Attendance

Stevanne Ellis

Council Members Present in Person

Cynthia Fields
Ernestine Jones Jolivet
Karin Lakin
David Loreck
Tabassum Majid
Cass Naugle
Linnette Rivera
Ilene Rosenthal
Andres Salazar
Quincy Samus
Ed Singer
Dawn Seek
Jared Sussman

Council Members Present by Phone

Suzanne Carbone
Karen Kauffman
Stephen Vozzella

Guests and Staff Present

Sadaf Ahmad
Louise Dempsey
Berit Dockter
Lesley Flaim
Katherine Mullen (for Roger Manno)
Colin Simms
Albert Zachik

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Council was called to order by Co-Chair Stevanne Ellis at 1:12pm.
- Ms. Ellis welcomed members and guests to the Council meeting. Council member introductions followed.

2. Announcements

- Council members thanked former Co-Chair Albert Zachik, M.D. for his service and time on the Council. Dr. Zachik discussed the importance of the Council and encouraged members to continue to support efforts moving forward.
- Staff provided a brief introduction to incoming Co-Chair Sadie Peters, M.D. MHS. It was mentioned that Dr. Peters will be present for the next Council meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes from 04/26/2017 Council Meeting

- Ms. Majid was left off previous minutes.
- The report from the Enhance Quality of Care subcommittee, as well as the report from Ms. Flaim needed to be added regarding the Beacon Institute project.
- The minutes were approved pending these changes.

- Staff person Colin Simms will distribute revised minutes with these changes.

4. Housing of Council Materials

- Mr. Simms provided the website [<https://health.maryland.gov/Pages/Alzheimers-Council.aspx>] and reviewed materials (minutes, agendas, charges, and committee reports) to be housed on the website.
- There was discussion on having an agenda sent out earlier. Staff stated a process is in place to finalize documents faster.
- Staff took suggestions on materials to post to the website.
- There was a question from Council members on using other platforms to store Council materials. Staff stated options are being explored on the best place to house Council documents.

5. Cognitive Health Resources

- The Council was informed of revisions to the CCDPC website [<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/ccdpc/healthy-lifestyles/Pages/Cognitive-Health.aspx>] to accommodate topics on cognitive health, including links to the two Maryland chapters of the Alzheimer's Association, and links to Maryland Access Point, Maryland Department of Aging, and other programs.
- Mr. Simms provided a review of media resources on the site, including infographics and webinars. Posters showcasing new infographics were also made available to Council members.

6. Review of Council's Statutory Charge

- Ms. Ellis provided an overview of the Council's Statutory Charge and reviewed how each of the subcommittees relates to this charge.

7. Meeting Times

- Council members agreed to meet quarterly, on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Spring Grove Hospital Campus. A conference line will be provided to those who cannot attend.
- Ms. Ellis offered to set aside times before and after Council meetings for subcommittees to meet.

8. Subcommittee Reports

- Prior to providing updates, each subcommittee provided an overview of their goals.
- Ms. Ellis encouraged Council members who are not currently serving, or wish to add support, to join a subcommittee.
- Support Prevention and Early Detection of Alzheimer's and Related Disorders
 - There are currently two members on this subcommittee.

- Screening tools have already been developed, but the biggest issue is getting buy-in from the primary care providers (PCPs) to ensure the use of these tools. Barriers noted were lack of screening standards at the practice level, lack of time to administer the tool, and questions about the efficiency of the tool. The subcommittee expressed a wish to collaborate with the Alzheimer’s Association to provide educational outreach and advocate the use of tools to the PCPs.
- Ms. Rosenthal shared details of a letter from Alzheimer’s Association to be given to the PCPs. The Alzheimer’s Association has also developed a toolkit for healthcare providers to assess patients for possible follow-up. Dr. Kauffman suggested including nurse practitioners in the discussion, as they will be able to bill for reimbursement under new Medicare billing codes (per Ms. Rosenthal). Ms. Rosenthal will forward attachments to Council staff to be distributed to members.
- Dr. Salazar stated the subcommittee intends to create educational posters, a frequently asked questions (FAQs) brochure, and letters for providers. It was suggested by Ms. Rivera to target PCPs waiting rooms. Ms. Naugle suggested drafting a letter that will be sent from someone influential to PCPs. Council members suggested this come from Co-Chair Sadie Peters. Mr. Singer stated Health Officers can also follow-up on provider outreach and he will address this during the next Maryland Association of County Health Officers meeting.
- There were questions regarding which healthcare providers could bill for screenings under Medicare billing codes.
- Enhance Quality of Care
 - There are currently four members on this subcommittee.
 - Ms. Flaim provided an update of the partnership with Beacon Institute carrying out a grant on quality care in nursing home facilities.
 - The pilot project was offered in two jurisdictions (Charles and Baltimore City) with training provided online. The goal of this pilot was to offer certifications to front line employees.
 - Presently only half the licenses have been utilized. Ms. Flaim reported time constraints and the lack of support from high level administration have been challenges. Final assessments are currently being drafted addressing challenges within the project.
 - Results for Basic Modules are as follows:
 - 168 have started trainings
 - 130 have completed trainings
 - 60 percent have achieved certification – A majority of those who did not receive certification chose not to take the certification exam.
 - Results for Advanced Modules are as follows:
 - 112 have started trainings

- 92 have completed trainings
 - 74 percent have achieved certification
 - The subcommittee inquired if the Council could offer recognition to those who pass certification at their facilities. There was agreement from Council members to support this recognition. Ms. Ellis encouraged wording to be neutral. The subcommittee will bring drafts to the next Council meeting in October to discuss endorsement.
- Enhancing Supports for Persons Living with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders and their Families
 - There are currently four members on this subcommittee.
 - Ms. Rosenthal stated there has been additional funding in the Maryland Department of Aging budget. These funds, while not limited to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders, will support programs such as Assisted Living subsidies and in-home senior care.
 - Ms. Rosenthal provided an overview of the recent American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard for Maryland. Staff will distribute the score card to Council members.
 - The subcommittee referenced a recent Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) report that stated more individuals with Alzheimer’s disease are dying at home. Staff will send a copy the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) to Council members.
 - Ms. Rosenthal suggested having a Maryland Access Point (MAP) demonstration during the next Council meeting. Ms. Ellis will confirm a demonstration.
- Enhance Public Awareness
 - Ms. Jones Jolivet and subcommittee members described the subcommittee’s activities.
 - Palm cards (3,000) promoting the Council and MAP are being printed for distribution.
 - The subcommittee sought assistance in sending out cards. Ms. Ellis stated the Maryland Department of Aging will distribute them through their network. Mr. Singer will bring this to Health Officers for possible distribution through local health departments.
 - Council members discussed distributing electronic versions of palm cards through human resource departments of Maryland businesses.
 - Finding funding for additional printing once all cards are distributed was discussed.
- Improve Data Capacity to Track Progress
 - Ms Naugle and other subcommittee members discussed the need to access Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders data in the state.
 - Medicaid is open to gathering data, but follow-up is still needed.

Other Action Items

- The Council held a general discussion on recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) budgets and the funding for Alzheimer's and dementia related research. A copy of a recent article written by National Institute on Aging (NIA) Director, Richard Hodes regarding recent NIH budgets and the need for funding to support Alzheimer's and related dementias research was given to Council members. Staff will forward the article to those not present or attending via phone.
- Information about awareness and fundraising walks benefiting Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias were discussed. Staff will send out information on all upcoming walks.
- There was discussion among Council members regarding dementia-friendly initiatives. Further discussion will be held during the next Council meeting.
- Ms. Jones Jolivet provided an overview of "Purple Weekends" amongst faith-based organizations raising awareness for Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias.

Upcoming Meeting

October 11, 2017, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Adjournment

The Council adjourned at 3:03pm.

**The next meeting of this Council will be held on October 11, 2017
1:00pm-3:00pm
Spring Grove Hospital Campus, Dix Building Basement**