

**VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 22, 2025**  
**1:00 - 3:00 PM**

The Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Council held a virtual public meeting on January 22, 2025.

**Attendees**

**Members Present**

Pamela Williams  
Mark Tesoro  
Megan Peters  
Lynn Phan  
Halima Amjad  
Cynthia Fields  
Nancy Rodriguez-Weller  
Ravi Gupta  
Claudia Thorne  
Caitlin Houck  
Quincy Samus  
Ernestine Jones-Jolivet  
Evie Vander Meer

**Members Not Present**

Benjamin Brooks  
Sheree Sample-Hughes  
Andres Salazar  
Amanda Mummert

**MDH Staff Present**

Adeola Alayande  
Katherine Natafgi  
Raia Contractor  
Suzanne Barbero

**Members of the Public Present**

Michael Ellenbogen

**Opening**

**a. Welcome**

Council Chair, Dr. Halima Amjad called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**b. Roll Call**

Kate Natafgi took a roll call. A quorum was present (13 members).

**c. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval:**

- i. Dr. Amjad asked for a review of the October 23, 2024 minutes, and called for a motion to approve; Pamela Williams moved to approve the minutes, Claudia Thorne seconded the motion.

**d. New Business/Announcements**

- i. Representatives from the American Alzheimer’s Association shared several Alzheimer’s related events planned for February 2025.
  1. Continuing Education: Advances in Alzheimer’s and Dementia February 8, 2025
    - a. <https://medstar.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=5&EID=37139&IsExhibitor=false>
  2. Screening of Remember Me: African American in the Alzheimer’s Community on February 13, 2025 at Coppin State University
    - a. <https://www.communityresourcefinder.org/ResourceView/Index?id=3485749&profileDefinitionId=93>
- ii. Adeola Alayande, Deputy Director for the Maryland Department of Health’s Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control updated the council that the position for

Dementia Director had been posted again as had the Brain Health Coordinator Position at MDH.

**Presentation: Legislative Update Presentation**

Jody Sheeley, Director for the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Support Services (OSS) presented information about the Maryland General Assembly's legislative session and the role of the OSS in supporting councils.

**Presentation: GUIDE Model Overview**

Halima Amjad, MD, PhD, MPH-Associate Professor of Medicine and Cynthia D. Fields, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University presented information on the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare's Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) model of care. The GUIDE model establishes a comprehensive and standardized set of services to support people with dementia and their families and caregivers. This model includes care coordination and respite care services.

**State Alzheimer's Research Support (StARS)**

Lauren Stratton, PhD, Director, Psychosocial Research and Program Evaluation for the Alzheimer's Association presented information about the State Alzheimer's Research Support (StARS) Center. The StARS center is an organization funded by the National Institute on Aging to assist states and organizations with examining and advancing the efficacy, accessibility, and affordability for dementia care services.

**BOLD Implementation Plan Update**

Raia Contractor, Evaluation Lead at the Maryland Department of Health's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control provided an informational update about the status of the BOLD grant.

**Subcommittee Workgroups Update**

- Goal 1: Public Awareness work group
  - Approved letter advocating for ADRD competency training for health professionals following the November Council meeting.
  - The subcommittee is setting up office hours during the Spring 2025 semester to provide information about what kinds of ADRD training professional schools should include in their curriculum.
- Goals 2 and 3: Enhanced ADRD Care and Coordination/Enhance/ Expand Supports for Caregivers
  - Gathering information relating to the efforts of the MD Department of Aging and MD access point.
- Goals 4 and 5: Advance ADRD Research and Enhance Data Capabilities
  - Continuing to build the state dementia dashboard. Data visualization is still in progress.

**Public comment period**

- Michael Ellenbogen shared positive feedback regarding the new layout of the council's meeting webpage

**Adjournment**

Noting that there were no more items on the agenda, Dr. Halima Amjad requested a motion to end the meeting. Mark Tesoro motioned to adjourn. Megan Peters seconded the motion. The council chair adjourned the meeting at 3:01 pm

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2025; 1:00-3:00 pm**