

Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council

Minutes

April 23, 2025 1:00-3:00PM

The Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council held a virtual public meeting on April 23, 2025.

Attendees

Members Present

Ashanti Martinez
Pamela Williams
Mark Tesoro
Megan Peters
Lynn Phan
Halima Amjad
Corinne Pettigrew
Nancy Rodriguez-Weller
Andres Salazar
Brian Berger
Caitlin Houck
Amanda Mummert
Ernestine Jones-Jolivet

Members Not Present

Benjamin Brooks
Cynthia Fields
Ravi Gupta
Claudia Thorne
Quincy Samus
Evie Vander Meer

MDH Staff Present

Katherine Natafgi
Raia Contractor
Sadie Peters

Members of the Public Present

Michael Ellenbogen
Diane Martin
Jessica Colburn

Opening: Halima Amjad

A. Welcome

Council Chair, Dr. Halima Amjad called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

B. Roll Call

Kate Natafgi of MDH called roll and a quorum was present (11 members). 2 additional council members joined the meeting following roll call.

C. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval:

a. January 22, 2025, Quarterly Council Meeting

Dr. Amjad asked for a review of the January 22, 2025 minutes, and called for a motion to approve; Nancy Rodriguez-Weller moved to approve the minutes, Ernestine Jones Jolivet seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

b. Ad-Hoc meeting minutes

Dr. Amjad reviewed the minutes for the ad-hoc legislative meeting held on February 21, 2025, and called for a motion to approve; Mark Tesoro moved to approve the minutes, Caitlin Houck seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

D. New Business/Announcements

Pamela Williams of MDH updated the council that the Department had hired a new Director for its Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Guilmate Fuller. The Department is also finalizing the hiring of a new Dementia Director.

Mark Tesoro of the Department of Aging informed the group that long term care navigation funding had been restored to previous levels in the 2026 State Budget. In fiscal year 2025 the funding for this program had been reduced by 50%.

Presentation: Advanced Directives

Sadie Peters, Medical Director of MDH's Center for Cancer Prevention and Control presented the Council with information about the history of the Advanced Directives program and the Health Care Decisions Act of 1991, recent legislative mandates, the program's current work to expand access to Advanced Directives, and clinical linkages. Council members interested in receiving additional information about Advanced Directives in Maryland to share are encouraged to email Dr. Peters.

Presentation: Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program

Jessica Colburn, MD Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine presented information about the Johns Hopkins Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). The GWEP collaborates with academic, primary care, and community partners to develop an age friendly and Dementia Friendly primary care workforce. The GWEP's goals include expanding efforts to support public awareness, prevention & early detection of ADRD, enhancing quality, access, and coordination of ADRD care; Enhance and expand supports for family caregivers; advancing ADRD research and encouraging evidence-based practice, and enhancing data capabilities related to dementia and dementia impact and effects of interventions.

Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program

Diane J. Martin, PhD, MSL, MA Director, Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Graduate Studies presented information about the Geriatrics & Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program. GGEAR is a state funded program which supports interprofessional educational and research activities in the field of geriatrics and gerontology. The presentation also provided an overview of several Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) Projects and the Navigating Dementia educational series.

Subcommittee Workgroups Update

- Goal 1: Public Awareness
 - The workgroup faced some challenges in circulating the letter and getting sign ups to attend office hours. New dates and times are being scheduled for these meetings.
- Goals 2 and 3: Enhanced ADRD Care and Coordination/Enhance/ Expand Supports for Caregivers
 - The workgroup intends to provide feedback on the BOLD implementation plan for year 3.
 - The workgroup has coordinated several presentations for its members including a presentation from members of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) team regarding prevalence. The Work group is also seeking presenters with experience in healthcare financing to speak to the group in the future.
- Goals 4 and 5: Advance ADRD Research and Enhance Data Capabilities

- The workgroup continued work on the data visualization for the public ADRD data dashboard.

Public comment period

There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment

Noting that there were no more items on the agenda, Dr. Halima Amjad requested a motion to end the meeting. Ernestine Jones-Jolivet motioned to adjourn. Lynn Phan seconded the motion. The council chair adjourned the meeting at 2:52 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 1:00PM- 3:00PM