

VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2023
1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council held a public meeting on 4/26/23, called to order at 1:03 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Halima Amjad
Malcolm Augustine
Jacqueline Bateman
Cynthia Fields
Caitlin Houck
Ernestine Jones-Jolivet
Morris Klein
David McShea
Ana Nelson
Nancy Rodriguez-Weller
Quincy Samus
Claudia Thorne
Evie Vander Meer
Pamela Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Arnold Bakker
Andres Salazar
Sheree Sample-Hughes

STAFF PRESENT

Suzanne Barbero (MDH)
Kristi Pier (MDH)
Jessica Rose-Malm (MDH)
Amanda Distefano (MDoA)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Elizabeth Chung, Asian American Center of Frederick
Joy Davis, Baltimore City Health Department
Angela Deal, Charles County Health Department
Michael Ellenbogen
Sharon Oshai, Asian American Center of Frederick

I. Meeting Opening

Dr. Halima Amjad, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

II. Welcome and Business

Welcome and Agenda Review: Dr. Amjad reviewed the meeting agenda.

Roll Call: Kristi Pier took roll call. A quorum of Council members was present.

Consideration/Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: The Council reviewed minutes from the quarterly Council meeting on January 25, 2023, as well as ad hoc legislative meetings on January 30, February 7, February 9, and February 27, 2023. Caitlin Houck moved to approve the meeting minutes; Nancy Rodriguez-Weller seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

MDH Funding and Dementia Director Position Updates: Kristi Pier spoke about the hiring process for the Director of Dementia Services position. The position was currently posted a fourth time (since October), links were provided to the Council members. The position may need to be posted again, as MDH has not received qualified applicants. Ms. Pier also provided updates on the MDH Fiscal Year 2023 funding. MDH is funding seven community-based organizations to conduct outreach and education services to communities, caregivers, and healthcare providers. MDH is also funding three local health departments to work on a variety of activities, including technical assistance to healthcare providers and community outreach.

MDH is also working with a communications vendor to develop multimedia assets for a healthy brain aging and dementia awareness campaign.

III. **Vote: Adding a Council seat for a person living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment**

Ernestine Jones-Jolivet moved to add a Council seat for a person living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment and Quincy Samus seconded the motion. The Council members voted unanimously to approve adding this seat to the Council. MDH staff will work with the Appointments office to ensure the new seat is added and recruited for.

IV. **Presentation: Charles County Health Department Cognitive Health Project**

Dr. Amjad invited Angela Deal, manager of Chronic Disease, Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs at the Charles County Health Department (CCHD), to present on their cognitive health project funded through the MDH FY23 supplemental funds. CCHD held a Building Better Caregivers facilitator training for staff at Charles County's four senior centers and one disability service center. The trained facilitators will deliver the evidence-based Building Better Caregivers workshops to caregivers in Charles County in May and June. CCHD is partnering with the Charles County Local Health Improvement Coalition, senior centers, and other partners to distribute ADRD awareness information via newsletters and social media. CCHD is also working with two primary care practices to increase cognitive screening and referral by embedding cognitive screening into their practice workflows. Ms. Deal felt the greatest challenge in working with primary care providers is the lack of awareness of local programs and ease of referral.

V. **Presentation: Maryland Access Point Overview**

Dr. Amjad invited Amanda Distefano, No Wrong Door Program Manager at the Maryland Department of Aging, to present on the Maryland Access Point (MAP) system. Ms. Distefano provided information about the Maryland Department of Aging and local Area Agencies on

Aging

(AAAs) which provide direct services to older adults in their jurisdictions. MAP is a free service with 20 local offices connecting older adults and adults with disabilities to long-term supports and services (LTSS) and other resources to help them stay in the community. MAP staff can help residents make LTSS plans, navigate the LTSS system, and connect to available resources. MAP uses a "Level 1 Screen" to assess a resident's preliminary risk of institutionalization, identify needs related to activities of daily living, and add eligible residents to the Medicaid community-based services waitlist. MAP services are available in person at MAP offices, as well as by phone through Maryland 211 and online. Ms. Distefano noted the Maryland Department of Aging has a text alert service, newsletter, and social media accounts which could be used to promote ADRD-related messaging. Ms. Distefano also described the Department of Aging's Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use program, which is a free donation and redistribution service available to anyone in Maryland.

VI. **ADRD State Plan Implementation Strategy**

Dr. Amjad reminded Council members the State Plan is a statewide action plan and the Council will play an important role in guiding implementation activities. Dr. Amjad proposed a more coordinated and active implementation strategy which will involve regular work group meetings, work group-specific implementation plans, and incorporating State Plan implementation into quarterly Council meetings. The Council will have a more in-depth discussion of its implementation strategy at the July Council meeting. The Council will also hold a special meeting in May to discuss the \$3.5 million appropriation in State Fiscal Year 2024 for State Plan implementation.

VII. **Public Comment Period**

Dr. Amjad opened the meeting for public comment. Michael Ellenbogen expressed appreciation for the Council adding a seat for a person living with dementia. Mr. Ellenbogen also requested development of a Council listserv to alert members of the public to ad hoc meetings and Council updates. Sharon Osahi of the Asian American Center of Frederick, an MDH grantee of FY23 supplemental funds for community outreach and education, shared findings from their initial conversations with immigrant communities regarding ADRD, as well as some of the project's early successes reaching individuals through Lunar New Year events and We-Chat groups.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Ernestine Jones-Jolivet moved to close the meeting and Quincy Samus seconded. Dr. Amjad closed the meeting at 2:54pm

Next Quarterly Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023