

VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2023

1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council held a public meeting on 1/25/23, called to order at 1:02 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Halima Amjad
Arnold Bakker
Jacqueline Bateman
Cynthia Fields
Caitlin Houck
Ernestine Jones-Jolivet
Morris Klein
Nancy Rodriguez-Weller
Quincy Samus
Claudia Thorne
Evie Vander Meer
Pamela Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Malcolm Augustine
David McShea
Ana Nelson
Andres Salazar
Sheree Sample-Hughes

STAFF PRESENT

Kristi Pier (MDH)
Jessica Rose-Malm (MDH)
Amanda Distefano (MDoA)
Lisa O'Connor (MDoA)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Eric Colchamiro, Alzheimer's Association
Joy Davis, Baltimore City Health
Department
Michael Ellenbogen
Kate Gordon
Verna Jones-Rodwell
Jenna LoveJoy
Jennifer McGinley
Lynn Phan, Alzheimer's Association
Yolanda Wright, Alzheimer's Association

I. Meeting Opening

Dr. Quincy Samus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

II. Welcome and Business

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

Roll Call: Jessica Rose-Malm took roll call. A quorum of Council members was present.

Consideration/Approval of October 2022 Minutes: Caitlin Houck moved to approve the October 26, 2022 meeting minutes. Claudia Thorne seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

1. Final Review and Vote on Council Bylaws

Pamela Williams presented the final draft of the ADRD Council Bylaws. Dr. Halima Amjad moved to hold a vote to approve the bylaws and Jacqueline Bateman seconded the motion. A vote to approve the bylaws proceeded and the 12 Council members in attendance voted unanimously to approve the bylaws.

2. Discussion of Adding Member Seats

Dr. Quincy Samus provided an overview of the Council's efforts to identify gaps in knowledge and expertise among Council members, noting there are currently 2 open seats for healthcare professionals and one open seat for a human service professional. Key gaps included a person living with dementia, social determinants of health experts, special populations including people with disabilities, and the aging workforce. Council members discussed using this information when recruiting new members to fill the vacant seats, and working to engage external presenters/experts to contribute expertise without formal addition of seats. With regard to a seat for a person living with dementia, Caitlin Houck moved to identify a seat for a person living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment and Ernestine Jones-Jolivet seconded the motion. The Council will hold a special meeting prior to the April quarterly meeting to vote on adding a seat for a person living with dementia or mild cognitive impairment.

3. Implementation Workgroup Summaries

- **Workgroup 1- Goal 1 (Dr. Cynthia Fields):** Workgroup 1 has not met since the October Council meeting and hopes to have more substantial updates at the April meeting.
- **Workgroup 2- Goals 2 & 3 (Claudia Thorne):** Workgroup 2 identified two priorities: 1) a needs assessment reaching people living with dementia, caregivers, and other stakeholders; and 2) dissemination of resources, including training resources and comprehensive information about ADRD. The Workgroup identified potential speakers to educate the Council on these topics (e.g., MedChi, Maryland Hospital Association) and potential funding opportunities through the Weinberg Foundation and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to support the work. Council members pointed out the importance of aligning these activities with MDH's current dementia efforts and the Dementia Director.
- **Workgroup 3- Goals 4 & 5 (Pamela Williams):** Workgroup 3 prioritized a voluntary income tax checkoff for ADRD research and increasing use of statewide surveillance and healthcare utilization data. The Workgroup only has two members and needs additional support to take action and advance these priorities.

4. MDH Updates

Kristi Pier from the MDH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control provided updates on the Dementia Director position and spending activities. MDH is currently in the first round of interviews for the Dementia Director position. All \$3.5 million in special funds are obligated and MDH is moving as quickly as possible to get the funds out to contractors and partners. MDH has released three requests for applications to support community-based ADRD outreach and education among the public, ADRD caregivers, and healthcare providers. MDH is also finalizing a contract to develop multimedia creative messages and assets for an ADRD awareness campaign. Additional funding is going to Baltimore City Health Department and Charles County Health Department for community outreach and engagement and work with healthcare providers. MDH will also apply for the CDC's BOLD grant, which includes significant collaboration with the Council to implement the State Plan.

5. Council Chair Transition and Presentation of Nominees

Dr. Samus announced at the October meeting that she would step down as Chair in 2023. MDH opened a self-nomination process in December and received one nomination. Dr. Halima Amjad expressed interest in serving as Chair and briefly spoke about her experience as a physician,

researcher, advocate, and former family caregiver. As a geriatrician at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Amjad diagnoses and works closely with people experiencing dementia and their caregivers. Dr. Amjad also conducts health services and dementia care research, and sits on the board of the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration. Jacqueline Bateman moved to hold a vote on approving Dr. Amjad as Council Chair. Claudia Thorne seconded the motion. The Council members voted unanimously to approve Dr. Halima Amjad as Chair of the Virginia I. Jones ADRD Council.

6. Legislative Update: Senate Bill 228

Dr. Samus noted a bill of interest to the Council had been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly. Senate Bill 228 “Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Programs” is similar to a bill the Council reviewed in the 2022 legislative session. MDH staff will send the bill out for Council members to review and will schedule an ad hoc meeting to discuss and vote on taking a position.

7. Public comment period

Dr. Samus opened the meeting for public comment. Michael Ellenbogen expressed frustration with the Council for not yet approving a seat for a person living with dementia. Ms. Pier noted the seat was removed in the 2019 reauthorization of the Council and Open Meetings Act rules require public notice of a vote prior to holding the vote. Verna Jones-Rodwell thanked the Council, Dr. Samus, MDH, and the Department of Aging for their efforts to develop and implement the State Plan. Ms. Jones-Rodwell encouraged the Council to take a more active role in the legislative process, and to invite greater participation from community members in implementing the State Plan. Eric Colchamiro expressed appreciation for the Council and MDH and asked Council members to focus taking action to implement the State Plan.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Samus moved to close the meeting and Evie Vander Meer seconded. Dr. Samus closed the meeting at 2:44pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 26, 2023