

Massachusetts Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and All Other Dementias

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Secretary Elizabeth Chen – Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) (<i>chair</i>)	X	X
2	Susan Antkowiak – Alzheimer's Association - MA/NH Chapter	A	X
3	Hugo Aparicio – Boston University School of Medicine	X	X
4	Andrew Budson – VA Boston Healthcare System	X	X
5	Jatin Dave – Chief Medical Officer, MassHealth	X	X
6	Brent Forester – McLean Hospital, Mass General Brigham	-	X
7	Patricia Jehlen – Mass. Senate	X	-
8	Rhiana Kohl – Caregiver	X	X
9	Barbara Meehan – Alzheimer's Advocate/Former Caregiver	X	X
10	Hector Montesino – Alzheimer's Advocate	X	X
11	Bernice Osborne-Pollard – Caregiver	-	-
12	Linda Pellegrini – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X
13	Christine Ritchie – Department of Public Health (DPH)	A	X
14	Heather Sawitsky – Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.	A	X
15	Thomas Stanley – Mass. House of Representatives	A	X
16	James Wessler – Alzheimer's Association	X	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Secretary Chen called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Secretary Chen introduced two new members of the Council: Representative Thomas Stanley filling the seat formerly occupied by Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Dr. Christine Ritchie, filling the DPH seat formerly occupied by Jim Lavery.

Vote I to approve the 2/7/2023 minutes: Secretary Chen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on February 7, 2023. Ms. Meehan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wessler and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Chen welcomed three presenters to speak on the challenges around accessing dementia care in communities of color. During the discussion, she noted that Council staff encountered difficulties recruiting caregivers to speak on this topic, which may be attributed to the scheduling of the meeting, the public nature of the meetings, which might have contributed to a general reluctance to speak in front of the group.

Dr. Carl Hill, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at the National Office of the Alzheimer's Association, and Kevin Reynolds, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair, Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter, presented on the challenges around accessing dementia care in communities of color. Among the topics discussed were the need for representation and cultural competence in the dementia care setting; challenges to accessing education regarding dementia care and dementia treatment in communities of color; taking into account the impact that stigma and historical mistrust of medical and research community can have on access to dementia care; the importance of seeking out novel approaches to increasing awareness about the disease and care options.

During his presentation, Dr. Hill shared a link to the Alzheimer's Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Report: <https://www.alz.org/about/our-commitment-to-diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-report>

The third presenter, Leo Foster, a dementia caregiver from Springfield, encountered technical difficulties and was unable to participate on the call.

Secretary Chen invited Zelmon Johnson, Chair of the Springfield Dementia Friendly Coalition to speak. Chair Johnson emphasized the importance of a neighborhood-by-neighborhood approach to raising awareness about ADRD, speaking with community members individually to foster trust in the healthcare system and increase access to dementia care.

Dr. Aparicio and Dr. Dave presented on the work of the Council's Equity and Inclusion team, which included a review of state-specific data related to dementia, investigating which groups across the state are the most disproportionately affected by barriers to dementia information, care, services, and support. They highlighted the results of this data review, which revealed certain geographic areas, such as Springfield, that could be targeted for specific ADRD awareness campaigns based on the high percentage of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino older residents. As a result, they recommended that the Council and its workgroups consider geographic disparities while developing and implementing their recommendations, and adopting the guiding principles around anti-amyloid treatment to promote equitable access across the spectrum and eliminating barriers by addressing the factors that drive them, such as culture, language, poverty. For additional details, refer to the Equity and Inclusion team's slides within the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Chen introduced Dr. Stephen Bonasera, Chief of the Division of Geriatrics & Palliative Care and Medical Director of the Baystate Memory Assessment and Care Clinic in the Department of Medicine at Baystate Medical Center. Dr. Bonasera provided an overview of the work of the Council's newly-established workgroup on Interprofessional Dementia Care. During his presentation, Dr. Bonasera noted that support for caregivers of people living with dementia should be caregiver-focused, patient-focused, and health system-focused. He highlighted innovative dementia care models from the past several decades, noting that research points to the benefits of coordinated, team-based approaches to ADRD care. For additional details,

refer to the Interprofessional Dementia Care workgroup's slides within the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Chen thanked presenters and stated that the next Council meeting would be scheduled for November 7, 2023.

Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting: Secretary Chen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Dave introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wessler and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Chen adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Meeting Materials

1. Draft 2/7/2023 meeting minutes
2. Council meeting presentation