

Alzheimer's Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2021
3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 4:50 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2
1	Secretary Elizabeth Chen – EOEA (<i>chair</i>)	X	X
2	Susan Antkowiak – Alzheimer's Association - MA/NH Chapter	X	X
3	Michael Belleville – Alzheimer's Advocate	X	X
4	Jatin Dave – Chief Medical Officer, MassHealth	X	X
5	Tricia Farley-Bouvier – MA House of Representatives	X	X
6	Rhiana Kohl – Caregiver	A	X
7	James Lavery – DPH	X	X
8	Barbara Meehan – Alzheimer's Advocate/Former Caregiver	X	X
9	Hector Montesino – Alzheimer's Advocate	X	X
10	Linda Pellegrini – UMass Memorial Medical Center	X	X
11	Heather Sawitsky – Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.	X	X
12	James Wessler – Alzheimer's Association	X	X
Members not in attendance			
13	Maura Brennan – Baystate Health	-	-
14	Andrew Budson – VA Boston Healthcare System	-	-
15	Jonathan Jackson – MGH	-	-
16	Patricia D. Jehlen – MA Senate	-	-
17	Bernice Osborne-Pollar – Caregiver	-	-

* (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.

Vote 1 to approve the 5/5/2021 minutes: Secretary Chen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's last meeting on May 5, 2021. Mr. Wessler introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Montesino and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Chen provided introductory remarks and read a written update from George Zachos, Executive Director of the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM), which noted that BORIM is developing guidance for physicians related to the Acts of 2018 Chapter 220, with the intent of having the Board consider the proposed guidance at the next BORIM meeting in October. The law requires physicians to inform family members of their patients' diagnoses of dementia.

Mr. Wessler and Representative Farley-Bouvier delivered a presentation and facilitated a discussion on the implementation of the Diagnosis and Services Navigation workstream's two recommendations from the Alzheimer's State Plan. The recommendations include: 1) significantly increasing the numbers of undiagnosed or cognitively impaired residents who are diagnosed with dementia and informed of their diagnosis; and 2) ensuring that after a dementia diagnosis, individuals and their families have access to comprehensive information and care planning services. Mr. Wessler updated the Council and facilitated a discussion around the work of the Diagnosis Team including the development of a clinician toolkit, increased awareness of mandated disclosures to caregivers, and a pilot program related to practice change in primary care. Representative Farley-Bouvier updated the Council and facilitated a discussion around the work of the Services Navigation Team, and highlighted a resource for newly-diagnosed individuals developed by the National Institute on Aging (<https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/next-steps-after-alzheimers-diagnosis.pdf>). For additional details on the Diagnosis and Services Navigation workstream's presentation, refer to the group's slides within the Council's presentation on the Alzheimer's Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Chen invited workstream leads to report on and discuss the progress of their work with the Council.

- Ms. Pellegrini provided brief updates and led a discussion around the implementation of the Quality of Care workstream's recommendations around the development of a person-directed care plan framework and template.
- Ms. Meehan and Mr. Montesino provided updates and led a discussion around the four implementation teams of the Caregiver Support and Public Awareness workstream focused on the following: 1) production of a series of videos for family caregivers to raise awareness of available supports; 2) the development of resource pages within the Executive Office of Elder Affairs' website highlighting dementia services, information, and resources for caregivers and people living with dementia; 3) efforts to reinforce cross-referrals between Aging Service Access Points (ASAP) and the Alzheimer's Association as a standard practice; and 4) efforts to improve the experience of family caregivers within the aging network.
- Dr. Dave and Mr. Lavery presented updates on work associated with the Public Health Infrastructure workstream. They discussed plans for forming a team to begin its work in 2022, which will include a review of risk factors and risk reduction approaches indicated in the Alzheimer's State Plan and exploration of potential approaches promoting effective use of community health workers for risk reduction and services navigation.
- Secretary Chen provided updates on the Equitable Access and Care workstream, led by Dr. Jackson, which will include the formation of an Equity and Inclusion Consultancy to advise each of the Council's implementation teams on issues around equity and inclusion. She also noted that a Younger-Onset and Equity Analysis Team led by Dr. Kohl has been formed to conduct an analysis of the needs of people affected by younger-onset dementia.
- Secretary Chen provided updates on the Research workstream, led by Dr. Budson, which will explore collaborations with for-profit and non-profit research organizations to design approaches to

achieve specific diversity objectives, and secure private funds for small research support grants designed to advance diversity.

- Secretary Chen provided updates on the Physical Infrastructure workstream, which is focused on raising awareness of age and dementia friendly design and incorporating age and dementia friendly scoring criteria into at least one state-funded physical infrastructure project in 2022. She highlighted the development of a draft guide on dementia friendly physical infrastructure and collaborations with the Mass. Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Board and MassDOT's Complete Streets and Shared Streets and Spaces programs.

Secretary Chen noted that the Council's next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2021 and will include presentations from the Physical Infrastructure workstream.

Vote 2 to adjourn:

Secretary Chen requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Montesino introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lavery and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.