

Alzheimer's Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020
3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Start time: 3:00 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

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

* (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 8/25/2020 minutes: Secretary Chen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's last meeting on August 25, 2020. Rep. Farley-Bouvier introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Meehan and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Chen reviewed the meeting's agenda and invited the respective leads of the Council's workgroups to provide brief updates on each of the groups discussions to date.

1. Mr. Lavery provided a brief update on the grant proposal submitted in May 2020 to the CDC for the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Initiative. Secretary Chen noted that while the Council did not receive the grant, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs agreed to fund the caregiver module of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), which was included in the grant proposal.
2. Ms. Pellegrini provided a brief update on the Quality of Care Workgroup's discussions, noting that the group met twice in September and has developed recommendations and identified gaps in quality of care. The group is focusing on two priority gaps: 1) lack of a comprehensive ongoing assessment and person-centered, person-directed care planning; and 2) insufficient training, retention of staff, and lack of professional teams in all settings.
3. Mr. Wessler provided a brief update on the Diagnosis and Services Navigation Workgroup. He noted that the group met once in October and identified two priority goals: 1) significantly increase the numbers of undiagnosed or cognitively impaired residents who are diagnosed with dementia and informed of their diagnosis; and 2) ensure that after diagnosis, individuals and their families have access to comprehensive information and care planning services.
4. Dr. Budson provided a brief update on the Research Workgroup, which developed a summary of the status of Alzheimer's research and is in the process of finalizing its recommendations, which include increasing diversity in Alzheimer's research.
5. Dr. Jackson provided an update on the Equitable Access and Care Workgroup, which met once and identified two priorities for the group's work: 1) close the informational gap and address barriers in clinical care, and 2) address the fragmentation of care access, care planning, and dementia services.

Dan Zotos, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, and Ms. Antkowiak provided an update on the status of progress made so far on the dementia-related requirements of Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018. For additional details, refer to the presentation on the Alzheimer Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials – October 27, 2020 webpage](#).

Pam MacLeod presented on the Physical Infrastructure Workgroup's discussions and recommendations, highlighting key elements of dementia friendly physical infrastructure. For additional details on the workgroup's recommendations and implementation strategies, refer to the presentation on the Alzheimer's Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials – October 27, 2020 webpage](#).

In response to the Physical Infrastructure Workgroup's presentation, Rep. Farley-Bouvier recommended that an Age and Dementia-Friendly component be added to the scoring for all infrastructure projects.

Vote 2 to approve motion for Council look into scoring: After members discussed aspects of the proposal, Secretary Chen requested a motion to vote on an additional charge for the Council, with the intent to explore whether an Age and Dementia-Friendly component could be added to the scoring for all

grant-funded infrastructure projects in the Commonwealth. Mr. Belleville introduced a motion, which was seconded and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Ms. Meehan and Mr. Montesino, co-leads of the Caregiver Support and Public Awareness Workgroup, presented the workgroup's recommendations and implementation strategies around the first of the workgroup's two goals. Due to limited time, Secretary Chen informed the Council that the workgroup would have an opportunity to present its recommendations and strategies around its second goal at the next Council meeting. For additional details on the workgroup's recommendations and implementation strategies, refer to the presentation on the Alzheimer's Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials – October 27, 2020 webpage](#).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.