

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

Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2023
3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, November 7, 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	X	X
3	Hugo Aparicio – Boston University School of Medicine	-	X
4	Andrew Budson – VA Boston Healthcare System	X	-
5	Jatin Dave – Chief Medical Officer, MassHealth	X	X
6	Brent Forester – McLean Hospital, Mass General Brigham	X	X
7	Patricia Jehlen – Mass. Senate	-	-
8	Rhiana Kohl – Caregiver	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)	-	X
14	Heather Sawitsky – Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.	-	X
15	Thomas Stanley – Mass. House of Representatives	X	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.

Vote 1 to approve the 8/8/2023 minutes: Members voted to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on August 8, 2023 by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Chen welcomed a panel of three individuals – Dale Chin, Jun Yang, and David Ho – to share their personal experiences caring for loved ones with dementia. During the discussion, the panelists highlighted a number of challenges in caring for family members with dementia, including the complexity of navigating the health insurance system and lack of awareness about the services and supports insurance covers. They provided examples of the help they received while acknowledging that the support was serendipitously discovered. The panelists, each of Asian descent, highlighted the specific language and cultural barriers that have presented challenges in seeking care for their family members. Panelists emphasized the importance of participating in a caregiver support group to both connect with others experiencing similar challenges and share helpful resources, although not all of them knew about such groups.

All three panelists said they have no one to call in the middle of the night when they need help. Ms. Meehan encouraged them to contact the Alzheimer's Association 24-hour helpline (1-800-272-3900) when in need of support. Members highlighted that the helpline provides support in over 200 languages using phone interpretation services.

Dr. Budson left the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Secretary Chen introduced Patty Sullivan and James Fuccione from the Physical Infrastructure Workgroup to share updates on their group's discussions and recommendations. Mr. Fuccione highlighted the group's accomplishments, which included widespread distribution of the Council's physical infrastructure guide to numerous stakeholders across the state. As part of their presentation, they explained that the workgroup has built partnerships with design, planning, and procurement communities to raise awareness of the importance of age and dementia-friendly design. For additional details, refer to the Physical Infrastructure Workgroup's slides within the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Link to the Age and Dementia Friendly Design Considerations for Physical Infrastructure guide:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/af-df-design-considerations-for-physical-infrastructure-0/download>

Ms. Antkowiak and Ms. Pellegrini presented the Care Planning Workgroup's progress and recommendations. Ms. Antkowiak highlighted the group's accomplishments, which included the development of a coded analysis of themes identified through the focus groups that the workgroup previously organized. In addition, the workgroup's newest member, Dr. Rachel Broudy from Ariadne Labs, presented on the development and utilization of person-driven care planning models. For additional details, refer to the Care Planning Workgroup's slides within the meeting presentation on the Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Chen thanked presenters and explained that the planned discussion of early dementia detection and diagnosis that was bumped from the afternoon's agenda would be included in the Council's next meeting scheduled for February 6, 2024. Secretary Chen requested that in the meantime, members consider recommendations that they may want to include in the Council's annual report.

Vote 2 to adjourn the meeting: Secretary Chen requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Meehan introduced the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Forester 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 8/8/2023 meeting minutes
2. Council meeting presentation