

Alzheimer's Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2020

3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 4:50 pm

Location: McCormack Building, One Ashburton Place, 21st Floor, Boston, MA

Members present:

- Marylou Sudders—Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Chair)
- Jim Lavery—Department of Public Health
- Elizabeth Chen— Executive Officer of Elder Affairs
- Andrew Budson—VA Boston Healthcare System
- Robin Callahan—MassHealth
- Rhiana Kohl—Caregiver
- Barbara Meehan—Alzheimer's Advocate/Former Caregiver
- Susan Antkowiak—Alzheimer's Association
- Bernice Osborne-Pollar—Caregiver
- Michael Belleville—Honorary Member
- Heather Sawitsky—Fox Hill Village Homeowners Corp.
- Rep. Ruth Balser—MA House of Representatives
- Jonathan Jackson—CARE Research Center, Mass. General Hospital
- Linda Pellegrini—UMass Memorial Medical Center

Members participating by phone:

- Maura Brennan—Baystate Medical Center
- Hector Montesino—Alzheimer's Advocate

Members absent:

- James Wessler—Alzheimer's Association
- Sen. Patricia Jehlen—MA Senate

Materials shared with members during the meeting:

- Meeting presentation
- Dementia friendly meeting checklist
- List of recommendations

Proceedings:

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. She welcomed members and announced that she would be delegating her seat as Chair to Secretary Chen so that Michael Belleville, an individual with lived experience, could assume Secretary Chen's seat on the Council. Secretary Sudders swore in Mr. Belleville and left the meeting room.

Vote 1 to approve the 12/17/2019 minutes: Secretary Chen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Council's previous meeting on December 17, 2019. Ms. Kohl introduced the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Jackson and approved unanimously by all members present.

Secretary Chen presented an overview of the Council's key accomplishments from the previous year, which included panel discussions with individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and their caregivers. Secretary Chen reviewed the Council's charges, which includes developing recommendations for the Alzheimer's State Plan. She noted that the Council had received close to 70 recommendations from Council members since the last meeting, which had been consolidated to a final list of 39 recommendations for consideration. Secretary Chen explained that the Council will be establishing workgroups in the near future that engage members of the Council around seven specific themes based on the recommendations members had proposed. She also asked the Council to consider its work around the 39 recommendations as a multiyear process. For additional details related to the Council's charges, accomplishments, and members' recommendations, refer to the presentation and list of recommendations posted online to the Alzheimer's Advisory Council's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Chen and Council staff facilitated a discussion of the Council's proposed workgroups. Key topics raised during the discussion included the potential value of integrating the principles of dementia friendly communities; equitable access to those activities and services; grant opportunities to pursue; and the importance of cognitive screening and early detection for individuals under age 65 during healthcare visits.

Summary of key decisions and next steps:

- Council staff to circulate poll to Council members regarding their workgroup preferences.
- Workgroups to begin identifying additional members outside the Council.
- Council staff to circulate to Council members links to the notices of upcoming calls for proposals from the CDC associated with the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure grant opportunities.

Vote 2 to adjourn: Secretary Chen requested a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and approved unanimously by all members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.