



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

NYS Coordinating Council for Services Related to Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia

Via Webex

Monday, December 21, 2020

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Council Members and Representatives:

Members Present:

Shelly Aubertine-Fiebich, John Cochran, Dr. Carl Cohen, Teresa A. Galbier, Dr. William Higgins, Catherine James, Jed A. Levine, Dr. Ralph Nixon, Greg Olsen, Susan Prendergast, Erin Purcell, Paula J. Rice, Elizabeth Smith-Boivin, Suzanne Sullivan

Absent: Dr. Louis Belzie

DOH Representatives Present:

Adam Herbst, Greg Bucher, Stephen Casscles, Meghan Fadel, Erin Fay, Maribeth Gnozzio, Thea Griffin, Maura Hurley, Jennifer Perry, Valeria Thomas, Charles Williams, Lynn Young

Welcome and Introductions

Maribeth Gnozzio, Director, Bureau of Community Integration and Alzheimer's Disease, DOH, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. She welcomed the Council to the meeting and introduced Adam Herbst. It is anticipated that DOH Commissioner of Health, Dr. Zucker, will appoint him as his council designee.

John Cochran, Council Co-Chair, also welcomed council members and requested a roll call. A quorum was achieved.

Approval of minutes: the minutes from the September 21, 2020 Council meeting were unanimously approved by all those in attendance.

Health Across All Policies and Age Friendly New York

Charles Williams, J.D., Senior Health Care Program Specialist, DOH, and Greg Olsen, Director, NYSOFA, explained the Health Across All Policies/Age Friendly New York purpose, components, and related initiatives. This includes the New York State Prevention Agenda and the State Public Health Improvement Plan. This plan has five priority areas, each with its own action plan. Key partnerships are required for the success of this plan. In 2017, NYS was designated as the first Age Friendly state. The Governor's Executive Order #190 institutionalized Age Friendly policies across state agencies and the NYS Prevention Agenda. Suggestions were offered as to the ways the Council can implement Goal 1, Recommendations 1, of the 2019 Council Report, particularly on what communities can do in refining their plans specific to AD/D.

Vote on Final Draft of Council By-Laws

Stephen Casscles, Associate Counsel, Division of Legal Affairs, DOH, indicated that, as agreed upon by the Council at the September meeting, the final draft by-laws be put to a vote for adoption. By unanimous vote, the by-laws were adopted.

Treating Dementia Patients in the Time of Covid

Dr. Carl Cohen provided an overview of his team's experience at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease (CEAD) during Covid and, in particular, the use of telehealth to provide dementia care services and the team's ability to expand provider training during this time. About 20% of patients do not have the needed technology. Dr. Cohen indicated that atypical presentations of symptoms are being currently documented, noting that people recovering from Covid are showing cognitive and physical decline at greater rates. Dr. Higgins noted challenges specific to those who are disproportionately affected by Covid. The impacts of Covid on caregivers were also addressed. He noted that assessments and patient follow-ups, even over the phone, are important supports to the caregiver and facilitates information gathering from caregivers.

Services and Supports for Individuals with Dementia and Their Caregivers Activities of Goal 1, Recommendation 1, of the 2019 Council Report

State Agency Highlights:

State Education Department: Suzanne Sullivan reported that all professional education requires specific course content regarding Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, as well as a pre-licensing requirement in several professions.

Office of People with Developmental Disabilities: Susan Prendergast stated that all new employee orientation includes topics about dementia care.

Office of Children and Family Services: Shelly Aubertine-Fiebrich indicated that dementia training was also included in the new worker institute.

State Office for the Aging: Erin Purcell reiterated programming is provided to individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

Caregiver Support Initiative CEAD Highlights:

In the areas of provider training and capacity-building for early detection, Dr. Cohen noted that the CEADs at SUNY Downstate and the University of Rochester are recipients of HRSA Geriatric Education Program funding to expand primary care provider training, as well as the use of ECHO to reach providers with case conferences and consultations on difficult to manage patients.

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Member Announcements

CaringKind is holding the annual Diversity Conference in February, which will be about lifestyle factors that place many cultural groups at higher risk. The flyer about this conference will be sent to the Council and the Alzheimer's Disease Program contractors.

Next Meeting

Council members were asked to submit agenda items for the March 8, 2021 Council meeting.

Subsequent 2021 Council meeting dates are: March 8, June 7, September 20, and December 3.

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.