



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging
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**Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023
Indiana Government Center South, Indianapolis, IN
Wabash Hall Conference Rooms 4 and 5**

Attendees were able to join virtually over Zoom.

The meeting was livestreamed and is available on the FSSA Indiana YouTube channel at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@fssaindianavideos/streams>

Dr. JoAnn Burke, Commission on Aging Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. EDT.

Members in attendance: Chair Dr. JoAnn Burke, Vice Chair of Programs Dr. Katie Ehlman, Vice Chair of Partnerships Judith Schoon, Secretary Dan Mustard, Kelli Tungate, Debra Lambert, Jennifer Lantz, Becky Anspach, Barbara Blackford

Members not in attendance: Robert Bischoff, Megan Springer, Margaret Smith, James Goen

Dr. Burke welcomed two new members to the Commission on Aging, Becky Anspach and Barbara Blackford. These new members introduced themselves to the rest of the Commission members and meeting attendees.

Dr. Burke asked for additions and/or corrections to the January 2023 minutes, and then for an approval motion for not only January, but all prior minutes that have been on hold pending a quorum. A motion was made for approval by Jennifer Lantz, and a second by Kelli Tungate. All minutes were approved.

Dr. Burke advised that all current officers on the Commission on Aging board have agreed to serve another year if this is acceptable and voted on by members. Deb Lambert put forth a motion to keep the current slate of officers, and a second by Kelli Tungate. The officers were re-elected for one more year.

Leslie Huckleberry, Director of the Division of Aging, shared that on March 1, 2023, it was announced that the award for the RFP for Indiana Pathways for Aging/mLTSS program is going to four Managed Care Entities: Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Humana Healthy Horizons in Indiana, Molina Healthcare of Indiana, and United Healthcare Community Plan. Leslie explained there will be a lengthy and robust implementation and readiness review process that will begin soon, as well as contract negotiations with those entities. She said an update from Medicaid at the May meeting would walk the Commission through that plan and process. There is a standing agenda item for every meeting for FSSA updates, and the Division of Aging would like to incorporate these updates from not only the Division of Aging, but also from the Office of Medicaid Policy and



Planning (OMPP), and the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), on issues relating to aging individuals.

Leslie also discussed the frequent question regarding marketing and communications regarding Indiana Pathways for Aging. She explained that the state has contracted with McFarland, a public relations firm, that has come on board to help with the design and management of that communications and marketing plan for Pathways. More to come as the Division of Aging and McFarland will be reaching out for assistance with this plan and implementation in the future.

Vanessa Convard, Director, Service Enrichment & Advancement/Director, Adult Protective Services in the Division of Aging presented an overview of the Enrollment Services Vendor process. Time is being taken to ensure a person-centered process is forthcoming. She outlined the scope of services and took questions throughout the presentation. The Managed Care Entity will prepare the service plan with the consumer with waivers that includes home and community-based services once the ESV process is complete. The ESV will walk through the process with the consumer.

The advisory committee's reports were rescheduled to this meeting. These committees are meeting, and are very important, so it is imperative that the Commission talk about what is going on with these committees. Dr. Burke explained that she is the chair of the Living Longer Living Better collaborative which helps local communities become more age and dementia friendly. She is hopeful that local public libraries can become an information resource for their communities.

Judith Schoon reported that the Shared Decision-Making committee has had a couple of meetings, and an outline of plans was provided to, and has been approved by the committee. An email summary was sent out, and the committee is awaiting feedback for moving forward.

Deb Lambert updated information about the Emergency Housing advisory committee. They are looking at writing policies and procedures that can be presented to the Commission, and then hopefully, to Dr. Rusyniak. She would like to present formally at the July meeting.

Family Caregiving Supports is rather low for our state, 44th in the nation. Megan Springer is the chair of this committee and is also dealing with personal loss. Barbara Blackford and Dr. Burke will be talking with Megan to see if they can help with moving this committee along.

Dan Mustard updated the Commission regarding housing supports in connection with long term supports and services. He listed the committee members and shared the purpose statement. It reads, in part, "to explore affordable housing options with supports for older adults in conjunction with Indiana's transition to managed long-term services and supports. Housing models will reflect the belief in the provision of care in the least restrictive and safest environment while empowering older adults to enjoy maximum independence." While this is a broad statement, there is a lot of information-gathering happening right now. Dan asked if there is a formal discussion at the Division of Aging regarding the model that is currently used for people with disabilities, supported living. One possibility might be that folks would pool resources and rent a house, then have staff supported through Medicaid waiver. The obvious two obstacles to this would be enough suitable homes in particular areas, and enough staff to support them. Another possibility would be advocacy for zoning opportunities for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and multi-family dwellings. Dan offered a written report that could be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Dr. Burke followed with a reiteration of the zoning issues plaguing communities, and the aging population's dire need for services that include congregate living in areas that are not communal-friendly due to zoning. Housing costs have priced aging Hoosiers out of affordable senior housing. Seniors are moving in with family to have an affordable place to live and to get care. She asked Kelli about the structured family caregiver program and whether people are learning about the programs. Kelli pointed out that the state has required the

managed care entities to address the family caregiver as well as the consumer. She said the state is leading the country in building programs and services that are caregiver friendly. Kelli said the state is currently working to approve providers for a new service called caregiver coaching and behavior management. This was a waiver amendment that was effective January 1, 2023.

Dan Mustard reported that the Senior Center Coalition has been discussing substance and medication abuse and misuse in older adults. There was a very interesting conversation around managing challenging behaviors that was geared toward senior center staff and their interactions with those behaviors.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), updated regarding legislative actions. She spoke of several bills affecting older adults including affordable housing, insurance, dementia care, and simplified SNAP benefits. The goal is to provide continuity to our consumers. Kristen reported that it is National Nutrition Awareness month. The senior nutrition programs in the AAAs, as well as the Administration for Community Living that funds senior nutrition programs through the Older Americans Act, make a very big deal of nutrition awareness. The governor has declared this Nutrition Awareness Week, and a special meal will be served in congregate meal centers across the state in honor of this declaration.

Dr. Burke adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. EST.