



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging
MS 21, 402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083
TOLL FREE: 1-888-673-0002
FAX: 317-232-7867

**Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes
September 21, 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. Burke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Members in attendance: Dr. JoAnn Burke, Becky Anspach, Judith Schoon, Kelli Tungate, Jennifer Lantz, Katie Ehlman, James Goen

Members not in attendance: Margaret Smith, Dan Mustard, Megan Springer, Robert Bischoff

There was not a quorum, so the May and July minutes were filed for approval at a future meeting.

Dr. Burke introduced Cora Steinmetz, the new Medicaid Director. Cora gave a brief summary of her extensive history in Indiana government. She also mentioned that FSSA Secretary Dr. Dan Rusyniak tasked her with fostering strong relationships with the sister divisions within FSSA, especially the Division of Aging (DA), Division of Disabilities and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), and Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA). She will be working closely with those agencies to bring all into alignment with the Medicaid program.

Leslie Huckleberry, Director of the Division of Aging, provided an update on an issue raised at the July meeting by Judith Schoon regarding facilities that have closed, but space continues to be rented out to folks, and home health providers are being brought in. Leslie connected with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Long Term Care director who was unaware of this situation. The director continues to be actively engaged, but the investigation requires an actual location where this is happening so that a surveyor can go out and get a look at what is going on. At that point, an update will be provided with next steps.



Leslie also updated on the public health emergency that ended in May, and the unwinding period for flexibilities that were implemented for Medicaid waiver under Appendix K authority that will come to an end in mid-November. There was a 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) posted on the website to provide clarity of the flexibilities, which ones are ending or being made permanent. A question was put forth regarding the return of quarterly home visits which have been suspended for the last three years. Virtual visits were specifically addressed, and the wording is such that face-to-face is required and that virtual is not considered face-to-face. Also, expedited waiver eligibility (EWE) was discussed in July, and Leslie informed the Commission that approval was given to include EWE in the permanent A & D waiver. Indiana is the first state in the country to get EWE included in the 1915 (C) waiver.

Shannon Effler, Director of Geriatric Programs, Indiana University School of Medicine, presented an update on Indiana's Dementia Strategic Plan. Shannon replaces Dawn Butler as the coordinator of Indiana's Dementia Strategic Plan (DSP). She takes over this role with a wealth of experience and knowledge in this area, and a continued commitment to partner with the Division of Aging to keep this important work moving forward. Shannon asked the Commission to check over the members and affiliations of the steering committee, work groups, and advisory board to see if there is anyone or any group that is not being represented. Shannon and work group leaders gave an overview of issues that each group is facing, and the plans for addressing those issues. The DSP includes a report to be compiled and provided to legislators by December 1.

Dr. Burke advised that the Living Longer, Living Better Collaborative is involved in an upcoming meeting in rural Tipton County regarding 9-1-1, 2-1-1, and 9-8-8, and when it is appropriate to call one of these, and which one to call for what emergency. There has been confusion and misunderstanding regarding these programs and what they do. Collaboratives doing work like this are happening in communities statewide.

Shared Decision-making report by Judith Schoon advised that this committee is attempting to get CASAs into the courts for guardianship. This is proving to be quite the challenge, but the work is continuing.

Jennifer Lantz provided an update on Emergency Housing acknowledging the progress made by Deb Lambert who is heading up this committee. A scope of work agreement has been sent to Adult Protective Services (APS) who is looking to fund a designated number of groups to pilot this program. This committee is also working on policies and procedures that, once implemented, will provide each site with expectations and parameters for emergency housing.

Family caregiving advisory committee did meet with FSSA staff that is working on messaging for the PathWays program. Their work continues as they use various formats to get the word out about family caregiver supports that are available throughout the state.

The Housing Supports committee, headed by Dan Mustard, was reported on by Jennifer Lantz. Housing is still a very big issue in Indiana, and Dan is pulling together recommendations from different areas that need to be looked at for next steps. A summary of core issues is forthcoming.

IHCDA was discussed by Leslie Huckleberry in response to a question Dr. Burke raised during this report. IHCDA is in the middle of doing a housing feasibility study that is being funded with money from HCBS federal funds. A report will be shared in the upcoming months with results and recommendations regarding senior housing gaps across the state. Once this report is out, there will be a better understanding for developing additional recommendations and paths that can be used to address the housing needs of older adults around the state.

Dan Mustard, chair of the Housing Support Advisory Committee and Senior Center Coalition, will report at the next meeting.

Kristen LaEace, CEO, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A), began with an answer to previously discussed questions concerning mental and behavioral health. Katherine (Kate) Heger is the new Division of Mental Health and Addiction Older Persons Initiatives and Supported Employment director.

Kristen made a couple of points about the information in her packet. She reminded all regarding vaccine recommendations for the flu, RSV, and COVID. Free at-home COVID tests are available again at covidtests.gov. The National Council On Aging (NCOA) provides supports to senior centers as well as evidence-based healthy aging programming, and there is info in the packet about these. September is emergency preparedness month, and FEMA themed their month around older adult preparedness. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) publishes Hoosier Responder magazine with a circulation of around 50K. They reached out to Kristen regarding older adult preparedness. Both FEMA and ACL have resources on their website related to older adult, disabled persons, community, and pet preparedness. A point of discussion for the future may be how individual emergency preparedness could be embedded into care plans.

Kristen also touched on happenings in the federal arena. Medicare will be negotiating drug prices for some specific drugs, so there is information in the packet about that. CMS issued a rule around minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities and Medicaid institutional payment transparency reporting. There is information in the packet on this. Previous discussion on a rule that was out for comment concerning the Older Americans Act has generated information regarding the response by USAging.

Dr. Burke adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. (ET).