

# VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL

## MEMBERS

Quincy Samus, PhD, Chair  
Halima Amjad, MD, MPH  
Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Arnold Bakker, MA, PhD  
Jacqueline Bateman, DNP, RN, CHPN  
Cynthia Fields, MD  
Shannon Grogg  
Roseanne Hanratty  
Mary Jones  
Ernestine Jones-Jolivet  
Andre McDonald  
Cass Naugle  
Ana Nelson  
Sue Paul  
Sadie Peters, MD  
Nancy Rodriguez-Weller, RPh, FASCP  
Andres Salazar, MD  
Del. Sheree Sample-Hughes  
Dawn Seek  
Claudia Thorne  
Evie Vander Meer  
Liz Woodward

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
State of Maryland  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President of the Senate  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker of the House  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **RE: Chapters 410 and 411 of the Acts of 2019 (HB 571/SB 522) and Health General Article §13-3207 - 2020 Report of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council**

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Health-General Article, §13-3207, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Chapters 410 and 411 of the Acts of 2019, the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council (the Council) is directed to report on Council activities and recommendations on or before September 1 of each year.

Chapters 410 and 411 of the Acts of 2019 (HB 571/SB 522), effective July 1, 2019, extended the sunset date for the Council to September 30, 2024 and modified the required activities and membership of the Council. The Council is required to: (1) update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (the Plan) and advocate for the Plan; (2) examine the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders and their caregivers, and identify methods through which the State can most effectively and efficiently assist in meeting those needs; (3) advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy, funding, regulatory, and other issues related to individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders and their caregivers; and (4) develop and promote strategies to encourage brain health and reduce cognitive decline.

The Council re-formed in 2019 with a fully appointed membership. The Council's first meeting was held on November 1, 2019, at which time Dr. Quincy Samus, PhD, MS, was elected as Chair. In addition to her appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Dr. Samus is a health services researcher with a focus on dementia and memory disorders. As Chair, Dr. Samus led two council meetings in 2020 (January 11 and July 22), as well as two ad hoc conference calls to discuss bills proposed during the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session. Pertinent agenda items from the Council's 2020 meetings include:

January 22, 2020

- Presentation on Open Meetings Act compliance from Deborah Donohue, Office of the Attorney General.

February 3, 2020 (ad hoc call with quorum)

- Discussion of House Bill 456, "Public Health Outreach Programs - Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia," and vote to support the bill.

March 3, 2020 (ad hoc call with quorum)

- Discussion of Senate Bill 725, the cross-file of House Bill 456, and vote to support the bill.

April 29, 2020

- The April 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

July 22, 2020

- Discussion and review of timeline for completion of update to State Plan.

The Council's priority for the remainder of 2020 is to draft an updated statewide Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Action Plan. The Council has organized into five workgroups based on the following goal areas of the original 2012 Plan:

- Goal 1: Support Prevention and Early Detection
- Goal 2: Enhance the Quality of Care
- Goal 3: Enhance Supports for Individuals and Families
- Goal 4: Enhance Public Awareness
- Goal 5: Improve Data Capacity to Track Progress

The workgroups have been tasked with preparing an environmental scan of relevant national, state, and local initiatives, policies, or programs relevant to Alzheimer's disease and healthy brain aging. Council members are currently in the process of reviewing the previous plan and updating content using the best available public health, clinical, and scientific data.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Kristi Pier, Director of the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, at 410-767-6722 or [kristi.pier@maryland.gov](mailto:kristi.pier@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



Quincy Samus, PhD  
Chair, Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council

cc: Webster Ye, JD, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs  
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, Acting Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services  
Donna Gugel, MHS, Director, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Pamela R. Williams, MHA, Director, Cancer and Chronic Disease Bureau  
Sarah Albert, MSAR #12017