

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

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August 20, 2021

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 - 2021 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 State Plan) and advocate for the Plan; (2) examine the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders (ADRD) 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 ADRD and their caregivers; and (4) develop and promote strategies to encourage brain health and reduce cognitive decline.

In 2021, Council Chair Quincy Samus, PhD, led three full council meetings (January 27, May 14, July 28), with one full meeting pending at the time of this report (October 27). Dr. Samus also led the Council in three ad hoc conference calls to discuss bills proposed during the 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session (January 15 and 21, March 26). All meetings were held in accordance with Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirements and included a public comment period. Pertinent agenda items from the Council's 2021 meetings include:

January 15, 2021 (ad hoc call with quorum)

- Discussion of House Bill 119 and Senate Bill 313 (cross-files), “Maryland Department of Health - Public Health Outreach Programs - Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia,” and vote to support bills.

January 21, 2021 (ad hoc call with quorum)

- Discussion of House Bill 416 and Senate Bill 204 (cross-files), “Health Care Facilities - Assisted Living Programs - Requirements for Alzheimer's Special Care Units and Regulations,” and vote to support bills.

January 27, 2021

- Discussion and finalization of revised Council goals. Initial discussion of timeline for updates to State Plan and development of Council bylaws.
- Report out from workgroups on goal areas.
- Update on 2021 legislative session.

March 26, 2021 (ad hoc call with quorum)

- Discussion of House Bill 416 (third reader) and vote to support the bill.
- Discussion of Senate Bill 204 (third reader) and vote to support the bill.

*May 14, 2021

- Discussion regarding timeline for ADRD State Plan development, plan revision strategy, and public feedback.

*Full meeting rescheduled from April 28 due to MDH website updates. Meeting was posted in May 7 Maryland Register to remain OMA compliant.

July 28, 2021

- Discussion of Council bylaw draft for adoption by council.
- Update on Maryland ADRD State Plan development timeline.
- Discussion and vote on Maryland 2022-2026 ADRD State Plan goals for release to public for comment, with affirmative vote to release revised Goals to public for comment.
- Discussion and finalization of public comment strategy.

The Council’s priority for the remainder of 2021 is to continue to draft and update the State Plan. The Council has streamlined their workgroups and reorganized the original five Council goals to align with areas of need:

Goal 1: EXPAND EFFORTS TO SUPPORT PUBLIC AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND EARLY DETECTION OF ADRD

Goal 2: ENHANCE QUALITY, ACCESS, AND COORDINATION OF ADRD CARE

Goal 3: ENHANCE AND EXPAND SUPPORTS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

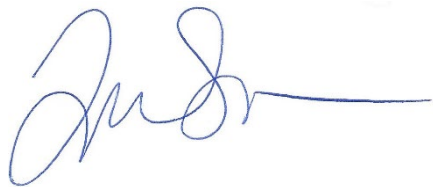
Goal 4: ADVANCE ADRD RESEARCH AND ENCOURAGE EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Goal 5: ENHANCE DATA CAPABILITIES RELATED TO DEMENTIA IMPACT AND EFFECTS OF INTERVENTIONS

In 2020, the workgroups were 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. In 2021, Council members expanded on these initial findings to create detailed recommendations for inclusion in the State Plan update. Between May and July 2021, each of the Council’s five workgroups outlined their recommendations during multiple individual presentation sessions. These presentations were recorded and distributed to the Council at large so that members could review each workgroup’s recommendations and provide feedback. The provided feedback and original recommendations were then collated and voted on during the full Council meeting on July 28, 2021.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Quincy Samus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

cc: Heather Shek, JD, MS, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs
Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP, 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