



ADRD Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 - Virtual only: TEAMS Conference Line

Attendance

Advisory Committee Member or Designee

Attendees:

Bayle, Victoria
Collette, Maria
Drake, Daniel
Galvan, Michael
Goldberg, Todd
Haeussler-Barnhart, Jennifer
Wood, Julia
Kavulich, Jason
Langerholc, Wayne
Lopez, Oscar
Madden, Maureen
Neatrou, Amanda
Nolen, Randolph
Noss, Katie
Perry, Anneliese
Sathian, Krishnankutty
Schlegel, John
Schmid, Helen
Sharp, Matthew
Sheth, Jignesh
Steinbacher, Julieanne
Wolk, David

ADRD Office Attendees:

Abbott, Meaghan
Douglas, Natalie
Muchinsky, Margo

Public Attendees:

Angelucci, Nora
Beckenbaugh, Greg
Barajas, Margaret
Bennet, Althea
Bonenberger, Stacie
Bowman, Jonathan
Boyle, Carol
Clark, Crystal
Cubit, Kathy
Daugherty, Kristin
Dragoun, Jennifer
Duke, Brian

Ebersole, Glenda
Fein, Leah
Fetter, Alexis
Flynn, Nicole
Forsburg, Asheleigh
Fox, Abby
Frymyer, Leslee
Gleeson, Janel
Gray, Karen
Holladay, Emily
Hudson, Jonathan
Kaplan, Alex
Kearney, Katherine
Lally, Patrick
Lampenfled, Nathan
Lane, Charlene
Lorah, Rebecca
Lyden, Timothy
Mah, Leann
Miller, Chuck
Morrell, Brooke
Murphy, Sara
Myers, Melissa
Olivas, Caitlin
Page, Deanna
Pierce, Jessie
Rayman, Luke
Reinhard, Christine
Ritchie, Tyler
Robey, Annmarie
Rodgers, Steve
Rose, Rachel
Schmid, Helen
Scott, Wendy
Shedaker, Steven
Sow, Oulimata
Szymanski, Gabrielle
Toth, Dave
Van Nortwick, Barbara
Wilk, Taryn
Winey, Jasmyn
Zechman, Andrew

*For a complete list of Advisory Committee Members, please see: [ADRD Advisory Committee Members](#)

Agenda Overview and Committee Role Call	Meaghan Abbott, ADRD Office Director, lead the meeting with review of agenda. Roll taken for Advisory Committee Members. A quorum was confirmed.
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Senator Maria Collett. The motion was seconded by Anneliese Perry. The motion carried unanimously.
Department of Aging – Governor's Budget Update	The Chair provided an overview of the Governor’s recent budget address, outlining proposed funding priorities and policy initiatives affecting older adults and the Department of Aging. The update included discussion of how the proposed budget may support ongoing programs and strategic goals Governor Josh Shapiro delivered the 2026-27 Budget Address to a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, outlining his executive budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget address formally kicked off the Commonwealth’s budget process for FY 2026-27 and set key fiscal and policy priorities for discussions with the General Assembly. Priorities identified by the Governor’s Budget: PA Link • As outlined within a tactic in Aging Our Way, PA the Department is undertaking a strategy to modernize PA Link, the Commonwealth’s Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) network • PA Link helps older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers access services and supports by offering coordinated resources, unbiased guidance, and assistance navigating programs • The network connects Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and other community-based organizations across 15 service areas to ensure seamless service delivery statewide • This investment will: ○ Strengthen service delivery and coordination across ADRCs ○ Advance the No Wrong Door system by closing gaps in access and navigation ○ Support implementation of the Aging Our Way, PA advisory committee’s recommendations to modernize and improve the network CAPE • In the 2025–26 enacted budget, PDA received \$2 million to strengthen oversight of AAAs by launching the Comprehensive Agency Performance Evaluation (CAPE), a tool that improves transparency and accountability by providing online report cards for each agency

- The new budget adds another \$2 million to continue this work, helping PDA identify and address service gaps while offering hands-on support to AAAs to better serve older adults.
- The proposal includes \$850,000 to expand CAPE evaluations and technical assistance for AAAs, plus \$150,000 to modernize data collection and improve program performance as well as public access to performance information

OAPSA

- Pennsylvania's Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA), enacted in 1987, is outdated and no longer reflects current risks facing older adults. Reports of abuse have risen sharply, up 62% in the last five years, which highlights the growing need for stronger protections.
- Financial exploitation, now one of the most common forms of abuse, is not covered under the law, underscoring the need to modernize OAPSA to address today's threats and challenges.

Department of Aging Updates

The Chair and Secretary presented an overview of recent activities and strategic priorities within the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA). Updates included progress on key initiatives, interagency collaboration efforts, and emerging opportunities impacting older adults across the Commonwealth.

Symposium

- The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) recently hosted its Alzheimer's, Dementia and Related Disorders (ADRD) Virtual Symposium to provide information and to highlight progress being made on issues related to ADRD, as well as resources available for Pennsylvanians and their loved ones who are living with ADRD.
- The ADRD Symposium attracted nearly 600 attendees and highlighted treatment breakthroughs, research and brain health, and caregiver support.
- In his remarks to attendees, Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich emphasized the need to build a world that supports those living with ADRD.

PA MEDI - Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight

- The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is now open through March 31, 2026.
- Beneficiaries with a Medicare Advantage plan can switch plans or return to original Medicare.
- Enrollment changes take effect the first day of the month after enrollment.
- PA MEDI offers free Medicare counseling through Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging.

Multidisciplinary Teams

- Five AAAs and/or AAA coalitions will be among the first to receive tailored support to develop Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs).
- MDTs help address complex older adult protective services cases.
- These community-based teams bring together professionals from social services, criminal and civil justice, mental health, medicine, finance, and public health.
- The goal is to strengthen collaboration and improve outcomes while protecting older Pennsylvanians from abuse

Research

- A funding win from last year's budget, recently highlighted by the Governor during a visit to University of Pittsburgh, will support neurodegenerative disease research
- Administered by the Department of Health (DOH), the funds will be awarded through competitive grants
- Eligible institutions will conduct research on Alzheimer's, ALS, Parkinson's, and related disorders
- Grant applications are expected to open later in 2026
- Pennsylvania's leading research institutions position the Commonwealth to advance earlier detection, improved treatments, and potential cures.

Long Term Care Council – Direct Care Blueprint

- Our team is currently working to update the Direct Care Workforce Blueprint, which was [originally published in 2019](#).
- As part of this update, we are doing a survey of direct care workers. If interested, please share with your networks.
- [Survey Link](#)

PA CareKit Update and Next Steps

- Printed materials have been delivered to community partners such as libraries, AAAs, and legislative offices.
- Chinese and Spanish PDFs/printables of all the resource guides are being finalized.
- We received a grant from ACL to support our work and expand the reach and evaluation of the CareKit.

DOH Updates – Long Term Care Transformation Office - Director Andrew Zechman

An update was presented from the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Long-Term Care Transformation Office outlining recent work to bolster support for long-term care providers. The update highlighted ongoing partnerships, workforce development strategies, and initiatives designed to promote sustainable resiliency and quality improvement in long-term care settings.

Long Term Care Transformation Office (LTCTO) Vision

- Originally established to facilitate crisis response for COVID and prep for future pandemic threats
- Now focusing on strengthening facilities through early intervention
- Created RISE and QIP for targeted support

LTC RISE (Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment)

- A program designed to support LTC facilities in battling COVID-19, improving infection prevention, and building long-term operational resilience
- Program focusses on education around many facility topics with a focus on workforce development
- 60% of PA facilities have utilized RISE for education and training for staff
- Almost 130 facilities have achieved Level 1 or 2 IHA in the program
- ADRD training for staff is one of the many offerings of RISE

LTC Quality Improvement Programs (QIP)

- The programs focus on enhancing LTC facilities through financial incentives programs
- Impact on Communities
 - 1.27% drop in readmissions; fewer ED visits
 - 56% drop in survey citations = fewer penalties and fines
 - 27% reduction in staff vacancy
 - Turnover Reductions saving \$700,000K-\$4.4M/year
 - 4.5/5 program satisfaction from facility leadership

Facility Level Implementation Highlights from the LTCTO

- Virtual Dementia Tour – Experiential Workforce Training
 - Hands-on dementia simulation experience, highly valued as a training tool
 - Allows staff to experience sensory and cognitive challenges of dementia, increasing empathy from staff
 - Tour is being utilized by both RISE and QIP
- Developed internal Train-the Trainer model for ongoing staff education
- Staff training conducted around therapeutic voice techniques
- Integrated strengths-based, person-centered programming into memory care units
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Certification obtained by facility staff after a 2-day Alzheimer's and Dementia Conference

LTCTO Next Steps

- Increase staff for greater OTC support
- Utilize VAULT educational materials
- Implement The Rural Health Transformation Program through QIP
 - Key Investment in Electronic Medical Record deployment
- The LTCTO is a non-regulatory state entity, so it is a safe partner for LTC facilities looking to improve
- The office hopes to coordinate National Academy for State health Policy priorities long-term

Workgroup Update/Tactic Review

The ADRD Office Director provided an update on the progress of active workgroups, highlighting recent accomplishments and milestones. She reviewed ongoing efforts related to the development of the state plan, including stakeholder engagement activities and timeline targets. The Director emphasized key areas of focus identified through workgroup discussions and outlined next steps for advancing the state plan goals. Committee members were apprised of anticipated deliverables and opportunities for future input.

ADRD State Plan Development

- As reviewed in previous meetings the ADRD Office is leading the development of a new state plan
- The forthcoming plan will utilize the established [Healthy Brain Initiative](#) (HBI) framework from the CDC and Alzheimer's Association
- Since the last Committee meeting, workgroups were based off the HBI to create and define tactics for the plan, which once complete will receive public and stakeholder feedback to help determine and set priorities
- 22 workgroup meetings have been held so far, that have developed 36 DRAFT Tactics from feedback provided by group members

Each workgroup focused on 1 of the 4 HBI Areas of Practice:

- Risk Reduction
- Early Detection and Diagnosis
- Caregiving
- Community and Clinical Linkages

Each workgroup created 2 tactics under each HBI Domain:

- Strengthen Partnerships and Policies
- Measure, Evaluate and Utilize Data
- Build a Diverse and Skilled Workforce
- Engage and Educate the Public

Next Steps

- ADRD team will compile feedback from the workgroups and Advisory Committee to finalize tactics
- Tactics were shared prior to the meeting, and will be sent with the minutes for additional review by the committee if they wish to provide feedback
- Once finalized, our workgroups will begin to create Action Plans for each Tactic
- The final plan will be brought to the committee for a vote in August

Committee Member Tactic Feedback:

- Suggestion to ensure Risk Reduction and Early Detection tactics are clearly aimed at Risk Reduction or Early Detection
- Concerned raised to ensure tactics are covering various health equity considerations and social determinates of health
 - Because the HBI is centered around health equity the plan will have larger storytelling portions to draw attention to various health equity considerations

- Many of the tactics on Measure, Evaluate and Utilize Data seem to support the GUIDE Program (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience Model) which is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiative. Will the GUIDE model be supported by these tactics?
 - The ADRD Office has met with several GUIDE programs and is exploring the best ways for the state to partner with and support these programs

**PA Link Refresh
Presentation –
Nathan Lampenfeld**

The Committee received a presentation on PA Link and the ongoing PA Link Refresh initiative. The presentation provided an overview of the PA Link network, its role in connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities to long-term services and supports, and its function as a trusted entry point for information and referral services across the Commonwealth.

Presenters outlined the goals of the PA Link Refresh, including efforts to modernize the system, strengthen service navigation, improve coordination among partners, and enhance the overall user experience. The update highlighted progress to date and anticipated next steps in implementation.

PA Link Refresh Overview:

- The PA Link is Pennsylvania's statewide access point for aging and disability services run through the Aging & Disability Resource Office (ADRO). Individuals can call PA Link, and a live person will assist them. The Link helps older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers find information, supports, and person-centered counseling to remain active in their communities
- The goal of the Refresh Plan is to redesign PA Link into a highly visible, reliable, and universal access point for aging and disability navigation services across the state

The Refresh Process:

- The Link program has not been treated with the attention that it needs to grow and remain comprehensive
- An Advisory Council was started which did extensive research and analysis on PA Link and other common practices
- The committee then evaluated the research and recommendations to develop a strategic plan for implementing improvement

Research Findings - Areas for Improvement:

- No clearly defined mission, direction, or unified leadership structure
- Inconsistent program quality, structure, and oversight (No dedicated ADRO Director)
- Service Area roles and workforce structure lack standardization
- Funding is insufficient, inequitable, and lacks accountability guidance
- Challenges in service delivery include gaps in Person-Centered Counseling policy, need for enhanced partner engagement, and insufficient staff and resources
- No enforceable statewide performance standards and outdated databases/resource systems that lack coordination
- Weak brand identity and low public awareness of PA Link services

Refresh Plan Goals:

- The Refresh seeks to
 - Strengthen leadership and internal infrastructure/oversight
 - Enhance partner network to be more capable, connected, responsive and inclusive
 - Improve customer experience by making the system easier to navigate and understand
 - Increase public awareness and visibility of PA Link so individuals and families know how to access help
 - Sustain continuous improvement through a culture of planning, enhancement, and long-term sustainability

Refresh Plan Stages:

- Phase 0: Prepare for Change – Build alignment and momentum through stakeholder engagement, communications, and public input.
- Phase 1: Disrupt – Reset direction by redefining mission, leadership, funding priorities, and core service focus.
- Phase 2: Reconstruct – Build the new operating model with formal governance, trained navigators and volunteers, reorganized structure, and strengthened systems.
- Phase 3: Enhance – Expand access, visibility, and coordination through integrated platforms, marketing, regional leadership, and streamlined services.
- Phase 4: Sustain – Ensure long-term success through performance measurement, continuous evaluation, modernized technology, diversified funding, and partner incentives.

Questions for Nathan:

- How does PA Link compare to PA Navigate?
 - PA Link is more specialized than 211, 211 is intended as a referral source for all human services
 - PA link is about someone to talk to, a holistic counseling and planning process where a live person can take their time to personalize resources and plans with the participant
 - PA Link helps with resource guidance, and can also assist with completing applications, person centered counseling and follow up after the initial call
- Has there been a pivot to consider the impact of the abolishment of Act 504?
 - ACT 504 is essential for working with and serving people with disabilities. 504 accessibility is a goal of the administration, the abolishment would not change our goals with the Link

Committee Member Updates**Stacie Bonenberger**

- If interested in learning more about the PA LTC Learning Network, please reach out to me bonenberger@jhfh.org
 - This is part of a quality incentive program for nursing facilities across PA in partnership with DHS|OLTL and the Managed Care Organizations

Michael Galvan

- Alzheimer's Association Annual State Advocacy Day in Harrisburg
 - Tuesday April 28 – [Register Here](#)
 - We will have free transportation from Southeastern PA and Pittsburgh for those interested

Anneliese Perry

- Join us for our April Dementia Friendly PA Webinar: Dementia Friendly PA Webinar Series: The Power of the Outdoors: Supporting Dementia Well-Being
 - Monday April 13 – [Register Here](#)

Julia Wood

- Webinar – Understanding Psychosis in Lewy body dementia: Hallucinations & Delusions: Making Sense of Psychosis in Lewy Body Dementia Hallucinations & Delusions: Making Sense of Psychosis in Lewy Body Dementia
 - Tuesday, February 24th at 2pm – with Dr. Greg Pontone
 - [Webinar Info Link](#)
- The Lewy Body Dementia Association is looking for health care systems that serve in rural areas and would like to have free clinical education on how to diagnose, treat, and support families with Lewy body dementia
 - Please email Julia for more information: Jwood@lbda.org

Resources Shared

- Governor Shapiro's Executive Budget - [2026-27 Budget Document](#)
- CAPE - [Area Agency on Aging Monitoring | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- Symposium - [Shapiro Administration Hosts ADRD Symposium, Provides Resources | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- PA MEDI - [Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Underway, PA MEDI Free Counseling Available | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams - [Aging Agencies to Receive Support to Develop Teams to Protect Older Adults | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Gov Shapiro Secures First-Ever Investment in Neurodegenerative Disease Research | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- [PA CareKit | Department of Aging | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Virtual Dementia Tour - Second Wind Dreams](#)

**Next Steps/Meeting
Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Senator Maria Collette
Second: Dr. Oscar Lopez