

## **PASC Board Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

January 27, 2021

#### **Call to order**

President Bobbi Manges called the meeting to order at 10:08am on January 27, 2021. This was a virtual meeting via Zoom.

#### **Attendance**

Bobbi Manges, Becky Klepadlo, Michael Dunn, Linda Thompson, Lisa Krout, Tammy Miller, Lisa Paulson, Melissa Weigle, Toni Mathis, Tami Boylan, Susan McIntyre, Renee Cunningham, Pat MacKenzie, Bill Pierce, Judy Holden, Vickie Burgess, Michele Haynes, Rose Pennavaria, Bridget Dennison, Erica Miller-Driscoll, Rose Richardson, Kim Rollinson, and Joyce Hardman. Roy Afflerbach and Hank Annoni also attended.

Bobbi shared the Kim Hoppe-Merlo has retired. Joyce will share Kim's contact information.

There are two openings in the NE Region; three openings in the NW Region; and one at large vacancy. Judy has a list of people that are interested in joining PASC.

#### **Senior Center Community College**

Pat MacKenzie introduced Matt Levine. Matt explained the programs offered by his organization. They include the "What a Waste" Program. Mike gave an overview of a two-year certificate program for Senior Center professionals. Cost is \$500/site/year; all staff would have access to the seven module trainings. Some are videos and some are more interactive.

Bobbi pointed out that at one point PASC offered a certificate program with Penn State; all in person classes.

Renee shared that she had been looking into the Penn State Program. Penn State is willing to put the program back together. It is for people who wish to begin the program as well as anyone needing to finish the program.

#### **Minutes**

Pat MacKenzie motioned; Rose Pennavaria seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

2020-2021 Proposed Budget- At the last meeting the 2020-2021 Budget was put on hold. Discussion included making changes due to the pandemic. Sponsor fees, conference exhibitor fees, conference revenue and expenses will be adjusted. Bobbi suggested adding a line item for Board Member donations- \$2,700. The revised 2020-2021 Budget will be posted on the new website.

Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget was presented by Renee; Tammy seconded it. The 2020-2021 revised Budget was approved.

PASC awards are will not be offered this year. Instead recognition awards will be offered.

Tammy is reaching out to sponsors to help pay for the website. Linda T. suggested perhaps they could get five minutes at the virtual conference for their sponsorship. Becky has the sponsorship letter that was used for conference. Tammy will need help to set up WuFoo form to link to the stripe account.

Mike will send the copy of the Board Members donation invoice to Joyce. Joyce will issue to all Board Members.

142 people participated in the October virtual conference. Registration brought in \$9,000. Hope that we can repeat that registration in April.

Bill will revise the advocacy letter with Roy's assistance. He will get it to Lisa P. for mailing.

### **President's Report**

PASC Presents- Bobbi shared PASC Presents will offer a craft class on Feb. 9. Tammy will add that to the Facebook Page.

PASC Presents will be free for PASC members. Do you think we should charge \$10 for non-members?

Motivation for Alcohol- PASU study. Joyce will forward information to all.

### **NISC Report**

Bill's report included an overview about the NISC Leadership Collaborative, its intention, goals and working structure and highlighted the work of the first Collaborative Meeting.

Bill's complete report is attached.

### **Advocacy Report**

Few notes from Roy's report included:

Harrisburg is a little scattered right now.

State considering Senior Center as vaccination sites. There are four criteria for consideration. The most important factor is the supply line and enough qualified staff.

Tammy feels this is the perfect time to too our own horns about how hard senior centers have been working.

Long term care facilities are not entitled to the stimulus checks that seniors receive.

Roy's full report is attached.

### **Board Discussion**

Bobbi asked is anyone had any thoughts about the Senior Center College presentation this morning. Melissa had some questions and would like to see additional information.

Renee shared an update on the Penn State Program. Penn State is willing to partner with PASC. The Senior Center Certificate Program would be 28-30 hours and consists of four core classes and eight elective classes.

Bill would like to see the Certificate Program offer more PA specific information like understanding the Pa APD and Adult Protective Service Law. He also thinks all new staff and Board Members should watch the "Junk Mail" video. Renee said it would cost about \$488 to receive a certificate. Renee and Bill will continue to work on this. Bill would like to help with PA specific topics.

**Junk Mail video:** <https://vimeo.com/142997373>

### **Regional Reports**

Central- planning a virtual training March 18. How to re-engage participants.

NE- Becky shared Zoom exercise classes. Her center has been open since June with an abbreviated schedule. Toni – is closed. Ericka is open five days a week with limited attendance. They are planning a regional training for June; hoping it can be an in-person event.

NW- only Tami and Samella; Bobbi will help to recruit Board Members.

SE- has not gotten together since October. They are considering using senior centers as vaccination sites.

SW- met yesterday for conversation, they have lots of common ground. They were not able to have their January training. They are considering a casual networking event.

## **Committee Reports**

Legislative- planning to send a general donation letter. Will help Tammy prepare a "white sheet" of facts for Roy to share. Roy says this is the perfect time to ask for donations because every center is getting a portion of the Senior Center Grant monies. Bill will contact Roy to revise the donation letter.

\*\* Deadline to get the letter to Lisa P. is two weeks. Lisa will mail the letter.

Membership- Judy reported that she got 7 or 8 email returns; and will investigate further. She asked Tammy how the online payment process would work.

Judy's contact email at home is: [mcmjkh@comcast.net](mailto:mcmjkh@comcast.net)

Public Relations- met last Thursday; finalizing the new website; working on adding a payment button. Tammy said that she is still planning to add the Board Member information that we completed last year. She is contacting potential sponsors to help pay for the website costs. Will post a website link on the Facebook page.

PASC Awards are changing. This year they will be Recognition awards and will be included on the website and Facebook page. Also, considering adding a resource page to the website.

Professional Development- Thursday, April 29 will be a virtual conference from 10am-3pm. Information offered will include diversity; dementia; winning back participants; and reducing stress. Hoping that several sessions will be continued in the fall conference. Melissa suggested a session on "Google Drive" or "Google Docs". Bobbi asked how many would consider going to an in-person conference in October. About half the Board did not feel ready or able to attend an in person conference.

PASC Presents will continue throughout the year will be free for PASC members and a nominal amount for non-members. Themes would include Make It Mondays; Talk About it Tuesdays; Work it out Wednesdays; Trending Thursday; and Find it Friday.

## **New Business**

Tammy asked we should look into a PPP loan. Mike will research to see if we are eligible.

Toni asked if there is an APD for requiring SafeServe for senior center staff. Bobbi said that she had asked Jill and it is not out yet.

## **Next PASC Board Meeting**

The next PASC Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 7. It will be a virtual meeting. Regions and Committees are encouraged to meet in advance.

## **Adjournment**

Mike motioned; Becky seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Hardman  
PASC Secretary

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Bill Pierce, Executive Director

[www.bvactiveaging.org](http://www.bvactiveaging.org)

Date: January 27, 2021

To: PASC Board of Directors

From: Bill Pierce, NISC Representative

Re: NISC Leadership Collaborative Report

Dear PASC Colleagues,

The inaugural NISC Leadership Collaborative has been busy over the past several months. The NISC Leadership Collaborative was formally introduced at the 2020 NCOA Age+Action Conference. My report is presented in two-parts, the first providing an overview of the Leadership Collaborative, its intentions, goals, and working structure, and the latter part, highlighting the work of the first Leadership Collaborative meeting.

#### **What is the NISC Leadership Collaborative?**

The NISC Leadership Collaborative will provide a cohesive national senior center network organized to participate in a collaborative learning environment, sharing best practices, national initiatives, strategies, and resources. The Leadership Collaborative will spur innovation and will identify national senior center leaders.

#### **Who will make-up the NISC Leadership Collaborative?**

The NISC Leadership Collaborative will welcome appointed state association leaders, nominated by their state association, network leaders, and where appropriate (e.g., no state association exists), leaders of NISC accredited senior centers.

#### **What does it mean to serve on the NISC Leadership Collaborative?**

- Collaborative Members will be tasked with sharing promising practices from their state, learning from other states, and engaging in NCOA and NISC initiatives by utilizing tools and resources and communicating that information back to their state colleagues.
- NCOA and NISC envision a mutually beneficial relationship through the collaborative anticipating that NCOA and NISC can benefit from the information and resources made available by the experts in the field and believe that state associations, such as PASC, will benefit by their exposure to learning the initiatives of other states, keeping abreast of trends and innovations, and by assembling resources for their membership.

#### **What will be the role of the PASC representative to the NISC Leadership Collaborative?**

NISC Leadership Collaborative members will be appointed by their state association and will serve a two-year term. At a minimum, NISC Leadership Collaborative members will be expected to:

1. Attend all quarterly conference calls and/or meetings
2. Support participation in a NISC Team by serving on at least one NISC Team
3. Meet in-person at the NCOA national conference, paying their own way
4. Share NCOA/NISC programs, initiatives, and relevant information to their state/state network

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### Organizational Meeting of the NISC Leadership Collaborative

On Thursday, December 3, 2020, the NISC Leadership Collaborative held their first official meeting since the formation of the Leadership Collaborative. As this meeting was largely organizational, much of the conversation was focused on introductions of new NISC staff, introductions of newly appointed Leadership Collaborative members, and testimonials from represented states allowing Leadership Collaborative members to get to know one another. After learning who the members were, NISC staff drove the conversation to collect anecdotal data for the National Council on Aging (NCOA). Specifically, the Collaborative discussed:

1. Thanksgiving and Christmas programming
2. Nutrition Services
3. End-of-year giving and fundraising
4. Anticipated new/discontinued services

For the second half of the meeting, NISC staff presented an overview of NISC Teams, introducing Collaborative members to Team Chairs and NCOA/NISC staff liaisons. It is the expectation of the NISC Leadership Collaborative that members will serve on at least one NISC Team.

### Assigned Leadership Team

As the PASC representative to the NISC Leadership Collaborative, I have been asked to serve on the NCOA Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. I look forward to using this platform as an opportunity to share the exemplary work of PASC and Senator Afflerbach; of particular interest among the Leadership Collaborative was the success of PASC and Senator Afflerbach to secure the \$2-million grant line-item in the Commonwealth's budget. Similarly, I anticipate sharing national strategies that could provide additional strength to our state-wide initiatives.

### What is next for the NISC Leadership Collaborative?

Leadership Collaborative meetings are quarterly and have been scheduled as follows:

- ✓ Thursday, March 4, 2021
- ✓ Thursday, June 3, 2021
- ✓ Thursday, September 2, 2021
- ✓ Thursday, December 2, 2021

The NCOA 2021 Age+Action Conference will be held virtually from June 7<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$250.00 per individual or \$500.00 for up to 3 registrants.

If there is information you would like to have, or information you would like to share, I am just an email away. My new email address is [bill@bvactiveaging.org](mailto:bill@bvactiveaging.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Pierce", is written over a horizontal line.

Bill Pierce, NISC Leadership Collaborative Representative for PASC

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## PASC Public Policy Summary

January 27, 2021

Respectfully submitted by The Afflerbach Group, LLC

In my October report I stated, “COVID has overshadowed, and continues to overshadow, everything we try to do in our daily lives and in government, with no near end in sight”. That remains the case. The hope to return to a somewhat more “normal” life by summer or early Fall is vaccination. However, as the Federal government attempts to substantially increase production and distribution, Pennsylvania is stuck with receiving only 140,000 doses/week. At that rate, it will take twenty weeks to vaccinate only 1.4 million at two shots each of our more than 9 million adult population.

I have been in conversation with the Governor’s staff, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Aging to include community senior center staff in priority groups and to utilize the centers as mass vaccination locations. The Administration is interested in this proposal but is not moving forward until it can establish a supply chain with greater volume, timely delivery, and adequate personnel to provide the injections.

Although only a handful of bills have been introduced in the Senate and House at the time of this writing, two identical bills are of considerable concern: HB55 and SB2. These bills propose an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution and, if passed by February 18<sup>th</sup> will send the question directly to the May 18<sup>th</sup> Primary election for voter approval.

HB55 and SB2 would restrict the Governor to declaring a disaster emergency to not more than 21 days without legislative approval. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> day onward the legislature would determine the length and parameters of an emergency declaration. It is difficult to imagine how a majority of 203 Representatives and 50 Senators could act with sufficient speed and detail to address an immediate and ever-changing emergency, such as COVID-19 continues to be. Without these emergency and disaster declarations, access to federal funds and both federal and state regulatory waivers could not occur. I strongly recommend PASC members contact their legislators and implore them to not act hastily by passing these bills. If there is a strong feeling to find a better way to address emergency declarations it should be done in a more thoughtful manner, not rushed through in the midst of a pandemic.

Recognizing we remain in a pandemic the Department of Health and Human Services has extended the COVID public health emergency declaration into mid-April. This is the fourth time HHS has extended the declaration that provides for more emphasis on tele-health and waiver flexibilities.

After returning from the November election recess, the Legislature completed the 20-21 budget with a patchwork of fund transfers, delayed booking of expenses into 21-22, and utilization of the \$1.3 billion of CARES Act funds held back from June. All those one-time machinations do not bode well for settling the 21-22 budget. This past week the Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) forecast a deficit of \$2.6 billion for next year and continuing multi-billion-dollar structural deficits for at least five years.

Frankly, if the Republicans in the United States Senate continue to block additional emergency federal funds for states and municipalities, it is extremely doubtful the state legislature will be able to pass a balanced 21-22 budget without significant reductions in social programs. That also means we need to be particularly protective of Lottery Fund monies. Unless the situation substantially changes by the fall, I fully expect to see PDA again allocate the center grant program equally among all qualified centers – providing we can retain the grant program during the budget deliberations.



Public policy issues of the past year have not significantly changed. The House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee reorganized yesterday with the same committee chairs as the past session but with a host of new members. The committee Chairs announced their priority goals of advocacy for seniors within the COVID situation and vaccine distribution and passing long awaited amendments to the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA).

In the Senate, President Pro Tempore Jake Corman is expected to reintroduce and push passage of his legislation to legalize so-called games of skill at truck stops and LCB licensed establishments, with a nod of some portion of revenue going to the Lottery Fund to offset any shift of players from those games to the new "skill" games. The Governor is expected to continue to oppose the Corman proposal.

Other important unresolved issues continue to merit our attention. These include the still unpublished regulations to implement the Community Adult Respite Services Act (CARS). Despite continual assurances by both the previous and present Secretaries of Aging there is no indication the regulations will be published soon. As COVID restrictions wane, it may require filing suit to force the publication in accordance with the long ignored statutory requirement...or to at least threaten to do so.

As Congress and the Biden Administration consider another COVID relief / economic stimulus package, our work with the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) remains important.

An unfortunate bit of news is there will be special elections on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a Senator in the 48<sup>th</sup> District (Lebanon) and a Representative in the 59<sup>th</sup> District (Westmoreland). After winning election in November, Senator Dave Arnold passed from brain cancer and Rep. Mike Reese passed from a brain aneurysm. Both were young men.

As I wrote in October, even under the duress of COVID restrictions, PASC remains well positioned for the immense changes taking place in health care, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) and COVID adjustments. But, as I also wrote, positioning means nothing unless members educate and advocate for support at every opportunity among community leaders, local officials, state officials, and federal policy makers. Every time senior center staff and members have risen to the challenge, they have been successful. Now is the time to rise again!

Senator Roy Afflerbach, Ret.  
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# Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers



**COMMITTEE REPORT FOR:** SOUTHEAST REGION      **DATE:** 01/27/21

Committee Members Present \_\_\_\_\_

Sue McIntyre, Pat MacKenzie

Rose Richardson

Bill Pierce, Renee Cunningham

Tasks to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Action item	Due date	Who is responsible
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<p><i>In the absence of any formal meeting of the Southeast Region due to scheduling conflicts with the members, we have not had a full meeting together since October. Although, we have had informal get togethers and social hours as schedules permitted, the one on one phone calls and mini meetings have become a life line for all of us. The SE Region members have been a sounding board and an information center for other centers throughout our individual counties and the region. Many of these are centers have not been involved with PASC in the past. We continue to share the information and the news that has been passed on from PASC and have found that it has been useful and timely. We will use this going forward to garner interest in joining PASC when the current situation normalizes.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All</p>
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<p><i>Getting Vaccine information: Senior Centers as sites – pros/cons; mandating of vaccines for staff; reluctance issues of members to take the vaccine.</i></p>	<p>Mid Feb.</p>	<p>All</p>
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<p><i>Starting from scratch: How to resume safely; the work overload on small staff; fighting depression &amp; anxiety on staff &amp; members</i></p>	<p>March</p>	
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Long-term goals \_\_\_\_\_

Goals	Due date	Progress
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# Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers



**COMMITTEE REPORT FOR:** NE REGION **DATE:** 1/27/21

Committee Members Present

Toni Mathis

Erica Hendon

Becky Klepadlo

Tasks to be completed:

Action item	Due date	Who is responsible
Contact Lyda Knopka to see if NE board interest - lead	1/29/21	Becky K.
Finalize topics/virtual location for NE Region Advocacy Mtg	2/26/21	All NE board members
Determine date for NE Region Meeting	2/26/21	All NE board members

Long-term goals

Goals	Due date	Progress
Increase board members x 2 for NE Region	6/11/21	
Facilitate NE Region Mtg. in June	TBD	

Accomplishments

Concerns

# Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers



COMMITTEE REPORT FOR: CENTRAL REGION DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

Committee Members Present

Lisa Krout Lisa Paulson Tammy Miller Melissa Weigle

Linda Thompson,  
chair

Tasks to be completed:

Action item	Due date	Who is responsible
Plan one more virtual event to help centers expand programming, start something new or plan for re-opening events.	March 18, 2021	Committee
Encourage donations to advocacy fund in place of a fee for the regional event.	March 18, 2021	Committee

Long-term goals

Goals	Due date	Progress
Provide "mentor" – one on one follow up to 3/18 event for anyone who wants to try a program but needs help getting started.	March – May, 2021	

Accomplishments

July event with 40 participants

Concerns

Losing centers; getting people back after being closed/limited for so long.

# Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers



**COMMITTEE REPORT FOR: PR COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 1/21/21**

Committee Members Present Tammy Miller, Chair, Rose Penavaria, Linda Thompson, Tami Boylan, Melissa Weigle

Tasks to be completed: Website Review and Edit

Action item	Due date	Who is responsible
Clean-up website	3/2021	Tammy
Add payment system; conference registration		
Add Board Member Resource Page		
Contact Potential \$150 Sponsors	3/2021	NG – Rose, Copilot-Tammy
Everything needs to run through website, increase traffic	2021	Committee
Send email alert when something new goes on site		
Change to award program – Highlight Ingenuity	6/2021	Committee
Tell us your story; how have you adapted?		
Select 3 to highlight at conference; ppt program		

**Long-term goals**

Goals	Due date	Progress
Continue to keep website up to date		
Drive traffic and increase Fb activity		

**Accomplishments**

New and improved website is up and running

**Concerns**

Keeping website up to date; need support from committee members

# Pennsylvania Association of Senior Centers



## COMMITTEE REPORT FOR: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT    DATE: 1/22/21

### Committee Members Present

Joyce Hardman    Lisa Krout

Bobbi Manges    Pat MacKenzie

### Tasks to be completed:

Action item	Due date	Who is responsible
Finalizing April virtual Conference	March 1	

### Long-term goals

Goals	Due date	Progress
Price of conference	August 1	
Flyer	August 1	
Fall in person conference will include additional diversity training, Dementia Champions,	August 1	

### Accomplishments

### Concerns

Concern to keep members engaged and interested to renew their memberships.

Need the conference income to pay for advocacy.



## PASC Public Policy Summary

April 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted by The Afflerbach Group, LLC

Although most of the focus in Harrisburg and Washington continues to be on Covid-19 and budgetary issues, there are other items of importance flying under the radar.

But first, comments on COVID-19. As the vaccine supplies become more reliably available, the Governor and the Department of Health (DOH) have begun to relieve the most stringent restrictions. Although PA is continuing to encourage teleworking to the greatest extent possible, the [COVID-19 webpage](#) now states businesses may resume normal in person operations at 75% capacity if they follow all CDC guidelines for safety. As you know, there is continuing consideration of using large community senior centers with spacious parking accommodations as public vaccination centers. The Department of Aging (PDA) will advise centers as decisions are made in that regard as well as to what extent centers may return to in-person on site activities. All residents of PA become eligible to make vaccination appointments on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

With respect to budgetary issues, the House completed its version of departmental hearings and the Senate expects to complete its hearing process on May 6<sup>th</sup>. [Independent Finance Office \(IFO\)](#) reports indicate the PA economy is steadily improving, though not enough to ease concerns about a looming \$2.5 Billion deficit down the road. Legislative leaders are discussing using a portion of the \$7 Billion anticipated from the federal [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) for the 2021-22 budget and retaining a portion for the 22-23 and 23-24 budgets. Funds in the ARPA are required to be spent by the end of 2023.

The senior center \$2 million line item appears to be safe. However, the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) has refused to approve renewal of the state's aging plan pending revision of the formula to distribute Title III funds among the AAAs. The proposed new formula has not been released although it is due to ACL by April 30<sup>th</sup> and a public comment period is required. PDA has begun notifying AAAs how much they will lose or gain. ARPA or Lottery funds may be targeted to provide a temporary hold-harmless to AAAs that will lose substantial Title III funds.

[SB2](#), which I reviewed in January, was approved by the Legislature to place three Constitutional Amendment questions on the May 18<sup>th</sup> Primary election ballot for voter approval.

Two proposed amendments would restrict the Governor from declaring a disaster emergency for more than 21 days without legislative approval. From the 22<sup>nd</sup> day onward the legislature would determine the length and parameters of an emergency declaration. Having worked in the legislature since 1970, it is difficult for me to imagine how a majority of 203 Representatives and 50 Senators could act with sufficient speed and detail to address an immediate and ever-changing emergency, such as COVID-19. Without proper emergency and disaster declarations, access to federal funds and both federal and state regulatory waivers could not occur. I strongly recommend defeat of these amendments.

The Department of Health and Human Services has extended the COVID public health emergency declaration four times. Presently, it is unclear if a fifth extension will be declared before the current one expires in mid-April. It is likely, however, because of the need to meet guidelines for federal aid.

In the Senate, President Pro Tempore Jake Corman is expected to reintroduce and push passage of his legislation to legalize so-called games of skill at truck stops and LCB licensed establishments, with a nod of some portion of revenue going to the Lottery Fund to offset any shift of players from those games to



the new “skill” games. The Governor is expected to continue to oppose the Corman proposal and Corman has not to date reintroduced it.

Also in the Senate, Appropriations Chairman Pat Browne and Erie Senator Dan Laughlin are introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$10/hour with inflation steps thereafter. The fact these two Republican senators are introducing the bill is a signal a majority in the Senate Republican Caucus is willing to support the proposal in contrast to the Governor’s request for a \$15/hr. minimum wage.

Other important unresolved issues continue to merit our attention. These include the still unpublished regulations to implement the Community Adult Respite Services Act (CARS). Despite continual assurances by both the previous and present Secretaries of Aging there is no indication the regulations will be published soon. As COVID restrictions wane, it may require filing lawsuit to force the publication in accordance with the long ignored statutory requirement.

We await reintroduction of legislation to amend the Older Adult Protective Services Act (OAPSA). It remains a high priority of PDA and the AAAs. A second high priority of PDA, updating the Family Caregiver Act (HB464), after a visit to the Appropriations committee will be in position to pass the House and be sent to the Senate later this month.

As Congress and the Biden Administration consider the American Jobs Act economic stimulus package, our work with the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) remains important. We are tracking the inclusion of \$400 Billion in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) funding for the states.

There will be three special elections on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a Senator in the 48<sup>th</sup> District (Lebanon), a Senator in the 22<sup>nd</sup> District (Lackawanna) and a Representative in the 59<sup>th</sup> District (Westmoreland). Two men, Senator Dave Arnold and Rep. Mike Reese died in office. Senator John Blake resigned to take a staff position with Congressman Matt Cartwright.

At least temporarily, the Capitol is open to visitors, although many legislators continue to attend committees and session remotely. Hank and I have met with 24 of the 32 new legislators. Six of the remaining eight (5 Republicans; 1 Democrat) have been unresponsive despite multiple requests for an introductory meeting. Also, thanks to our friends at Pennsylvania based law firm Buchannan, Ingersoll, and Rooney I have been able to meet several of the new members of Congress from other states.

COVID-19 restrictions notwithstanding, we continue to persist on behalf of the elderly we all serve!

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