

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES | September 6, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Dr. John Haaga
Joy Hatchette, JD
The Honorable Benjamin Kramer
Barry Liden, JD
Dr. Jay Magaziner
Dr. David Roth
Diane Ty, MBA, MA
Paula Blackwell, MBA, MHA
Dr. George Rebok
Dr. Allen Tien

Commission Members Absent:

Dr. Rose Maria Li, Chair
The Honorable Kathy Szeliga

Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA):

Secretary Carmel Roques (Non-Voting Representative)

Guests:

Elaine Binder
Sarah Lock (Presenter, AARP)
Sandy Morse

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. John Haaga provided welcome remarks and introduced guests

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the June 14, 2023 meeting were approved

MDoA Updates:

Secretary Carmel Roques reported the following...

- ✚ This has been a very busy time for the Department
- ✚ One of the primary issues that needed to be addressed was our staffing shortages and the way that we have been organized
 - ✓ We have been working diligently to improve our staffing vacancy that was at 30%
 - ✓ There was a need to “staff-up” in-order to focus on our duties regarding planning, legislation, and policy
 - ✓ We now only have five vacancies left in our Department

- ✓ It feels wonderful to finally have the majority of our positions filled
- ✓ MDoA will now be in position to fully support our AAA's
- ✚ Now that positions are filled, we have a big task ahead of us
 - ✓ For the first time in over 25 years, the rules and regulations for the Older Americans Act have been revised
- ✚ We have and some organizational changes in our Department
 - ✓ Deputy Secretary, Bernice Hutchinson has retired
 - ✓ Jennifer Crawley will now be serving as Deputy Secretary
 - ✓ The role of Multi-Sector Director has been filled by Betty Romero
 - ✓ Andrea Nunez has been hired as our new Legislative Director
- ✚ We are not putting forward an aggressive legislative agenda this year
 - ✓ There will be a small piece of legislation that speaks to the hope to re-use the structure of the Inter-Agency on Aging to support the Multi-Sector planning process
 - ✓ We are also looking at our State funded programs for older people and how funds are structured
 - ✓ Secretary Roques will be meeting with the Deputy Secretary for Medicaid to talk about the Medicaid waiver for Home and Community-Based services

Multi-Sector Planning:

Secretary Carmel Roques reported the following...

- ✚ A Multisector Plan for Aging (MPA) is a promising strategy to address the structural and social factors that perpetuate disparities and inequities that impact people across the lifespan
- ✚ The work of the MPA will be a primary focus for us
- ✚ Core tenets of MPA include:
 - ✓ Transparency
 - ✓ Inclusion
 - ✓ Person-Centered
- ✚ The MPA has four critical elements:
 - ✓ Robust Stakeholder Engagement
 - ✓ Raising Awareness and Education
 - ✓ Building Cross-Sector Partnerships
 - ✓ Accountability
- ✚ The goal is to create an Aging Friendly and Longevity Ready Maryland
 - ✓ People are living longer lives and we need to prepare for it
 - ✓ Of the 6.1 million people living in Maryland, nearly 1.7 million are adults over the age of 60
 - ✓ People 65 and older make up 16% of Maryland's population
 - ✓ By 2030, 1 in 5 Marylanders will be 60 and older
 - ✓ The fastest growing segment of the older adult population is made up of people 85 years and older
 - ✓ Older Marylanders are expected to outnumber children for the first time in history by 2034
 - ✓ The MPA will align with Governor's Moore promise to "Leave No Marylander Behind"

- ✚ Secretary Roques thanked the Commission for their continued input and support

State Initiatives to Address Dementia & Cognitive Health (MDoA)

Mark Tesoro & Liz Woodward reported the following...

- ✚ We will discuss the Guiding an improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model
- ✚ The Guide Model is funded through the April 2023 Executive Order 14095
 - ✓ The purpose of the order is to “Increase Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers”
- ✚ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the GUIDE Model in July 2023
 - ✓ CMS will accept letters of interest in September 2023
 - ✓ The Model will run for eight years, beginning July 2024
- ✚ The GUIDE Model addresses dementia care by:
 - ✓ Defining a standardized approach to dementia care delivery
 - ✓ Providing an alternative payment methodology
 - ✓ Addressing unpaid caregiver needs
 - ✓ Respite services
 - ✓ Screening for Health-Related Social Needs
- ✚ The Guide Model is designed for community-dwelling Medicare/Medicaid FFS beneficiaries
- ✚ Participants will tailor an exact mix of services based on each beneficiary’s care plan
- ✚ Items to address regarding the GUIDE model include:
 - ✓ Discussing DOA/MAP/AAA capacity; determining potential roles in the model
 - ✓ What does GUIDE look like in Maryland
 - ✓ Who is best equipped to be the lead organization to implement GUIDE
 - ✓ Identifying challenges in Maryland implementation
- ✚ We look forward to engaging in further conversations

Promoting Dementia Discovery & Data Initiatives (AARP)

Sarah Lenz Lock reported the following...

- ✚ AARP has invested \$60 million in the Dementia Discovery Fund (DDF)
 - ✓ The goal is to invest and create companies to deliver treatments for Dementia
 - ✓ The objective is to surpass anti-amyloid therapies, while funding novel drug approaches and technology
- ✚ AARP has backed \$5 million in Longitude Prize on Dementia
 - ✓ Grants and prizes are awarded to companies that use Artificial Intelligence that help Dementia patients
- ✚ The Alzheimer’s Disease Data Initiative (ADDI) was launched in 2018
 - ✓ There are nine partners, including AARP
- ✚ Almost half of adults think it’s likely they will get dementia, fewer actually will
 - ✓ The good news is that there are modifiable lifestyle factors that can reduce risks
- ✚ The six pillars of brain health include:
 - ✓ Be social
 - ✓ Engage your brain
 - ✓ Manage stress

- ✓ Ongoing exercise
- ✓ Restorative sleep
- ✓ Eat right
- + AARP's mission is to empower people to choose how they live as they age
 - ✓ Brain health is essential to the mission
- + The key take-away should be that cognitive decline is not inevitable

Adjournment