

Maryland Commission on Aging
North Laurel Community Center, Laurel, Maryland
May 11, 2016
10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Minutes

Members Present: Stuart Rosenthal, Chair; Sharonlee Vogel, Vice-Chair; Honorable Jordan Harding; Helen Kimble; Rose Maria Li; Louise Lynch; Dot Principe; Mary Ellen Thomsen

Members Absent: Hon. Barbara Frush; Maria Jimenez; Michael McPherson

Staff Present: Dina L. Gordon, Deputy Secretary of Aging; Rosanne B. Hanratty, Staff to the Commission

Speaker: Monica Shaeffer Gorochow, Maryland Baby Boomer Initiative Council and President, Visionary Institute for Total Ageless Living (VITAL, Inc.)

Other: Jane Krienke, Maryland Hospital Association; Diane Pabich, Deputy Director, Governor's Workforce Investment Board

Greetings--Stuart Rosenthal, Chair:

Mr. Rosenthal welcomed Commissioners and guests to the meeting. He introduced Helen Kimble, who was recently appointed to the Commission by Governor Larry Hogan. He noted that Ms. Kimble has graduate degrees in both nursing and business administration and that she comes to the Commission with an extensive background in management and health services. Ms. Kimble introduced herself to attendees, noted that she is pursuing a doctorate in nursing, and that she places a high priority on volunteerism. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and described their backgrounds and goals for service on the Commission.

Mr. Rosenthal noted that former Commissioner Lee Hammond's health has improved and that he will receive a special honor from AARP. Mr. Rosenthal plans to attend the award ceremony.

Deputy Secretary's Remarks—Dina L. Gordon, Deputy Secretary of Aging:

Ms. Gordon updated the Commission on the planned relocation of the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA). She said that the Department had recently hired two professional staff: Charles Knapp as Deputy Director of Operations & Fiscal Services and Rajni Sekhri, as Assistant Attorney General, who will devote the majority of her time to legal issues of Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Mr. Knapp has significant private-sector experience in fiscal services, including holding the position of Chief Financial Officer at multiple firms. Ms. Sekhri's prior professional experience includes several years of service in a major global law firm.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 13, 2016 Meeting:

The minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting were approved without change.

Training Subcommittee Update—Rose Maria Li:

Ms. Li distributed an updated draft agenda for the joint state commission and local commission training on *Translating Healthy Aging Research Findings into Practice*, to be held on September 22nd. She said that she had confirmed Luigi Ferrucci, M.D., Ph.D. as the afternoon keynote speaker. He is the Scientific Director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She stated that Marie Bernard, M.D., Deputy Director of NIA, will deliver remarks, since several of the participants will be discussing NIA-funded research. She said that Melinda Kelley, Ph.D. of the NIA Office of Legislation, Policy and International Activities, plans to participate and that some state legislators had indicated an interest in attending the event. She also noted that she has confirmed nine of the ten panelists on the program.

Transportation Subcommittee Update—Louise Lynch:

Ms. Lynch reported that the newly-formed Frederick County task force on transportation had met and that several issues and concerns had been identified. These include the preference for services provided as needed, as an alternative to underutilized and expensive fixed route bus or van transportation; strategies to address insurance needs of volunteers such as “excess liability” coverage; and approaches to services that are designed to address multiple needs simultaneously, such as those of an older adult who may require both transportation services and accompaniment to a medical test that will require sedation.

Ms. Lynch plans to invite members of the Frederick County task force to participate on the Commission planning subcommittee for the 2017 joint training on transportation.

Presentation on State Plan on Aging—Dina L. Gordon, Deputy Secretary of Aging:

Ms. Gordon described the process utilized by MDoA for the development of the *FFY 2017-2020 (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2020) State Plan on Aging*. The quadrennial plan is required under the Older Americans’ Act and is to be submitted to the federal Administration on Community Living (ACL). As part of the development of the State Plan, implementation of a process to solicit public input to provide advice and guidance to the MDoA is required. MDoA is using a multi-pronged approach to secure input. The draft State Plan has been posted on the Department website. Written comments on the Plan were to have been accepted by email or postal mail through June 3, 2016. In addition, MDoA planned to host four Town Hall meetings designed to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to offer public comments on the Plan. In addition, a general survey has been available on the MDoA website to secure input from members of the public on the needs and concerns of older adults in Maryland. Following

consideration of the input from the public and internal review, the State Plan is scheduled to be formally submitted to ACL by June 30.

As it moves forward in its planning for the next four years, MDoA has adopted an overarching Vision: ***Live Well, Age Well*** and a Mission Statement: ***Establish Maryland as an attractive location for all older adults through vibrant communities and supportive services that offer the opportunity to live healthy and meaningful lives.***

In fulfilling its mission, Ms. Gordon stated that MDoA serves three goals: advisory, advocacy and administrative. She said the State Plan specifically outlines how MDoA will address: the evaluation of need for services; distribution of funds; assessment of the effectiveness of services; and fulfillment of federal reporting requirements. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the State Plan reflect federal expectations and state priorities. They are:

- **Goal 1:** Advocate to ensure the rights of older adults and their families and prevent their abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- **Goal 2:** Support and encourage older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their loved ones to easily access and make informed choices about services that support them in their home or community.
- **Goal 3:** Create opportunities for older adults and their families to lead active and healthy lives.
- **Goal 4:** Finance and coordinate high quality services that support individuals with long term needs in a home or community setting.
- **Goal 5:** Lead efforts to strengthen service delivery and capacity by engaging community partners to increase and leverage resources.

Mr. Rosenthal and Ms. Lynch asked how combining support for older adults with that of both younger and older people with disabilities affects support for aging programs. Ms. Gordon explained that while there are age criteria for Older Americans' Act funding, one of the federal and MDoA goals--to encourage older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their loved ones to easily access and make informed choices about services that support them in their home or community—reflects a broader view of services, consistent with that of the ACL. In addition, this broader approach enables more efficient and effective use of limited resources. **[Note:** Subsequent information obtained from MDoA staff indicates that: While *Maryland Access Point*—the federally mandated Aging and Disability Resource Center in Maryland—receives limited federal funding, the majority of its funding comes from the Medicaid program reflecting its mandate to serve all individuals with disabilities and older adults.]

Mayor Harding asked whether there were any MDoA or other state initiatives to address the rapidly increasing cost of prescription pharmaceuticals, including generic medications. Ms. Lynch stated that the federal government should address this issue, and Mr. Rosenthal queried Commissioners about interest in establishing a subcommittee to research existing organizations already addressing these issues. **[Note:** Subsequently Mr. Rosenthal requested Ms. Hanratty to briefly do some research on this. She expects to send the results to Commission members by June 30.]

Ms. Thomsen asked Ms. Gordon how success in meeting goals and objectives in the State Plan will be evaluated. Ms. Gordon stated that detailed tracking of activities and costs are included in implementation of the State and area plans on aging and that MDoA is in the process of enhancing the metrics it utilizes to evaluate successful performance. Ms. Vogel noted that the results of the MDoA survey should be integrated in the MDoA planning process.

Presentation on the Final Report of the Maryland Baby Boomer Initiative Council—Monica Schaeffer Gorochow (See Handout: Maryland Baby Boomer Initiative: Plan to Implementation -appended):

Ms. Gorochow outlined the history of the Baby Boomer Initiative Council, which was established by the Maryland legislature in 2007 to address ways to both meet the needs of Maryland's aging boomer population, and take advantage of their experience and resources to address wider community needs, such as mentoring school-age children. The Council served from 2007 through 2015 and was authorized under SB700/HB599, and its mandate was later extended by HB 288.

The Council recommended that a fully-funded taskforce be created to examine the issues and create the vision, systemic processes, and stakeholder buy-in to implement initiatives designed to retain boomers in the Maryland workforce and in civic engagement in order to expand their contribution to the state's economy and as a source of social capital. The Council's hoped-for outcome was the designation of a model state agency to implement the policies for recruiting/retaining the 50+ employee and a partnership model between private/public entities that provide career transitions for those aged 50+. In addition, a website portal was established to assist in communicating these opportunities to the boomer population, with the assistance of the Enoch Pratt Public Library.

Ms. Gorochow noted that the goal and recommendations complement Governor Hogan's three main priorities: *Innovation, Economic Growth and Quality of Life*. Applied specifically to the boomer population, she said that:

- *Innovation* might include advocacy for inclusion and foster multi-generational workplace cultures that utilize the assets of Marylanders who are 50+ through consciously aligned workforce strategies and plans of operation to ensure retention, transfer of institutional knowledge, and sustainable talent development.
- *Economic Growth* could include enhancing the opportunities for Marylanders beyond the traditional retirement age to remain productive and add to value to the state by filling the needs of employers and revitalizing communities to ensure sustainable growth.
- *Quality of Life* would include embracing an opportunity to improve quality of life for all age groups, and would provide the opportunity for those who are aging to

remain in the communities in which they have lived, worked, and been engaged throughout their lives.

Diane Pabich, Deputy Director, Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) described the board, which is a business-led board of 53 members most of whom represent the business community, as defined by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). In addition to business representatives, members include the governor and the lieutenant governor, cabinet secretaries, college presidents, the state superintendent of schools, elected officials, labor, and representatives of nonprofit organizations. In Maryland, the scope of the Board was expanded beyond the federal mandate by two Executive Orders, the most recent of which is Governor Hogan's Executive Order 01.01.2015.19.

[Retrieved at: <http://www.gwib.maryland.gov/board/execorder.pdf>] Ms. Pabich said that the board has established seven taskforces, one of which is to focus on how best to utilize persons who are aged 50+ in the workforce and to make recommendations on how best to do so.

Commissioners and attendees discussed several different approaches that might be investigated, including recruiting retired professionals and other older adults for non-paid internships ("returnships"). Such a program would not be an employment-training program, but would seek to utilize the acquired expertise of the 50+ population and could involve skill transfer to a younger workforce. Commissioners and guests also raised the issue of how best to promote paid employment for older adults who wish to remain in the workforce. Ms. Gordon pointed out that one of the questions on the State plan survey queried the respondent about what activities he or she planned to engage in during retirement. Ms. Gorochow requested the Commission to consider how its work aligns with the work and recommendations of the Boomer Initiative Council.

Other: Ms. Hanratty noted that State Insurance Commissioner, Al Redmer, Jr., will present on the topic of long term care insurance at the next meeting of the Commission on June 8' and suggested that a presenter and further discussion of concerns about the MOLST be scheduled for the fall, since the MOLST form is being revised and legislation was passed in the most recent legislative session requiring the establishment of an opt-in electronic end-of-life directives registry. The Commission adopted this suggestion and Ms. Hanratty will follow up with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to secure a speaker later in the calendar year. She said that the Howard County Executive, Allan Kittleman, is scheduled to speak at the Commission's October 19 meeting, and that Scott Hancock, the Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, will present at the November 9 Commission meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rosanne B. Hanratty

