



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

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Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Announces Multi-Sector Engagement and Planning Initiative To Help Build a Longevity Ready State

Baltimore, MD - Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques introduced her vision for creating a longevity resilient state that serves residents equitably throughout their lifespan, making Maryland a place where people want to live and age.

“We believe all older people should live healthy, financially secure, socially connected, and purposeful lives,” Roques said at the Maryland Philanthropy Network’s Aging Innovations Group 2023 Summit. “As life expectancy in the U.S. continues to climb, we need to think differently about the impact of aging on all aspects of society. Today, we are here to support and build momentum for developing a long-term road map that leads to healthy longevity and financial security for all ages.”

During her first official presentation as leader of the department, Secretary Roques announced the development of the department’s new Multi-Sector Engagement and Planning Initiative. Led by former Director of the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence, Jenna Crawley, the focus will be on bringing together stakeholders and partners across government, non-profit, and private organizations to transform the coordination and collaboration of services that impact the growing aging population, individuals living with disabilities, and caregivers in Maryland.

“Our goal is to establish a state-led, cross-sector team that facilitates robust engagement, ultimately developing a blueprint that will guide these initiatives,” said Crawley, who also attended the event. “We will center this work around the core tenets of transparency, equity, and person-centeredness to ensure no one is left behind.”

Secretary Roques noted the current model of aging that follows a linear path of childhood, education, work, family and, finally, leisure is outdated and not sustainable psychologically, socially, or financially in the 100-year life span predicted for half of today’s 5-year-olds.

“Cramming everything into these discrete life stages is not working,” Roques said. “We are at a critical moment with an opportunity to change the narrative around aging, recognizing the gift of longevity for individuals and our great state.”