

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES | June 14, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Rose Maria Li, Chair
Dr. John Haaga
Joy Hatchette, JD
The Honorable Benjamin Kramer
Barry Liden, JD
Dr. Jay Magaziner
Dr. David Roth
Diane Ty, MBA, MA
Dr. George Rebok
The Honorable
Kathy Szeliga
Paula Blackwell,
MBA, MHA

Guests:

Elaine Binder
William Davies

Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA):

Secretary Carmel Roques (Non-Voting Representative)

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Rose Li introduced guests and provided welcome remarks

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting minutes were approved

MDoA Updates:

Secretary Carmel Roques reported the following...

- ✚ The MDoA Leadership team held a strategic planning retreat to draft a work plan to align with the goals of the Moore-Miller Administration
- ✚ One of the main items discussed was to identify the actual role of MDoA
- ✚ We are required by Statute to:
 - Receive, Administer, and Monitor Federal and State funds
 - Plan for older Marylanders
 - Create policy and make policy recommendations
 - Create and support Legislation
 - Advocate for older Marylanders
- ✚ Historically, MDoA has received funding, monitored funding, reported funding

- ✚ It is now time for MDoA to have as a priority, all the work around planning, policy, legislation, and advocacy
- ✚ State Government is very large and very complex
- ✚ The Maryland Department of Aging was not always a Cabinet-Level agency
 - We are a small agency, only having 40 employees
 - MDoA receives funding at a lower level than the larger agencies
- ✚ MDoA is indeed critical to the progression of the State
- ✚ The Multi-Sector planning process could be used as a tool to elevate the role of, and benefit to older Marylanders
- ✚ Our discussion included the question of what people think about aging
 - Ageism is very prominent in our current society
 - It is a structural issue, not a personal issue
 - We plan to focus on how to address and impact ageism
- ✚ This is World Elder Abuse Prevention Week
 - We just kicked off with a Press Conference event
 - There are great things happening all around the State in recognition of this very important cause
 - MDoA will assist with staffing the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse, as per Legislative Statute
- ✚ We are also reviewing Maryland's Senior Care Program
 - The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) and the statewide network of 19 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) assist older Marylanders with a range of services and sources of information
 - The Senior Care Program is the largest of the state-funded programs which MDoA administers through the AAAs and other local partners, for example, local departments of health
 - Senior Care was authorized under Maryland statute in 1982 and serves Maryland residents, aged 65 and older, who are at risk of institutionalization and who meet certain income and asset criteria
 - Approximately two-thirds of clients receiving services under the Senior Care Program have incomes of \$1,400 or less a month
 - Senior Care clients often have complex needs, for example, several comorbidities such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes
 - They are various other needs, including food insecurity and housing
 - MDoA is committed to working with the AAA's and other stakeholders/partners to improve the Program
- ✚ The goal of the Senior Care Program is to support community living and prevent nursing home placement
- ✚ Maryland statute authorizes the Commission on Aging (CoA) to review existing MDoA programs and report its results and recommendations to the Secretary of Aging
- ✚ We will be covering more on this topic in future meetings
- ✚ Thank you to the Commission for your continued support

Supporting Caregivers for Brain Health Activities

Liz Woodward (MDoA), and Kristi Pier (MDH) reported the following...

- ✚ We are discussing Dementia Capable Community Connections
- ✚ Partners include:
 - Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Maryland (and Capital Area)
 - Geriatrics & Gerontology Education and Research Program (GGEAR), University of Maryland
 - Johns Hopkins Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)
 - Maryland Living Well Center of Excellence
 - Mental Health Association of Maryland
- ✚ There is an Alzheimer’s Disease Programs Initiative grant with the ACL
- ✚ The goal is to create and sustain a dementia-capable home and community-based system (HCBS) that provides relevant and easy access for people with ADRD and their caregivers by providing a set of high quality and well-coordinated services and programs
- ✚ The Federal award is \$475,000
- ✚ The objectives include:
 - Sustainably embed dementia informed HCBS staff, partners, and referral systems
 - Provide person centered information, support, and services for persons with ADRD and their caregivers
 - Enhance MAP website tools and resources
 - Deliver and centrally manage a statewide network of dementia capable community workshops
 - Expand delivery of evidence-based caregiver workshops
- ✚ Caregiver Workshops include a partnership with the Maryland Living Well Center of Excellence
- ✚ The Caregiver Workshops provide the following:
 - Program licensure, training, and coordination
 - Partner with local agencies for in person delivery
 - Deliver statewide virtual workshops
 - Develop pool of trained leaders that assist local workshop providers
 - Tablet lending library for virtual participants
- ✚ The FY24 Funding proposal includes:
 - Hire Cognitive and Behavioral Health Specialist
 - MAP marketing, social media, and outreach
 - MAP resource database enhancements with 211 Maryland
 - LTSS Maryland System Updates
 - AAA/ MAP training with UMB GGEAR
 - Caregiver workshops with MD LWCE
 - Aging in place grants

New Business:

Dr. Rose Li, Chair announced that the next Commission meeting will be held virtually on September 6

Adjournment