

**Maryland Commission on Aging**  
**Maryland Department of Aging, 301 West Preston Street Suite 1007, Baltimore, MD 21201**  
**March 11, 2015**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Stuart Rosenthal--Chair, Sharonlee Vogel--Vice-Chair, W. Lee Hammond, Hon. Jordan Harding, Maria Jimenez, Louise Lynch, Michael McPherson

**Members Absent:** Sandie Callis, Hon. Barbara Frush, Paula Martin, Chandhok (Jesse) Singh

**Staff Present:** Deputy Secretary of Aging Stephanie Hull, Teja Rau, Chief Long Term Services and Supports, Rosanne B. Hanratty

Mr. Rosenthal announced that Maurice DiPoli, Jr. had resigned from the Commission. Commissioners expressed appreciation for Mr. DiPoli's unfailing support of services for older adults at the State and local levels.

Commission Role: Mr. Rosenthal outlined the history of the Commission on Aging and the assorted functions it has served over time since its establishment in 1959. In 1989 the current authorizing legislation clarified that the Commission functions as an advisory body to the Secretary of Aging.

Mr. Rosenthal said the Commission's role is to provide advice to the Secretary. The Commission is not an advocacy body and neither it nor individual Commissioners speak for the Secretary of Aging. While Commissioners may advocate as individuals, they may not do so as representatives of the State Commission. He stated that the Commission has a role as a provider of information for example through joint training with local commissions on aging.

**Minutes and Guidelines for Meetings of the Maryland Commission on Aging:** The minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting were adopted without change as were the redrafted Guidelines for Meetings of the Maryland Commission on Aging .

Commissioners requested authorization from the Secretary to seek sponsorship for a fall 2015 training event. Ms. Lynch asked for clarification from the Department Principal Counsel on whether vendors may appear at such events.

**Presentation on Maryland Access Point (MAP) Sustainability and Funding (appended):** Teja Rau, Chief, Long Term Services and Supports, MDoA, gave a presentation on expansion of the MAP program, the services it provides, and its funding sources. MAP, like its counterparts in other states, is authorized by the Older Americans Act. It provides a range of information, planning, and assistance to a growing senior population of all socioeconomic levels. Ms. Rau

explained that MAP supplies case management and supports planning to people participating in a Medicaid waiver, Community First Choice and Medical Assistance Personal Care programs.

For the past three years, the Medicaid program provided federal funding for MAP expansion activities to assist the AAAs to make necessary changes to become an Aging and Disability Resource Center. Beginning in CY2016, the State and Medicaid will move away from a grants-based funding model to a reimbursement model known as Federal Financial Participation (FFP). Under FFP, the MAPs will receive reimbursement based upon their total percent of time spent on Medicaid-related activities and the county's costs associated with conducting those activities. FFP matches non-federal funding. Hence, to the extent local and state funds contribute to the AAA's provision of Medicaid-related services to inform, refer, and assist individuals with accessing Medicaid community long term services, federal funds will match those dollars, effectively doubling their reach. At the same time, without local or state funding, federal support for such programs will cease once FFP is fully implemented at the end of this year. Fee-based MAP services, particularly for Options Counseling, may be provided to persons who are not Medicaid-eligible. Overall, MAP funding consists of FFP, state and some local funding, depending on the jurisdiction.

Ms. Rau explained that while there had been limited temporary federal grant funds available during the transition period of the MAP expansion, this "bridge" funding will end on December 31, 2015, at the latest.

Ms. Vogel requested that the Department of Aging provide talking points Commissioners may individually utilize in their local jurisdictions, when explaining MAP services and the essential role local funding plays in securing matching federal dollars. Chairman Rosenthal suggested the commission make this subject a topic at our statewide training program this fall because of its importance. Several Commissioners requested information on how MAP services may be accessed and Ms. Rau stated that a toll-free state-wide number—1800-MAP-LINK—is now operational and links callers to their local MAP offices. Ms. Lynch said that the state Commission on Aging can play a key role in educating local commissions on aging on expanded MAP services and how these are funded.

**Status Report on Tentative Joint Training with Local Commissions on Aging:** Mr. Hammond said that Ms. Vogel, Ms. Hanratty and he would visit Chesapeake College to assess the adequacy of its facilities and services if the training is held. September 24 has been selected as the tentative date for the training based on space availability at the College. Ms. Hanratty said she had informed the college's Executive Director of Continuing Education about continued uncertainty for funding the training. Ms. Hanratty also said she received preliminary information on the College's fees and services such as IT. Normally the space rental fee is \$50 an hour. Food costs are a la carte and Ms. Hanratty estimated them to be a minimum of \$14

per person. She indicated Chesapeake College charges an additional \$8 per person for providing Continuing Education Units ( CEUs). Attendees at previous trainings have not taken up the CEU opportunity, so it will not be offered in this year's training.

Ms. Hanratty stated that the Executive Director said fees are negotiable and modified fees will be discussed during the site visit. Mr. Hammond said he will continue to investigate whether grant money might be available to fund the training.

**Topics for Training and 2015 Meeting Discussion:** Several Commissioners suggested MAP services and funding as a topic for training as well as an update on Villages, the topic of the 2014 Commission training. Continued briefings about updates in Department programs were suggested as topics for 2015 Commission meetings.

**Report on Lieutenant Governor Rutherford's Presentation at Leisure World:** Mayor Harding reported that the Lieutenant Governor indicated support for policies that recognize the needs of older adults and the importance of addressing such needs.

**Other:** Deputy Secretary Hull, in response to Commissioners' questions, clarified that the Commission is not authorized, as a Commission, to take positions on pending legislation but that individual Commissioners may do so as long as they do not speak for the Commission or Department of Aging. She also said that the Department takes positions on pending legislation as an arm of state government and with the approval of the Governor's office.

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

Minutes submitted by Rosanne B. Hanratty