



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

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Media Contact:

Barbara Sigler, Communications Director, Maryland Department of Aging, 410-767-1100

Maryland Department of Aging Welcomes Secretary Carmel Roques

Baltimore, MD - The Maryland Department of Aging is pleased to welcome Carmel Roques, sworn in by Governor Moore last night, as the new Secretary and leader of the department. With more than 30 years of experience as a healthcare executive, Roques has proven herself as a visionary leader dedicated to improving the lives of older adults and their families.

“The Department of Aging will serve as a convener, collaborator, and catalyst in the Moore-Miller Administration for centering the well being of older adults and their families and planning and preparing for healthy, financially secure, socially connected, longer lives,” said Secretary Roques. “The Moore-Miller Administration’s vision of every Marylander having the opportunity to age comfortably and with dignity will serve as a north star for the leadership and work of the department.”

Known for her multi-sector, collaborative approach, Roques has led and transformed non-profit organizations, building strong cultures of service excellence and innovation. Her expertise includes dementia, palliative care, strategic planning, organizational development, community health, and service delivery models for older people.

Roques served for a decade as the president and chief executive officer of the Keswick Multi-Care Center in Baltimore, a 138-year-old not-for-profit community healthcare provider. She served as CEO throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, creating the emergency response infrastructure required to keep residents, families, and employees safe and healthy. As CEO, she also led the creation of Keswick Community Health’s Wise & Well Center for Healthy Living. Before serving as CEO of Keswick, Roques was chief operating officer for Virginia United Methodist Homes, and prior to that, she worked for twelve years at the Episcopal Ministries to the Aging in Eldersburg, Maryland, culminating in more than three years as COO. Her early career roles included director of adult day care and director of home care services for Catholic Charities in Baltimore.

Roques has proudly served on many community boards serving older adults in Maryland and has served as past chair of both the Maryland Philanthropy Network and LifeSpan Network. Roques has also been recognized by the Daily Record among Maryland’s Top 100 Women, Top CEO, and Influential Leader in Health Care.

Roques has a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mills College in Oakland, California. She lives in Columbia, Maryland.