

Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities
Maryland Department of Aging
April 5, 2023 (Virtual Meeting)
12:30 – 2:30 pm

Members Present

Carmel Roques, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging
Claudia Balog, 1199 SEIU, United Health Workers East
Tammy Bresnahan, AARP
Virginia Crespo, United Seniors of Maryland
Stevanne Ellis, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Gail Gannon, Frederick County, LTCO
Kathryn Graning, Mid-Atlantic Lifespan
Catherine Hamel, MD Hospital Association
Karin Lakin, Maryland Association of Adult Day Services
Hope Morris, Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM)
Beverly Mylar, Consumer Representative
Dr. Patricia Nay, Office of Health Care Quality
Heather Reed, Maryland Department of Health
Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Dir., Health and Behavioral Policy, Department of Disabilities
Greg Seseck, Manager of Programs, Human Services
Joanne L. Smikle, Consumer Representative
Karen Sylvester, AAA Director, Prince George's County
Heang Tan, AAA Director, Baltimore City
Lorrie Van Akkeren, Voices for Quality Care

Members Absent

Delegate Lisa Belcastro, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Chris Cherkouras, Executive Director, Talbot Hospice
Delegate Ken Kerr, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Phyllis Meyerson, Maryland Chapter, AARP
Stefani O'Dea, Behavioral Health Association
Margo Quinlan, MHA of MD

Staff Present

Lisa O'Connor, Maryland Department of Aging
Alexander Baldi, Office of Health Care Quality
Amanda Celentano, State Ombudsman Specialist
Carol Fenderson, Deputy Director, State Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Elena Janetopoulos, Behavioral Health Association

Welcome and Updates

Secretary Carmel Roques

- Send members a list of Committee members, MDOA staff and contact information. Add Oversight Committee members and MDOA staff to the Department's website.
- The purpose of the Committee is to oversee the quality in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

- Goals for the Department
 - Prepare for Marylanders living longer;
 - Fill vacancies;
 - Increase and push out State and Federal funds to Area Agencies on Aging; ensure equity in funding spending;
 - Combat elder justice, abuse and neglect; and
 - Engage and collaborate with multi-agency sectors.

Recommendations from Federal and State Level

Secretary Carmel Roques

- Administrative Goals
 - Improving state and local service delivery to seniors by filling vacancies;
 - Strengthen MAP/No Wrong Door programs;
 - Increase affordable and accessible housing with services;
 - Expand Community Options Waiver, lessen wait time;
 - Affordable medication;
 - Assist with food insecurity with the reduction of SNAP benefits;
 - Improving existing Long Term Care facilities by using Federal funds for better oversight, compliance; staffing and higher wages in facilities;
 - Combat elder abuse, exploitation and fraud; and
 - Engage and collaborate with multi-agency sectors.

Approval of Minutes

Virginia Crespo made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2022 meeting. Minutes were approved.

Review Consensus Study Report April 2022 Highlights

Recommendations and Goals

- Not meeting daily basic needs;
- Improve quality of care and nursing home settings;
- Improve quality of food;
- Review how money is being spent, budgeted;
- More staff, training, exceed minimum staff requirements, higher wages, improve work environment;
- Lack of compensation for room and board;
- Reliable transportation to outside appointments;
- Shorten wait times for doctor appointments;
- Possibly engage with **Moving Forward Coalition** <https://movingforwardcoalition.org/>;
- Suggested that State could maintain background checks for new staff; issue is that each facility needs to meet requirements but may add their own restrictions; each facility needs a background check for a new staff member even if they came from another facility and had a recent background check completed; same as with credentialing physicians; and
- Inadequate equipment.

Update/Reporting on Legislation on Transparency

- The Bill on transparency introduced this session related to a sale of a facility, passed both houses. Brings ownership ratings from another state to Maryland. OHCQ is able to offer provisional license if they have low quality ratings.

- Maryland has a list of nursing home ownership. Information is not easily understandable.

Increase Staffing in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes Ideas/Challenges

- Create a pathway at the High School level for staffing;
- Harder to get older employees return to work;
- Increased training; and
- Increase Funds for Community Waiver Program.

Assisted Living Regulations and Affordable Assisted Living

- Final Regulations delayed due to MDH IT security incident;
- Regulations comments will be posted on website;
- Challenging to meet consensus on regulations, if not met they will leave as is;
- Concern with affordability of facilities; and
- Ask a member of MHCC to speak with Committee on affordability.

Updates and Announcements from Committee Members

- The Committee meets quarterly. Suggestion to add a few shorter meetings in between as needed;
- Annual Report due December 1; and
- Need to fill Committee vacancies. The Department will follow up with the Appointments Office.

Next Meeting

July 19, 2023

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm