

**Oversight Committee On Quality of Care in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities**  
**Meeting Maryland Department of Aging**  
**November 12, 2025 (Virtual Meeting)**  
**12:30 – 2:30 pm**

**Members Present**

Carmel Roques, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging  
Claudia Balog, 1199 SEIU, United Health Workers East  
Alan Breitler, Consumer Representative Seat #3  
Karrie Craig, MDOA LTCO  
Virginia Crespo, United Seniors of Maryland  
Gail Gannon, Carroll County, LTCO  
Kathryn Graning, Mid-Atlantic Lifespan  
Marcy Hunter, Exec. Dir., Seabury at Springvale Terr.  
Delegate Ken Kerr  
Molly Kirsche, Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, Talbot Hospice  
Karin Lakin, Maryland Association of Adult Day Services  
Greg Seseck, Dir., Office of Adult Services, Department of Human Services  
Joanne L. Smikle, Consumer Representative  
Heang Tan, AAA Director, Baltimore City  
Tia Witherspoon, Office of Health Care Quality

**Members Absent**

Delegate Tiffany Alston  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Kirsten Bosak, Dir., Health and Behavioral Policy, Department of Disabilities  
Anne Geddes, Mental Health Assoc. of MD  
Catherine Hamel, MD Hospital Association  
Senator Justin Ready  
Stefani O’Dea, Behavioral Health Association  
Megan Peters, Alzheimer's Association  
Heather Reed, Maryland Department of Health

**Staff Present**

Lisa O’Connor, Maryland Department of Aging  
Carol Fenderson, Office Health Care Quality  
Nancy Crawford for Senator Pamela Beidle  
Nefetaria Alghali for Delegate Tiffany Alston

**Welcome and Updates: Secretary Carmel Roques**

Meeting once more this year on Dec. 3, 2025 before Legislation session begins  
Working on completing our Annual Report on what the Committee focused on this year

Sent link to members on a news article called “*Senior Trafficking: The shadow industry Maryland won’t shut down*”. <https://foxbaltimore.com/spotlight-on-maryland/senior-trafficking-industry-maryland-wont-shut-down>

### **Annual Report from MDH**

Jarrold C. Terry, Chief, Institutional Services, Office of Long Term Services and Supports, MDH Slide presentation was given on the Update on Medicaid nursing facility reimbursement, and goals for 2026 was given. He cannot offer details related to Medicaid eligibility requirements.

For more information on this report and more:

Please visit our website at:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/longtermcare/Pages/Nursing-Facility-Providers.aspx>

Medicaid Provider Transmittals:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/Transmittals.aspx>

### **OHCQ Annual Report**

Tia Witherspoon, Executive Director, OHCQ, MDH

- The report is not yet ready for public release as it remains under review.
- The Federal shutdown affected Federal Surveys for programs related to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. However, we retained the authority to investigate any complaints or grievances alleging resident harm during the shutdown.

### **Report on Unlicensed Assisted Living Facilities Serving Older Marylanders**

Tia Witherspoon, Executive Director, OHCQ, MDH

- Question raised, how can MDOA use State resources for minorities, women, and small-business support to make ALFs more affordable and reduce unlicensed facilities?
- The report came out today and is still being reviewed internally and will report back at a later meeting.

### **Culture Change Program Symposium Update & Next Steps**

Karrie Craig, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, MDOA

- 192 participants attended 4 virtual sessions; recording link here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT9o3qBWwkJsHvc0Q4B9a3F8FeZH0lv1>
- Panelist shared candid insights on nursing home living; identified areas for improvement.
- Plan to restart MD Culture Change Coalition to build community.
- Carroll County nursing home requested Ombudsman-led staff in-service.
- Next steps: review lessons learned, establish statewide Culture Change Coalition, and have Ombudsmen form Culture Change Committees in nursing homes.

### **Updates and Announcements from Committee Members**

#### **Resident Council Initiative/Statewide Nursing Home Resident Council**

Karrie Craig, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, MDOA

- Every nursing home must have a resident council; family councils are optional, both must follow bylaws of the nursing home. You must be invited to attend a resident council meeting.
- Proposed creating a statewide resident council in MD, modeled after Michigan, to give residents a stronger voice. Ombudsmen recruited residents, provided virtual access for confidential participation.
- Plan to explore implementation in MD during the next fiscal year.

#### **Question on Update on MDOA Reorganization Bill Was Asked**

- Discussion on a bill to reorganize the MDOA. An agency bill has been approved and is in the drafting stage; details cannot be shared at this time.
- MDOA is the federally designated State Unit on Aging (SUA), responsible for:
  - Receiving federal funds under the Older Americans Act (OAA)
  - Distributing funds equitably to the 19 county offices across Maryland
  - Ensuring compliance and reporting to the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Approximately 45 million in federal funds are received annually.
- MDOA also receives state funds, roughly matching federal funding, and manages them similarly.
- FY2026 budget: \$88 million with about 50 staff.
- Statutes also state we oversee planning, policy, legislation and advocacy.
- MD developed an approved 10-year multi-sector State Plan on Aging and a 4-year federal plan.
- Proposed legislation aims to ensure state support for older Marylanders and their care providers, promoting an all-government approach.
- Goal: Enable older adults to have healthy, financially secure, purposeful lives while recognizing their contributions to the state.
- The plan is intended to guide government action, ensuring the needs of the 25% of the population over 60 are consistently considered.

#### **Discussion on Nursing Home Costs 2025 from MDH Pursuant to Ch. 733 of the Acts of 2025**

- Last legislative session, language was put in the budget that directed MDH to review cost reports of skilled nursing facilities and come up with an analysis of what percentage of their revenues were being directed towards direct care cost including staffing, for profit, none profits, geography to get an understanding of how our resources are or are not being directed towards residents care. (Senate Bill (SB) 679 and House Bill (HB) 933)
- MDOA will send report out to members.

#### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 12:30-2:30

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm