

Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities Maryland
Department of Aging
June 23, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Draft Minutes

Members Present

Claudia Balog, 1199 SEIU, United Health Workers East
Honorable Pamela Beidle, Member of the Finance Committee
Delegate Lisa Belcastro, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Eric Colchamiro, Representing Alzheimer’s Association, Greater MD Chapter
Virginia Crespo, United Seniors of Maryland
Senator Addie Eckardt
Stevanne Ellis, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Kathryn Graning, Mid-Atlantic Lifespan
Patrice McGhee, Montgomery County AAA
Stefani O’Dea, Behavioral Health Association
Joanne L. Smikle, Consumer Representative
Lorrie Van Akkeren, Voices for Quality Care
Dr. Patricia Nay, OHCQ

Members Absent

Rona Kramer, Secretary, Maryland Department of Aging
Afshin Abedi, Maryland Association of Adult Day Services
Tyler Babich, Department of Legislative Services
Steven Bloyd, Assisted Living Facility
Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director—Advocacy, SCE-Maryland State Office
Mia Brust, Frederick County, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Delegate Ken Kerr, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Director of Health and Behavioral Policy, Department of Disabilities
Phyllis Meyerson, Maryland Chapter, AARP
Beverly Mlynar, Consumer Representative
Hope Morris, Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM)
Karen Sylvester, AAA
Margo Quinlan, MHA of MD
Heather Zeiss, Assisted Living Facility

Staff Present

Alexandra Baldi, Maryland Department of Aging
Carol Fenderson, Deputy Director, State Programs, Office of Health Care Quality
Lisa O’Connor, Maryland Department of Aging,

Greetings and Approval of Minutes

Stevanne Ellis, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, was designated by Secretary, Rona Kramer to chair the meeting. Roll call was taken. There were not enough members present to have a quorum to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2021 meeting. The following were corrections to the minutes: Lorrie Van Akkeren corrected the name of her organization, Voices for Quality Care; and Dr. Patricia Nay was changed to a Member Present.

Subcommittee Report

Eric Colchamiro provided a Subcommittee report. The subcommittee has been meeting regularly and last met on April 27th. During that meeting, the goals for the year ahead were discussed, a monthly meeting schedule was established and Eric Colchamiro was appointed as the facilitator of the subcommittee by the subcommittee members.

The Subcommittee met on May 20th. During that meeting, Tyler Babich gave a presentation to recap the general assembly session, as well as, the legislation related to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. As a result of that discussion, the Subcommittee gave two recommendations to the Full Committee; a presentation from Stacy Howes, Maryland Healthcare Commission, who oversees the Quality of Care Data for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities; and an additional presentation about Maryland's Skilled Nursing Facilities Vaccination Dashboard.

Updates and Discussion from Committee Members

A recommendation for a future meeting topic was provided. The topic suggested was a discussion from the Secretary of Health for clarification of the responsibilities between the Department of Health and the Department of Aging for the quality of care in nursing homes and assisted living.

Stevanne Ellis, State Ombudsman, stated that if there are any Ombudsman issues or concerns, please reach out to her and stated that her staff is going back out to facilities.

The next meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 1:00-3:00 PM, and Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. The date of Wednesday, September 15th is Yom Kippur Eve which may cause a scheduling issue with members of the committee. The September meeting may be rescheduled.

The Committee meeting platform was discussed. Members stated that virtual meetings are appreciated and more conducive as it eliminates the need for time to travel and maximizes member abilities to work with the committee. A hybrid option could also be considered.

Senator Eckardt offered a reminder that there are certain things that we are required by statute to review by the end of the year by the Committee. The subcommittee has been following up on legislation.

Stevanne Ellis responded that we could discuss that and the mandatory reports in the upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 PM.