

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING MINUTES | April 12, 2023

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Rose Maria Li, Chair
Dr. John Haaga
Joy Hatchette, JD
The Honorable Benjamin Kramer
Barry Liden, JD
Dr. Jay Magaziner
Dr. David Roth
Diane Ty, MBA, MA
Dr. George Rebock
The Honorable
Kathy Szeliga
Dr. Allen Tien

Commission Members Absent:

Paula Blackwell, MBA, MHA

Members of the Public:

Elaine Biinder
William Davies
Lynn Phan

Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA):

Jenna Crawley, Director of Multi-Sector Planning
Secretary Carmel Roques (Non-Voting Representative)

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Rose Li welcomed everyone and introduced newly appointed Secretary, Carmel Roques

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the November 16, 2022, were approved with a suggestion to add appendix of 2023 discussed/proposed topics

MDoA Updates:

Secretary Carmel Roques reported the following...

- ❖ Secretary Roques provided a brief overview of the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA)
- ❖ The MDoA was created by Maryland State statute
- ❖ The Department is small and is a part of the Governor's Executive Cabinet
- ❖ The obligation of the Department is to receive government funds and to disperse funds in

- an equitable fashion through the Area Aging networks
- ❖ We are working on finding a way to leverage a relationship with the AAA's and local Commissions on Aging to better serve the aging population
- ❖ The Department aims to establish priorities to:
 - Meet the needs of older citizens
 - Serve as advocates
 - Evaluating service needs
 - Review and formulate policy
- ❖ We have a vacancy rate of over 25%
 - We are working to try and rebuild a very basic organizational structure
- ❖ We are building capacity to assist with funding and policy recommendations
 - The MDoA currently does not have any planning staff
- ❖ The role of MDOA is as: Leader, Convenor, Collaborator, and Catalyst
- ❖ Operations need to be framed in terms of longer lives, it is not about age
- ❖ The view should be looking at Maryland and the reality of longer life spans
 - What are the opportunities and challenges when people live beyond 60
- ❖ We have started a Multi-Sector Planning process
- ❖ MDoA has partnered with the Maryland Philanthropy Network as part of these initiatives
- ❖ We want to build a team of people to go through the Learning Collaborative together
- ❖ Now is the time that we are looking at the next 10 years
- ❖ What does it mean to live longer lives and how can we actively plan and prepare
- ❖ The Moore Miller Transition document is a guide to how we should envision and plan for the future of our State
 - It ensures that MD is an aging friendly state
 - Filling vacancies and increasing staff
 - Increasing access to affordable housing
 - Ability to age in place
 - Improving long term care options
 - Address elder abuse, exploitation, and fraud
 - Create safety for older people
- ❖ We currently do not have long term care services
- ❖ We have applied to be a part of the Learning Collaborative through the Centers for Health Care Strategy, and there we can begin to develop levels of expertise around this work
- ❖ The State's fiscal 2023 budget includes \$3.5 million to provide funding for enhanced Alzheimer's services and research
 - These funds will assist in develop a more robust initiative specific to early detection, awareness, etc.
- ❖ We plan to be working more closely with the Department of Health
 - The Department of Health will eventually be invited to come and speak with you us regarding chronic disease
- ❖ We will meet with other key partners, stakeholders, etc.
- ❖ The desired direction for Department of Aging will call for more collaborative, transparent and engaging practices

Multi-Sector Engagement and Planning:

Jenna Crawley reported the following...

- ❖ There are 1.7 million Marylanders over the age of 60
- ❖ As part of Governor Moore's plan, we strive to Empower Marylanders to Age Comfortably and with Dignity
- ❖ Multi-Sector planning is described as cross-sector, state-led strategic planning roadmap for transforming the infrastructure and coordination of services for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers
- ❖ Core tenants of multi-sector planning are: Transparency, Inclusion, and Person Centered
- ❖ The need for multi-sector planning has increased as Americans are growing older and have longer lifespans
- ❖ The role of MDoA as it relates to Multi-Sector Planning is to:
 - Establish priorities for meeting needs
 - Evaluate services to determine if programs meet those needs
 - Advocate at all levels of government
 - Review and formulate policy to make recommendations to the Governor
- ❖ Best Practices for a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA) are:
 - Empower a leader who can work across silos
 - Assemble a team with necessary skills
 - Gather input from people across the State
 - Create committees and subcommittees
 - Involve executive and legislative branches
 - Use data to inform goals and initiatives
 - Engage deeply with a broad coalition
 - Build on existing state plan efforts
- ❖ California and Massachusetts are currently considered leaders in this work
 - California has a Data Dashboard containing 95 initiatives
- ❖ The Center for Health Care Strategy will select 10 states as part of the Learning Collaborative Cohort
 - It must be Cross-Sector and we have secured commitments with the Departments of Planning, Disabilities, and Health
 - We are looking on who else should be represented on the Cohort team
 - The Collaborative will require two hours of work involving technical assistance, etc.
 - The Cohort team will meet for additional hours of work outside of the team
 - We look forward to working closely with the Commission throughout the process

Chair's Remarks:

Dr. Rose Li reported the following...

- ❖ Members of the Commission could possibly serve as volunteers to assist the Department when needed
- ❖ We should consider greater collaborations to get out the Department's message
 - The Department of Aging is somewhat a secret
 - Secretary Roques informed that Communications will be going in a new direction to help boost awareness, marketing, etc.
- ❖ The problem with vacancies and retentions is Statewide

- There may be a need to think about possibly partnering with non-profits to help subsidized State employee salaries
- ❖ Please remember to complete and file your Ethics training that is due April 30

New Business:

Dr. Rose Li reported the following...

- ❖ The next Commission meeting will be held virtually on June 14
- ❖ The September 13 meeting will be moved to September 6
- ❖ We hope to have an in-person meeting, in the fall, at the Durable Medical Equipment warehouse

Adjournment

- ❖ The motion was approved to adjourn