



January 1, 2014

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**RE: 2013 Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating
Council Annual Report**

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to the Human Services Article §7-305 of the Maryland Annotated Code, the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council (MCSCC) is required to report annually on its activities to the Governor and the General Assembly. As a member of the Council, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) is pleased to have worked collaboratively with the MCSCC to report on our improved statewide plan to provide services to family care and respite care providers throughout Maryland.

As described in the enclosed report, the MCSCC is an advocate and resource for all caregivers across the state. Since its inception, DHR has provided staff for the Council which meets monthly in Annapolis. DHR will to strengthen our existing partnership with the MCSCC by continuing to staff the Council and dedicate resources to assist in the expansion of supportive services provided to caregivers.

I appreciate your continued support of our coordinated initiatives and thank you for your time and consideration. If you should have any further questions or require additional information, please contact me at 410-767-7109 or Allyson Black, Executive Director of Government Affairs at 410-767-7193.

Sincerely,

Theodore Dallas
Secretary

MARYLAND CAREGIVERS SUPPORT COORDINATING COUNCIL
2013 ANNUAL REPORT

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Completed pursuant to Human Services Article §7-305(b)

January 1, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Human Resources and the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council (Council) hereby submit this report in accordance with Human Services Article §7-305(b) of the Maryland Annotated Code, which states:

“The Council shall report annually on its activities to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”

HISTORY

During the 2001 legislative session¹, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation establishing the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council. The 17 members of the Council each serve three-year terms. Council members represent the various State agencies that serve the elderly, vulnerable and persons with disabilities, including the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Aging and the Department of Disabilities. Other members include the Maryland Respite Care Coalition, consumers, family caregivers, and advocates that have an interest or expertise in resources for the informal, family caregiver.

The purpose of the Council is to “coordinate statewide planning, development, and implementation of family caregiver support services.”²

MISSION

The Council acts on the behalf of the Governor to improve support services for unpaid, informal caregivers in the state of Maryland. In addition, it works with the Social Services Administration of DHR to develop and implement its statewide supportive services program for family caregivers. The overall goals of the Council are:

1. Empowering the family caregiver;
2. Advocacy related to options for family caregivers; and
3. Promoting policies that support family caregivers.

Moving forward, the Council will specifically focus on developing supports to address the need to plan for the future caregiving needs of individuals as family caregivers age, developing partnerships that address the needs of family caregivers of veterans and active military families (which involve various programs throughout Maryland), as well as creating viable partnerships with organizations and individuals to enhance its ability to meet its legislative responsibilities.

¹ See Senate Bill 567 of 2001 (Chapter 400, Acts of 2001).

² See Human Services Article § 7-302(b), Annotated Code of Maryland.

2013 STATUS REPORT

Self-Assessment Survey

In 2013, the Council conducted an extensive self-assessment in order to determine its role and responsibilities within the current legislative mandate. This review was deemed necessary by the Council membership in order to move forward with being able to support family and informal caregivers across the lifespan. The first step in the evaluation process was to conduct a confidential survey of the members to determine if they believed the Council was fulfilling its statutory purpose and providing resources to family and informal caregivers across the lifespan. Additionally, the survey included a question regarding whether Council members were personally committed to the Council's mandate and/or were willing to work towards changes that may need to be addressed in order to be a relevant advisory group.

The outcome of the survey was that members felt that the Council had met the original objectives of the law; however, the charge of coordinating services to support family and informal caregivers had not been met. This provided the impetus for the Council to engage in a strategic planning process.

Strategic Planning Process

Upon completing the first stage of the strategic planning process, the Council membership fostered a renewed sense of the critical need to provide a formal voice on behalf of the informal caregivers in Maryland. A major outcome of the strategic planning process was the establishment of 3 standing committees of the Council: 1) Caregiver Support and Advocacy; 2) Seek and Find; and 3) Caregiver Systems, Review and Coordination. The duties of each standing committee are as follows:

Caregiver Support and Advocacy

- Solicit and gather concerns of caregivers
- Promote awareness of caregiver support services among state and local jurisdictions

Seek and Find

- Research available funding sources and explore for additional funds
- Identify unmet needs and priorities for additional funding

Caregiver Systems, Review and Coordination

- Review caregiver support systems
- Coordinate barrier-free systems

Council members have self identified which of the three committees they will work with and have begun to identify who will Chair each committee in 2014, the action plan of each committee and who they may want to partner with to accomplish the duties of the committee.

While the Council has spent the past year in a review and transition process, it has continued to engage in outreach activities throughout the State by providing information geared toward family and informal caregivers.³

**TABLE 1.
2013 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EVENTS**

Month	Name of Event	Location	Population	# of Activities
February	B'More Expo	Baltimore Convention Center	Baltimore City - Family Caregivers	25,000
	The Center for Remarkable Women	American Baptist Conference Center	Baltimore City - Family Caregivers	100
April	April 6 th - DHR Constituents Partnership Fair	State Office Complex - Baltimore	State Employees and Partners of DHR Agencies	300
	April 6 th - Joint Services (EEMP)	Andrews Air Force Base	Family Caregivers and Families Active Duty & Veterans	300
	April 27 th - Walbrook Community Health Fair	West Baltimore	Baltimore City - Family Caregivers	200
May	May 9 th - State Corrections	Jessup Facility	State Corrections Facility Community	200
	May 18 th - Penderhugh's Elementary School	West Baltimore	Students, Community & family members	150
	May 12-18 - Women's Health Week	DHMH - State Center Information Table	State Employees	
August	August 17 th - Back to School Jam	Coppin State University	Statewide: Students, Families & Communities	2,000
September (FASD Month)	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Information Table	201 West Preston Street	Statewide	1000
October (Child Health Month)	October 11 th - Health Reform to Health Equity on Maryland's Eastern Shore	Chesapeake College	Eastern Shore - Community	250
	October 26 th - Sisters in Christ Event	Best Western Hotel	Baltimore City	100
November (National Caregiver's Month)	The Maryland Association of Nonpublic Special Education Facilities (MANSEF)	Baltimore Convention Center	Statewide	1000
	November 16 th - TMMBC Women Spa Day Event	Mt. Moriah Baptist Church	Baltimore City - Families and Family Caregivers	150

³ See Table 1.

2014 GOALS

The Council established an ambitious plan for implementing 8 major goals for the year 2014. These goals, listed below, were established as a direct result of the strategic planning process.

1. Review Council's Statute for current relevancy and possible legislative changes.
2. Identify partnerships that will provide at least one formal opportunity to hear directly from family and informal caregivers.
3. Develop measures to gauge progress of the Council's ongoing efforts to assess the needs of family and informal caregivers.
4. Provide educational/awareness materials to a minimum of 10 community/outreach events throughout the state.
5. Develop a family and informal caregiver video that may be used for educational/awareness events.
6. Work in partnership with Maryland Access Point (MAP) to ensure that there is barrier-free family and informal caregiver supports information available to the public.
7. Identify other information and referral systems to ensure that barrier-free family and informal caregiver supports information is part of their data base (Mental Health Systems will be the first priority to review).
8. Work in partnership with the Department of Human Resources to ensure that the Council has technical support in all areas to accomplish its statutory mandate.

The Council has made a commitment to review the action plan results in the Spring of 2014 to determine the pace of progress. Future review will occur in the early Fall of 2014 in order to assess the outcomes and final actions needed to meet the 2014 Goals.

CONCLUSION

The Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council is constantly assessing its formal partnerships and reaching out to new partners, as well as reviewing relationships within the Council to ensure that it represents and addresses issues of caregivers across lifespan and disability type. The Council remains confident that through its network of partners, including the Department of Human Resources, it will continue to actively pursue any available resources for its initiatives.