

2014 ANNUAL REPORT - MARYLAND CAREGIVERS SUPPORT COORDINATING COUNCIL
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

January 1, 2015

REPORT REQUIREMENT – 2014 JOINT CHAIRMEN’S REPORT

On behalf of the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council (Council), the Department of Human Resources submits the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council Annual Report pursuant to Human Services Article § 7-305(b). The Council, established by legislation in 2001, is the state’s voice for the informal caregiver. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate statewide planning, development, and implementation of family caregiver support services for all ages, especially respite care.

Council membership is composed of Governor Appointees representing state agencies, caregivers, service providers, and advocacy groups. The Department of Human Resources provides staff to the Council.

2014 STATUS REPORT

In 2014, the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council focused on implementing the 2013 Strategic Plan that strengthened Council infrastructure to effectively accomplish its legislative mandate by organizing the Council according to three central tenets:

Seek and Find

- Research available funding sources and explore for enhancement of caregiver supports
- Identify unmet needs and priorities for additional funding

Caregiver Support and Advocacy

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

Caregiver Systems, Review and Coordination

- Review caregiver support systems, and assess for effectiveness and accessibility
- Coordinate barrier free systems

A six-month review of the Strategic Plan implementation revealed the following accomplishments:

- A statewide survey launched in November 2014 to reveal unmet needs of caregivers to be used to advise on policies
- A Council Standing Committee researching additional funding sources for caregiver supports
- A Council Standing Committee actively engaged in coordination of information and systems via the Council website, and in partnership with Maryland Access Point (MAP)
- Monthly community outreach events to engage caregivers across Maryland and create new partnerships
- Increased coordination between agency Government Affairs offices, including the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Aging and Department of Disabilities on caregiver issues

- Strengthening awareness of the Council in the Maryland General Assembly, resulting in direct work with Maryland legislators
- Working with partners, including AARP MD and 2015 Care Act legislation, strengthening the caregiver network

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Caregiver Survey

A workgroup comprised of family caregiver members of the Council and a volunteer market researcher established a statewide family caregiver survey, launched in November 2014. With a goal of at least 5,000 responses, the survey design reveals the challenges faced by family caregivers, whose efforts save Maryland taxpayers inestimable revenue, and identifies unmet needs. The data collected will shape the efforts and focus of the Council going forward. Survey data results will be published in 2015.

The November 2014 Caregiver Survey distribution received support across Maryland, across disabilities and across the lifespan. A coordinated outreach included working with partners, including:

- Faith communities: Catholic Charities, African American Faith Communities, including West Baltimore Clergy United, Associated Jewish Charities, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Washington and Easton, Maryland-Delaware Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Maryland Muslim Community
- Veterans, including the Veterans Administration and the Wounded Warrior Project
- Business community, including Maryland Chambers of Commerce and Northrup Grumman
- Outreach to every State employee, including Agencies, State University system, Judiciary, and Treasury
- Outreach to human service organizations and health care providers, including National Institute of Health and Johns Hopkins University Medical System
- Advocacy groups, including AARP Maryland, Alzheimer's Association, American Cancer Society, Associated Black Charities and the National Alliance on Mental Illness
- LGTB communities, including PFLAG, Chase Brexton and The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland (GLCCB)
- Community centers, including the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland State Library System, Edward Myerberg Senior Center and the Waxter Center
- Social Security Administration

Systems and Information Coordination

The Council has established a tool for evaluating websites that offers information for caregivers to ensure accurate and valuable information in resources it endorses for family caregivers. The Council is utilizing its website to coordinate, and in partnership with Maryland Access Point (MAP), to begin promoting MAP routine assessment of family caregiver needs. Monthly community outreach events direct family caregivers across Maryland to the Council website for information on services and support.

Policy

The Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council worked toward legislation to support family caregivers in the 2014 Maryland General Assembly, Senate Bill 505 **Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports**. Though the Task Force did not move out of Committee, the profile of the Council was strengthened through the process and by a call to action for the Council from the Senate floor. The four State agencies represented on the Council, Department of Human Resources; the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; the Department of Aging; and the Department of Disabilities have been represented at Council Meetings, the results of which include the statewide Caregiver Survey. The Council has subsequently engaged with members of the Maryland General Assembly to fulfill the Council's mandate to advise on matters of policy that impact family caregivers.

Council Outreach

In 2014, the Council reached over 17,000 people at events across Maryland (chart below). This included events focused on older adults, reproductive health, minority health and health disparities, children, women's health, faith, and participation in an AARP Caregivers Town Hall that included State policy makers.

Month	Name of Event	Location	Population	Attendance #s
March	B-More Expo	Baltimore Convention Center	Statewide	10,000
	AARP sponsored National Family Caregiver Support Program meeting	Annapolis	Statewide	100
April	Maryland 32 nd Annual Reproductive Health Update	Martin's West	Statewide	400
	Unity Conference	Baltimore City	Statewide	400
	Maryland Minority Health and Health Disparities	DHMH 201 West Preston Street	Statewide	400
May	Department of Public Health and Correctional Services	City Correctional Facility	Citywide	300
June	Morgan State Caregivers Conference	Morgan State University	Statewide	150
	Montgomery County Council on Aging	Montgomery Council	Montgomery County	20
August	Back to School Jam	Coppin State University	Statewide	3,500
September	FASD Information Table	201 West Preston Street	Statewide	1,000
	Baltimore City 3 rd Annual GrandCARE Conference	Reginald F. Lewis Museum	Baltimore City	250
	Prince George's County Dept. of Family Services, Aging Services	Upper Marlboro	Statewide	400

	Division, Family Caregivers Conference			
November	TMMBC Women Spa Day Event	Baltimore County	Statewide	150
	Social Security Administration	Woodlawn, MD	Statewide	200 + Survey distributed to entire SSA
	AARP MD State Caregiver Town Hall	Anne Arundel County	Statewide	100

2015 GOALS

- Increased collaboration between the four Departments represented on the Council for capacity expansion of current caregiver support programs with a focus on existing programs resources (Family Caregiver Supports provided by Departments Addendum).
- The Council has identified a three-year action plan for reaching caregivers across the lifespan:
 - Year 1:** seniors, seniors with dementia, children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, grandparents raising children/kinship
 - Year 2:** veterans of all ages, other chronic illnesses
 - Year 3:** teen caregivers
- To work with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to include caregiver assessments as part of the Home and Community Based Service Waiver Programs.
- Continued work toward a comprehensive one-stop location for caregiver information and supports, utilizing the Council website, Maryland Access Point and other potential partners.
- Strengthening the Council’s profile through media and social media to reach caregivers across the State and across the lifespan.
- Using the published data from the statewide Caregiver Survey, advising policy makers and working to create barrier-free systems for family caregivers.
- Increasing Council outreach efforts across Maryland, including Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORTS

The supports list below are provided to family caregivers by State Agency’s who are represented on the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council.

Maryland Department of Aging

National Family Caregiver Support Program – provides information about available services, assistance with locating resources, financial assistance for respite care, education, and supplemental services.

Maryland Access Point (MAP) - a “gateway” for older adults and individuals with disabilities. It is a statewide resource for information and assistance about long-term services and supports to allow individuals to remain at home and plan for future needs. State partners include the Maryland Departments of Aging, Disabilities, and Health and Mental Hygiene, as well as the regional Centers for Independent Living. MAP is part of the national Aging and Disability Resource Center initiative that provides a visible and trusted place to access information and assistance.

Maryland Department of Disabilities

Attendant Care Program – provides financial assistance for services such as personal care, chore services, and transportation to adults age 18 to 64 with severe chronic or severe physical disabilities.

Maryland Technology Assistance Program – helps families access assistive technologies such as wheelchairs, low vision aids, adapted telephones, ramps and other home modifications.

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Behavioral Health Administration

Child and Adolescent Respite Care Program

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Low Intensity Support Services – grants to assist adults with developmental disabilities and families with a child with developmental disabilities in purchasing services and/or items to address needs.

Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs

Grants to Local Health Departments - these grants support programs to meet the needs of CYSHCN and their families such as case management, respite care, transition to adulthood and specialty clinics.

Maryland Department of Human Resources

Social Services Administration

Office of Child Welfare Policy & Practice

Kinship Navigator Services – Maryland provides Kinship Navigator services to relatives who are caring for their minor kin. Kinship Navigators are responsible for providing information and referrals as well as caregiver support groups.

Office of Adult Services

Respite Care Program – provides a break to family caregivers, caring for an adult or child with a disability or chronic health need.