

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller  
State House, H-107  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
H-101 State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

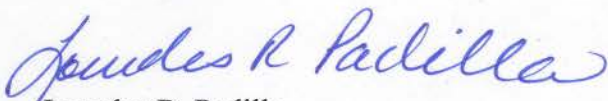
**RE: 2019 Annual Legislative Report – Maryland Commission on Caregiving**  
*Completed pursuant to Human Services Article §7-305(b)*

Dear President Miller and Speaker Jones:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is required to submit a report to the Maryland General Assembly on the activities and recommendations of the Maryland Commission on Caregiving. This report is completed pursuant to Human Services Article §7-305(b). In accordance with this reporting requirement, DHS is pleased to provide you with the enclosed report.

If you should require additional information please contact the Office of Government Affairs at 410-767-8966.

Sincerely,



Lourdes R. Padilla  
Secretary



**REPORT ON THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CAREGIVING**

---

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

October 1, 2019

---

## REPORT REQUIREMENT

---

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirements found under Human Services Article § 7-305 (b):

*The Maryland Commission on Caregiving shall report annually on its activities and recommendations regarding family caregiver support services to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.*

*Source: Human Services Article § 7-305 (b)*

---

## BACKGROUND

---

The Maryland Commission on Caregiving (MCC) is the State's formal voice for the informal caregiver. An informal caregiver provides a family member, friend, or neighbor with supportive care when that person is unable to care for themselves. Activities the informal caregiver may offer include personal care, housekeeping, medication assistance, coordination of services, and assistance in accessing the community for various reasons. The purpose of the MCC is to coordinate statewide planning, development, and implementation of family caregiver support services for all ages, especially respite care.

The MCC was created during the 2017 session of the General Assembly, established through legislation enacted in Senate Bill 215/HB 769 and signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan on April 11, 2017. The new Commission took effect on October 1, 2017 and is comprised of 19 commissioners including a legislator from the House of Delegates and one from the State Senate. In addition, three commissioners are appointed as family caregivers to ensure that the "Voice of the Caregiver" is fully represented. For a full list of Commission members for the term July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019, please refer to Appendix A.

---

## ACTIVITIES

---

The MCC is pleased to provide this annual report covering the activities of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

The MCC continues with the ongoing Strategic Planning Process which includes a continued focus on the Commission's legislative mandates:

1. Solicit and gather concerns of caregivers
2. Develop and distribute to interested parties a handbook of current respite care and other family caregiver services available in the State
3. Review successful respite care programs in other states
4. Develop a model family caregiver support program that incorporates best practices from existing programs in this and other states
5. Coordinate activities of existing and proposed family caregiver support services among State and local units

6. Research available funding sources and explore possibilities for additional funds
7. Identify unmet needs and priorities for additional funds
8. Provide ongoing analysis of best practices in family caregiver support programs in this and other states
9. Monitor implementation of the Commission's recommendations

Through this continued examination of the legislative mandates, the MCC focused on three main areas: outreach, accessibility and inclusion, and intentional partnership building.

The MCC held seven (7) meetings this year including its Annual Meeting. At each meeting, Commissioners and community partners joined together to hear and network with speakers, discuss Commission matters and activities, learn about how proposed legislation may impact the caregiving community, and exchange information on community events and funding opportunities. Meeting speakers this year included: Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Maryland Family Network, Behavioral Health Administration, Back Fin Media, and Johns Hopkins Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. All of the speakers provide essential knowledge to MCC, caregivers, and partners and have contributed to a valuable network of resources.

The MCC continues to focus on "information sharing" through both a partnership distribution list and its monthly meetings. Through the partnership distribution list, the MCC has been instrumental in cross-sharing of information relevant to caregivers and the organizations supporting them. Conferences, funding opportunities, legislative efforts, and state and national reports are disseminated to an email distribution group of 140 recipients. This establishes the MCC as a central repository of information pertinent to families and organizations. The MCC has also developed state-specific materials for distribution which includes information collected from various sources as they pertain to family caregiving. Refer to Appendix B for a summary of one of the Town Halls. Additionally, the monthly meetings are open to the public which allows for new community partners and caregivers to join and participate. The monthly meetings also encourage partner sharing as outside entities come to present and exchange information.



Maryland Commission on Caregiving with Daphne Glover Ferrier and Robert Ferrier of Back Fin Media. Daphne and Robert have created a documentary called SPENT-The Hidden Cost of Dementia, and showed the Commission a sneak preview during its June 2019 meeting. This documentary explores the economic impact of Dementia and Alzheimer's.

---

## OUTREACH

---

The MCC engaged in a wide array of outreach activities during the reporting period. The MCC presented or exhibited at eleven events. The total number of attendees for these events was 1,713 individuals. The MCC also partnered with several organizations during their legislative outreach events during the 2019 General Assembly, including United Seniors of MD and the Alzheimer's Association. Please refer to Appendices C & D for a list of events and the PowerPoint presentation that is utilized for outreach activities.

The MCC also conducted outreach to legislators during the 2019 General Assembly. The MCC provided a letter of support for SB500 "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program" (see Appendix E). The "Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program" would help caregivers to better support their loved ones in times of need without worrying about the financial ramifications of losing employment or resorting to unpaid leave.

The MCC hosted two Town Hall events, which were held in Salisbury and Frederick. They were moderated by the legislative representatives on the Commission—Senator James Mathias, District 38, and Delegate Karen Lewis-Young, District 3A. The first event was held at Salisbury University on September 15, 2018. There were 35 caregiver attendees who were able to express concerns and learn about community resources from the 20 community partners in attendance. The second Town Hall was hosted in Frederick at the C. Burr Artz Public Library on April 25, 2019. There were 37 attendees and community partners present. Both events served as important opportunities for the MCC to meet with caregivers in the community and to fulfill its mandate to "solicit and gather concerns of caregivers." The MCC developed a standard list of questions for the legislators to ask when seeking stakeholder input (refer to Appendix F).



This photo was taken at the Frederick Town Hall and highlights the information sharing and collaborative opportunities available among attendees.

---

## ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

---

Per the MCC's mandate, it is essential that information is easily accessible and inclusive. This includes improving access to information that would benefit caregivers in their role and conducting targeted efforts to maximize inclusion of underrepresented populations.

The Commission worked this year to enhance its webpage to ensure it included resources that were useful, easily accessible, and relevant across a wide range of topics. The Commission's training website page was launched in June 2019. It was a collaborative effort fueled by the Federal Lifespan Respite Grant and its Training Committee. This Committee included representatives from Anne Arundel Department of Aging and Disabilities, Arc of Baltimore, Easter Seals, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence, Maryland Coalition of Families, Maryland Department of Human Services, Mental Health Association of Maryland, and SAFE: Stop Abuse of Elders. The group worked diligently to identify and vet all the training resources included on the webpage. It was presented to the Social Services Administration Advisory Board within the Department of Human Services for further feedback. The result is a robust repository of training resources to equip the caregiver with the tools necessary to care for their loved one and, most importantly, is representative of the lifespan. To see the website please visit: <http://dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-commission-caregiving/training-resources-caregivers/>

The MCC also worked to recruit new caregivers to fill vacant positions. By partnering with existing stakeholders, the MCC was able to recruit three new caregivers to join the Commission



representing the lifespan. The Commission also sought to find representation from less represented communities, such as LGBTQ caregivers and Hispanic/Latino caregivers. The MCC interfaces frequently with personnel at DHS responsible for Hispanic/Latino outreach. She attends meetings regularly and offers strategies and suggestions on how to target this population. Additionally, materials disseminated to advertise MCC events and activities are often translated into Spanish to accommodate non-English speakers. Including other underrepresented populations and targeting other areas of the state will continue to be a main priority in the upcoming year.

---

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

---

One of the MCC's major roles includes linking community-based caregiver support organizations to resources and other organizations. With this in mind, as well as its legislative mandates, the MCC was able to forge several new strategic partnerships this year. Many of these partnerships arose from the various outreach events in which the MCC participates. For instance, the partnership between MCC and John's Hopkins Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program allows the Commission to provide ongoing analysis of best practices in family caregiver support programs. The MCC's partnership with organizations such as NAMI, Parents' Place, Easter Seals, AARP, and the Alzheimer's Association satisfies multiple mandates, including: "review successful respite care programs in other states" and "develop a model family caregiver support program that incorporates best practices from existing programs in this and other states."

The MCC held its Annual Meeting in December 2018 which prioritized partnerships and enhancements to the statewide caregiver network. In previous years the target audience was the informal caregiver. Alternatively, the purpose of this year's Annual Meeting was to gather partners and relevant stakeholders together to establish and strengthen collaborative opportunities with the intent to conduct, organize, and plan activities to support the Commission's objectives. There were 51 attendees and the event included speakers from the National Alliance for Caregiving, Kennedy Krieger Institute, DHS's Social Services Administration, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence, and Easter Seals. Representatives from various MCC partner organizations presented to small groups. Those agencies included: Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders, Chase Brexton, Department of Human Services Kinship Care, the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Maryland Community of Practice, Maryland Respite Care Coalition, MD Technology Assistance Program, NAMI Maryland, Parents' Place, and Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE). Many of these speakers held roundtable discussions that allowed for MCC members and partners to network and build strategic partnerships. For a copy of the meeting agenda, please see Appendix G.

---

## **PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020**

---

In the next year, the MCC will focus on the following priorities:

- Leverage the existing partnership network to solicit broader concerns of caregivers within already established feedback loops, such as existing surveys that get disseminated by other organizations.
- Continue to strengthen the network of partners that support caregivers and facilitate more collaborative opportunities.
- Conduct another caregiver Town Hall in Prince George's County and evaluate ways to improve and enrich the experience for attendees.
- Leverage the expertise of the Senate and House MCC representatives to be more strategic about legislative involvement and advocacy.
- Identify a caregiver support program in another state with potential for replication in Maryland.
- Review current MCC structures and committees to determine where there is room for growth.



**Appendix A**  
**Maryland Commission on Caregiving**  
**Member Roster**  
**July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019**

**Senior Staff to the Commission:**

**Dorinda A. Adams, LMSW**

**Public Agencies:**

**Jennifer Eastman, Commission Chair**

Director, Community Living Policy  
Maryland Department of Disabilities  
*Represents- MDOD*

**Tina Bullock**

Supervisor, Family Centered Practice Office of Systems Improvement  
Social Services Administration  
*Represents- DHS*

**Mary Chaput**

Program Director, Respite Care Referral & Family Caregiver Support Programs  
*Represents- Area Agencies on Aging*

**Anthony Jackson**

Constituent Services Coordinator  
Developmental Disabilities Administration  
*Represents- MDH*

**April V. Seitz, LCSW-C**

Director, Office of Adult Services  
Social Services Administration  
*Represented- DHS*

**Angela Sittler**

Parent Resource Coordinator  
Office for Genetics & People w/Special Health Care Needs  
Prevention & Health Promotion Administration  
*Represents – MDH*

**Joan Smith**

Director, Promotion & Wellness  
Child, Adolescent, & Young Adult Services  
Behavioral Health Administration  
*Represents- MDH*

**Chris Stewart**

Manager, National Family Caregivers Support  
Maryland Department of Aging  
*Represents- MDoA*

**Family Caregivers:**

**Dr. Renee S. Fredericksen, Vice Chair**

*Represents – Family Caregiver*

**Betty Jones**

*Represents- Family Caregiver*

**Ann Squire**

*Represents- Family Caregiver*

**Nate Sweeney**

*Represents- Family Caregiver*

**Unfilled**

*Represents- Family Caregiver*

**Private Agencies:**

**Larry Bram**

Easter Seals Serving DC/MD/VA

**Connie Marth**

Delmarva Community Services, Inc.

*Represents- Agency with Respite Experience*

**Christine Schoenberger**

Kennedy Krieger – Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities

*Represents- Agency with Respite Experience*

**Linda Ramsey**

Maryland Respite Care Coalition

**State Legislators:**

**State Senator James Mathias, District 38**

**State Delegate Karen Lewis Young, District 3A**

## Appendix B



### Maryland Commission on Caregiving *“The Voice of the Caregiver”*

---

## Maryland Commission on Caregiving Town Hall Summary

### Background:

There were an estimated 547,600 informal caregivers in the State of Maryland who provided an estimated 587 million hours of caregiving in 2014. Family caregivers are responsible for the physical, emotional and financial support of another person regardless of age who is unable to care for him/herself due to illness, injury or disability. The role is typically unpaid, and requires great sacrifice.

The Maryland General Assembly passed SB216 during the 2017 Legislative Session to create the Maryland Commission on Caregiving. The Commission seeks to recommend policies, address the concerns, and acknowledge the contributions of Maryland Caregivers. An integral part of this mission is speaking with caregivers around the state to identify their needs. As part of this task, the Commission conducted two Town Hall style events to gather caregiver feedback. The first Town Hall was facilitated by Senator Delores G. Kelly, District 10 on November 14, 2017. A second Town Hall was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and facilitated by Senator James N. Mathias, District 38. One hundred three people from across the state attended and provided feedback on their caregiving experiences and shared how elected officials may ease the burdens of caregiving.

### Key Takeaways:

A number of key themes were mentioned at these events.

- **Caregivers take on a lot in caring for their loved one.** Negative impacts of caregiving that were expressed were loss of time and social life, added financial burden and responsibility, and difficulty learning about and accessing resources. Positive impacts expressed were the ability to spend time with loved ones, as well as give back to them. Many caregivers also identified the importance of their role helping others who are caregivers.
- **Caregivers are financially burdened.** Caregivers overwhelmingly report financial concerns related to caregiving. The solutions put forth to alleviate these concerns were as follows: caregiver stipend, tax credits for caregivers, respite stipends, and housing assistance such as a rent cap.

- **Caregivers have a hard time finding and accessing appropriate resources.** Caregivers report difficulty accessing resources. Solutions put forth by caregivers to alleviate these concerns were as follows: web portal of updated information, call center for caregivers, continued forums, and increased resources.
- **Caregivers want elected officials help.** Caregivers want elected officials to expand services that alleviate the financial and time burden of caregiving. Solutions that were suggested include: tax breaks for caregivers, increases in funding for community supports, expanded senior center hours, increased sick leave, increased transportation options for seniors, and more affordable insurance.
- **The informal caregiver community is growing.** Many caregivers recognize this as both a positive and negative. Some believe that as more people age there will be access to more resources. Others feel that there may be more competition for resources if more funds are not allocated to services.
- **Caregivers think Maryland can do more.** Despite gratitude towards many of the service providers, informal caregivers believe that Maryland could do more to assist caregivers, especially financially.

In the State of Maryland there are a number of organizations supporting caregivers. Caregivers specifically mentioned a few as particularly helpful. These organizations include AARP, Alzheimer's Association, Area Agencies on Aging, Easter Seals, Eastern Shore Respite Care Project, MAC Inc., and senior centers.

**Appendix C**  
**Maryland Commission on Caregiving**  
**Caregiver Outreach & Community Events 2019**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Name of Event</b>	<b>Type of Event</b>	<b>Commission Members Present</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>
<b>July</b>						
<b>August</b>						
<b>September</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Salisbury Caregiver Town Hall and Resource Fair	Town Hall	Mary Chaput Betty Jones Senator Mathias Christine Schoenberger Joan Smith	Salisbury University	Caregivers & Community Partners	55
<b>October</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Social Security Administrations Work-Life Fair Presentation	Exhibitor	Christine Schoenberger Grace Fisher	SSA Headquarters Woodlawn	SSA Employees	500
<b>November</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> AARP Family Caregiver Presentation	Panel Discussion	Dorinda Adams	Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center	General Public and AARP Members	40

<b>December</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b> MCC Annual Meeting	Meeting	Jennifer Eastman Mary Chaput Angela Sittler Ann Squire Chris Stewart Christine Schoenberger Joan Smith Connie Marth Dorinda Adams Grace Fisher	North Laurel Community Center	Community Partners	51
<b>January</b>						
<b>February</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b> Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Day	Advocacy Day	Dorinda Adams	Maryland General Assembly	Caregivers & Community Partners	80
<b>March</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> United Seniors Legislative Advocacy Day	Advocacy Day	Jennifer Eastman Dorinda Adams	Maryland General Assembly	Caregivers & Community Partners	491
	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> Brain Injury Association of Maryland Conference	Conference	Grace Fisher	Red Lion Hotel	Caregivers & Community Partners	350

<b>April</b>	<b>25th</b> Frederick Caregiver Town Hall and Resource Fair	Town Hall	Jennifer Eastman Grace Fisher Chris Stewart Del. Karen Lewis-Young	C. Burr Artz Public Library	Caregivers & Community Partners	37
	<b>25th</b> AARP Maryland's Free Screening of WHAT THEY HAD - Salisbury	Movie Screening & Panel	Dorinda Adams	Salisbury University	Caregivers & Community Partners	40
<b>May</b>	<b>16th</b> Post Acute Care Focus Group	Focus Group	Angela Sittler Grace Fisher	Howard County Health Department	Caregivers	9
<b>June</b>	<b>27th</b> Worcester County Family Caregiver Conference	Conference	Dorinda Adams Joan Smith	Worcester Technical High School	Caregivers & Community Partners	60



# MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CAREGIVING

---

Dorinda Adams, MSW, LMSW  
Executive Staff to the Maryland  
Commission on Caregiving

December 2018

## History

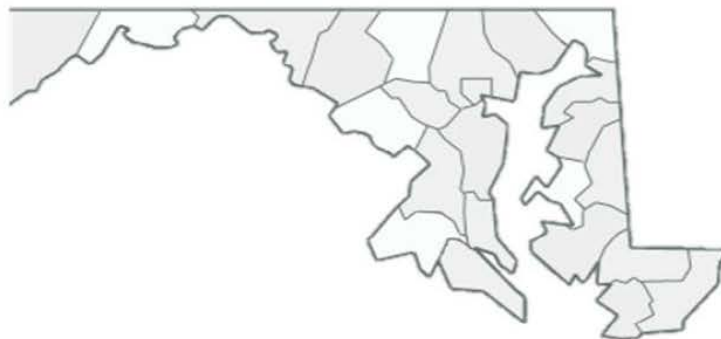
- **Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council established 2001**
  - Identify the needs and challenges of informal family caregivers
  - Advocate for and empower caregivers
  - Make recommendations for effective public policies and service coordination
- **17 members appointed by Governor**
  - State agencies, service providers, and advocacy groups
  - Five family caregiver members required
  - Maryland Department of Human Services provided staff to the Council

## History continued

- 2016 Task Force on Family Caregiving and Long-Term Supports
  - Senator Delores Kelley, Chair and Delegate Angela Angel, Co-Chair
  - Recommendations to enhance statute
    - Change name to the Maryland Commission on Caregiving
    - Broaden membership to include representative from Maryland Senate and House of Delegates
    - Expand mandates of Commission
- Maryland General Assembly passed Bill SB216
- Governor Larry Hogan signed Bill on April 11, 2017

## Vision

We envision a Maryland where Caregivers provide support for their loved ones while at the same time attending to their own well-being and life balance.



## Mission

As the “Voice of the Caregiver,” the Maryland Commission on Caregiving seeks to *recommend policies, address the concerns and acknowledge the contributions of Maryland Caregivers*. The Commission will engage communities to empower Caregivers with resources, respite and support.



## Commission Members (2017-18)

- **Larry Bram**, Easter Seals Serving DC/MD/VA
  - Maryland Department of Human Services
  - **Mary Chaput**, Anne Arundel County Department of Aging
  - **Chair, Jennifer Eastman**, Maryland Department of Disabilities
  - **Anthony Jackson**, Maryland Department of Health
  - **Betty Jones**, Family Caregiver
  - **Connie Marth**, Delmarva Community Services, Inc.
  - **James N. Mathias Jr.**, Member of the Maryland Senate
  - **Linda Ramsey**, Maryland Respite Care Coalition
  - **Christine Schoenberger**, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
  - **Angela Sittler**, Maryland Department of Health
  - **Joan Smith**, Maryland Department of Health
  - **Ann Squire**, Family Caregiver
  - **Chris Stewart**, Maryland Department of Aging
  - **Karen Lewis Young**, Member of the Maryland House of Delegates
- Commission Staff (provided by MD Department of Human Services):**
- **Dorinda A. Adams**, MSW, LMSW  
Social Services Administration

## Our Mandate



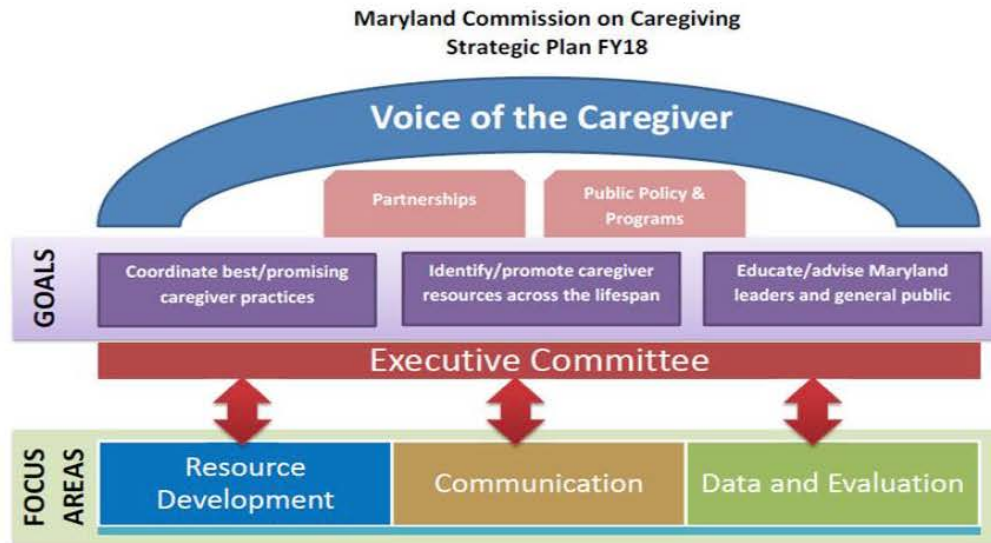
1. Solicit and gather **concerns of caregivers**
2. Develop and distribute to interested parties a **handbook of current respite care** and other family caregiver services available in the State
3. Review **successful respite care programs** in other states
4. Develop a **model family caregiver support program** that incorporates best practices from existing programs in this and other states

## Our Mandate



5. Provide **ongoing analysis of best practices** in family caregiver support programs in this and in other states
6. **Coordinate activities** of existing and proposed family caregiver support services among State and local units
7. **Research available funding sources** and explore possibilities for additional funds
8. Identify **unmet needs and priorities** for additional funds
9. **Monitor and implement** the Commission's recommendations

# Strategic Plan 2018



## 2018 Accomplishments



- Presented or exhibited at 15 events with 1,160 participants
- Enhanced outreach strategies by developing a brochure targeted to caregivers and the building of an improved website to launch in 2019
- Two Town Hall events with a total of 103 attendees were held to obtain “the voice of the caregiver”



## 2018 Key Lessons Learned



### Trends from Town Hall

- Caregivers take on a lot in caring for their loved one
- Caregivers are financially burdened
- Caregivers have a hard time finding and accessing appropriate resources
- Caregivers want elected officials help
- The informal caregiver community is growing
- Caregivers think Maryland can do more

## 2019 Areas of Focus



### Commission Mandates Translated into ACTION

- Outreach
- Inclusion
- Strategic Partnerships

## 2019 Areas of Focus



### Outreach

- Launch the MCC website
  - Include education and training component
- Increase outreach capacity
- Continue Town Halls

## 2019 Areas of Focus



### Recruitment & Diversity

- Identify new strategies to obtain feedback from underrepresented and/or hard-to-reach caregivers
- Recruit diverse stakeholders and partners to take part in Commission activities



## 2019 Areas of Focus



### Strategic Partnerships

- Development of new strategies to work with partners, per the MCC's mandate
- Identify who is missing at the table and engage with them

## Thank You!

Thank you to the many individuals - including our legislators and Commission Members - as well as organizations, agencies and partners that have made this Commission possible.

## Appendix E



### Maryland Commission on Caregiving *“The Voice of the Caregiver”*

---

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kelley,

The Maryland Commission on Caregiving is pleased to submit **this letter of support for SB500 “Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program”**. This bill would repeal and reenact sections of the Labor and Employment article and repeal, reenact, and add to the State Finance and Procurement Article to establish the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program (FAMLI). This bill results from the efforts made by the members of the 2016 Task Force to Study Family and Medical Leave Insurance which took careful consideration, research, and substantial input from relevant stakeholders when issuing its report and recommendations.

This program would be administered by the Division of Unemployment Insurance (DUI) and would “provide temporary benefits to an employee who is taking partially paid or unpaid leave from employment to care for a newborn child or child placed for adoption or foster care, to care for a family member with a serious health condition, because the employee has a serious health condition that results in the employee being unable to perform the functions of the position of the employee, to care for a service member who is the employee’s next of kin, or because the employee has a qualifying exigency arising out of the deployment of a family member of the employee.”

Serving as the ‘voice of the Maryland family caregiver,’ the Maryland Commission on Caregiving (“Commission”) is charged with recommending policies that positively impact family caregivers, soliciting and responding to their concerns and acknowledging their contributions. Family caregivers are responsible for the physical, emotional and financial support of another person regardless of age who is unable to care for him/herself due to illness, injury or disability. With the passage of this bill establishing Maryland’s Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, caregivers would be able to better support their loved ones in times of need without worrying about the financial ramifications of losing employment or resorting to unpaid leave.

In 2014, there were an estimated 547,600 informal caregivers in the State of Maryland who provided an estimated 587 million hours of caregiving services. The role is typically unpaid, and requires great physical, emotional, and financial sacrifice. The economic value of this unpaid care was estimated to be about \$5.8 billion<sup>1</sup>. The passage of SB500 would provide employees who take on these roles with some compensation to allow them to provide adequate care to themselves and loved ones with diminished financial impact. Furthermore, it would align Maryland with five other states and the District of Columbia which have already passed similar Family and Medical Leave Insurance Programs and solidify its place as a caregiver-supportive state<sup>2</sup>.

The Commission works to ensure that caregivers across the lifespan are equipped with the resources needed to provide safe care to their loved ones across the state of Maryland. Passage of SB500 would support such efforts which is why the Commission respectfully urges a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Eastman, Chair  
Maryland Commission on Caregiving

---

<sup>1</sup> Caregiving Across the States: 50 State Profiles. (2014). State of the States in Family Caregiver Support. Retrieved from <https://www.caregiver.org/caregiving-across-states-50-state-profiles-2014>

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Task Force to Study Family and Medical Leave Insurance. (2017). Department of Legislative Services Office of Policy Analysis. Retrieved from <http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/HHS/2017-Report-of-the-Task-Force-to-Study-Family-and-Medical-Leave-Insurance.pdf>

**Appendix F**  
**Town Hall Questions**

1. What has been the single greatest impact your caregiving role has had in your life?
2. What do you love the most about your caregiving role?
3. When you think about your situation as a family caregiver, what are the most important resources you wish you had? What are the greatest barriers you face to accessing these resources?
4. What community based supports and/or resources have been the most helpful in your role as a caregiver?
5. Do you feel Maryland is doing enough to address the needs of family caregivers?
6. What is one thing your elected officials can do to ease the burden on caregivers? Do you see the situation for caregivers in Maryland improving in the next 10 years? Why or why not?

Other questions for consideration (if time permits):

1. How can the Commission on Caregiving find out what caregivers really need?
2. How can the Commission on Caregiving help caregivers to find the resources they need?
3. How can the Commission on Caregiving use the information from caregivers to fill unmet needs?

Appendix G



**Maryland Commission on Caregiving**  
*“The Voice of the Caregiver”*

---

**Maryland Commission on Caregiving Annual Meeting**  
**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

<b>8:30am-9:15am</b>	<b>Networking, Registration and Light Breakfast</b>
<b>9:15am-9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b> Jennifer Eastman, Maryland Department of Disabilities
<b>9:30 am-10:30 am</b>	<b>Plenary Speaker</b> Michael Wittke, National Alliance for Caregiving
<b>10:30am-10:45am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45am-11:15am</b>	<b>Maryland Commission on Caregiving - Annual Report</b> Dorinda Adams, Executive Staff to Maryland Commission on Caregiving
<b>11:15am-11:45am</b>	<b>Maryland Lifespan Respite Care Grant Update</b> Naomi Duffort, Office of Adult Services Christine Schoenberger, Kennedy Krieger Elizabeth Weglein, Elizabeth Cooney Agency
<b>12:00-1:00PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Kindly provided by the Maryland Department of Disabilities
<b>1:00-1:40PM</b>	<b>Powerful Tools for Caregivers Overview</b> Kathy Wehr, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence
	<b>Intergenerational Programming Overview</b> Elizabeth Barnes, Easter Seals
<b>1:45-3:15PM</b>	<b>Family/Informal Caregiver Supports Resource Mixer</b> Advisory Council on Hereditary & Congenital Disorders Chase Brexton- LGBTQ Caregivers DHS, Kinship Care Maryland Respite Care Coalition Maryland Technology Assistance Program National Alliance for Caregiving NAMI Maryland Parent’s Place WAVE
<b>3:15pm-3:30pm</b>	<b>Evaluations/Wrap Up/Closing Remarks</b>