Maryland
Department of
Human Services

2024 Annual Report of the Maryland Commission on Caregiving

Completed in accordance with Human Services Article § 7-305(b)

November 20, 2024

REPORT REQUIREMENT

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirements:

> *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) serves as Maryland's official advocate for informal caregivers. Informal caregivers are individuals who provide supportive care to family members, friends, or neighbors unable to care for themselves due to illness, injury, or disability. Their support may encompass a range of activities such as personal care, housekeeping, medication assistance, coordinating services, and facilitating access to the community for various needs.

The MCC was created during the 2017 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly, through Senate Bill 215/House Bill 769 and signed into law on April 11, 2017. The Commission took effect on October 1, 2017, and includes 17 Commissioners, including a legislator from the House of Delegates and the Senate of Maryland. In addition, seven Commissioners are appointed as family caregivers/consumers to ensure that the voice of the caregiver is fully represented.

ACTIVITIES

The MCC is pleased to present its annual report, covering the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. During this time, the MCC diligently continued its commitment to fulfilling legislative mandates, which include:

1. Gathering and addressing caregiver concerns.
2. Developing and distributing a handbook of current respite care and other available family caregiver services in the State.
3. Reviewing successful respite care programs in other states.
4. Creating a model family caregiver support program incorporating best practices from existing programs.
5. Coordinating activities among existing and proposed family caregiver support services at both the state and local levels.

6. Researching available funding sources and exploring opportunities for additional funds.
7. Identifying unmet needs and priorities for additional funding.
8. Providing ongoing analysis of best practices in family caregiver support programs in Maryland and other states.
9. Monitoring the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Throughout the year, the MCC met monthly either virtually or in-person, with the exception of July 2023. The meetings were attended by Commissioners and community partners, with the primary purpose of coordinating caregiver support throughout Maryland. The coordination included reviewing existing programs, gathering feedback from family caregivers to identify service gaps, and evaluating proposed legislation. The Commission frequently invited guest speakers to share valuable insights and information on various supports and services. Meeting topics and speakers this year included:

Speaker	**Date**	**Topic**
Katherine Wehr, Caregiver Support Program Manager, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence	September 2023	Katherine Wehr provided information on the Alzheimer's Association of Maryland’s educational series, as well as conferences and training available to caregivers on topics including self-care, Parkinson Disease, and Powerful Tools for Caregivers.
Larry Bram, Senior Vice President, Innovation and Program Development, Easter seals and a family caregiver	October 2023	Larry Bram shared his lived experience as a caregiver to his 30-year-old daughter with polymicrogyria. Mr. Bram also shared his experience as a senior leader with Easter Seals, and shared resources available to caregivers and

		information on how to access them.
Theresa Robertson, Commission Chair, Family Caregiver	November 2023	Mrs. Robertson advocated for 2024 Maryland Senate Bill 202 on behalf of family caregivers during a session with lawmakers in Annapolis. She also spoke at a caregiver conference attended by over 50 participants, where she led a demonstration of the Commission's website created for National Family Caregivers Month
Jennifer Eastman, Theresa Robertson, Shalini Arora and Yetunde Olobatuyi	December 2024	The Commission met in person to review 2023 accomplishments.
Kate Farinholt and Theresa Robertson	January 2024	The Commission met to establish goals for 2024.
Jennifer Eastman, Director, Community Living Policy and Programs, Department of Disabilities Dr. Joan Davitt, University of Maryland School of Social Work	February 2024	Updates from the 2023-2024 Maryland Caregiver survey. During this virtual meeting, highlights from the Commission's Caregiver Survey were presented.

Dorinda Adams, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Maryland Volunteer	March 2024	This virtual meeting included legislative updates, including HB 32 and SB 202, Income Tax Caregiver Tax Credit.
Betty Romero, Director, Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative, Department of Aging Jennifer Eastman, Director, Community Living Policy and Programs, Department of Disabilities	April 2024	Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative of the Maryland Department of Aging. This virtual meeting included legislative updates, including HB 39/HB 189.
Jennifer Eastman, Director, Community Living Policy and Programs, Department of Disabilities Theresa Robertson, Family Caregiver, Commission Chair	May 2024	Jennifer Eastman presented on Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act, a national law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. Commission Chair Mrs.Robertson participated in the Bill Signing event in Annapolis
Senator Benson	June 2024	Senator Benson was invited to share updates on SB 202, funding tax credits for caregivers, and the Caregiver Expense Grant Program within the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA).

OUTREACH

The MCC continues to focus on information sharing through both an email distribution list to Commissioners and partners, and through its monthly meetings. Through the email distribution list, the MCC has been instrumental in cross-sharing of information relevant to caregivers and the organizations supporting them. This includes conferences, funding opportunities, legislative efforts, and state and national reports.

To enhance communication and ensure seamless connectivity, a dedicated email address was established for the Commission's business. The email address is dhs.mcc@maryland.gov and remains active and continues to serve as a vital point of contact for all Commission-related matters. Additionally, the Commission website is regularly updated throughout the year to reflect the latest information below:

1. Training resources for caregivers
2. Caring for the caregivers
3. Meeting dates
4. Members of the Commission
5. Annual Reports
6. Resources
7. Contact us

In May 2024, Commissioner Yetunde Olobatuyi from the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented to the leadership at the MDOA, detailing the various respite programs offered by DHS, including both state and federal respite options available to Marylanders. Her presentation emphasized the importance of respite in supporting caregivers and individuals in need.

Additionally, Commissioner Olobatuyi participated in the National ARCH Respite Conference's "Bring, Brag, and Borrow" session. There, she provided over 100 attendees with valuable information on the Administration on Community Living respite grant. During her presentation, she gave an overview of the federal Lifespan Respite Enhancement Grant awarded to Maryland, implemented to deliver emergency respite, and explained how this grant is implemented in Maryland. She also mentioned that DHS has achieved a significant milestone in serving a diverse clientele. Notably, 52% of the total clients served by the grant have been African American, marking a major accomplishment for DHS. This achievement highlights DHS commitment to addressing the needs of diverse populations and promoting health equity. Through these presentations, Commissioner Olobatuyi demonstrated the MCC's commitment to raising awareness about the importance of respite care and ensuring that caregivers are well-informed about the resources available to them. Commissioner Patricia Morris, CEO of “The Hands of Hope Foundation” celebrated a significant milestone with the organization’s ten-year anniversary on November 18, 2023 . The event, held at the Harborside Hotel in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and was hosted by Pat-Lawson Muse, former news anchor on Channel 4 News, alongside her husband, Senator C. Anthony Muse of District 26 in Prince George's County, MD. In conjunction with National Caregivers Month, the celebration honored the dedication of caregivers in Prince George's County and marked a decade of the foundation’s decade-long commitment to supporting them.

Founded on May 5, 2013, as a 501(c)(3) organization in Maryland, The Hands of Hope Foundation has grown from a small support group of five caregivers—originally organized by CEO/Founder Patricia J. Morris in her basement—into a vibrant community of over 100 caregivers. The foundation's mission is to educate residents about available caregiver services and resources in Prince George's County, a passion inspired by Mrs. Morris' personal experience caring for her late mother.

The anniversary celebration attracted over 130 attendees, including caregivers, legislators, state representatives, MCC members, partners and community organizations. A highlight of the celebration was the presentation of citations from esteemed officials, including Governor of Maryland, Wes Moore; United States Congressman Glen F. Ivey; and Maryland Senator C. Anthony Muse. These citations recognize the Hands of Hope Foundation's tireless efforts and dedication to supporting caregivers in Prince George's County.

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CAREGIVING CHAIRPERSON

The Commission expressed deep gratitude to Commissioner Jennifer Eastman for her exemplary service as chair for two terms. Jennifer’s leadership was marked by exceptional dedication, as she shared her expertise and energy with the Commission and remained accessible to all members and partners. Her contributions were widely recognized and appreciated, and the Commission extended heartfelt thanks for her outstanding service.

Following Jennifer’s departure, the Commission sought volunteers for the Chair and Chair’s designee positions. Commissioner Theresa Robertson was recommended by the Commission as Chair by unanimous vote in August 2023. Commissioner Kate Fairnholt agreed to serve as the Chair's designee, leading the Commission in her absence. Although new to their positions, both Theresa and Kate have shown remarkable adaptability and leadership. Their commitment to advancing the Commission's mission has been impressive, and the Commission looks forward to their continued contributions.

LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

During the 2024 General Assembly Session, the Maryland Commission on Caregiving (MCC) submitted written testimony on three three key pieces of legislation impacting family caregivers, and had three commissioners, all family caregivers, provide oral testimony.

HB39/SB197: Residential Service Agencies - Reimbursement - Personal Assistance Services (Homecare Worker Rights Act of 2024)

This bill mandates that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may reimburse Residential Service Agencies (RSAs) for personal assistance services if those services are provided by individuals classified as employees. The bill takes effect on October 1, 2025, and has been signed into law by Governor Moore.

Why is this bill important? This legislation provides essential protections for personal care workers employed by RSAs, who often serve older adults and people with disabilities under Medicaid programs. Many of these workers are underemployed, underinsured, and predominantly Black and Brown women. This bill addresses issues with misclassification of workers as independent contractors, these workers do not have control over their schedules or rates, which the bill rectifies by ensuring they are classified correctly and receive appropriate benefits. According to the Department of Labor, independent contractors set their own schedules and rates. This is not possible if you are an independent contractor for a RSA. They set your rate and tell you when to work.

HB189: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Personal Care Aides - Wage Reports

This bill requires each Residential Service Agency (RSA) to submit a report to the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) documenting the RSA's average wage rate and the highest and lowest wage rates for personal care aides (PCAs). Additionally, MDH must report on the implementation of Ensuring Access to Medicaid final federal rule. The bill took effect July 1, 2024, and has also been signed into law by Governor Moore.

Why is it important? This bill addresses a critical gap in reporting regarding the wage of PCAs in Medicaid-funded programs, excluding DDA. Currently, while the state approves Medicaid rates for personal care services, it is unclear how much of this funding directly benefits the PCAs. By mandating transparency in wage reporting, the bill will help ensure fair compensation for PCAs. These are individuals who are often underemployed and underinsured, using government assistance programs themselves, and Black and Brown women. This transparency is vital for setting equitable rates and supporting the over 14,000 Medicaid participants who utilized these services in FY23.

SB202: Department of Aging - Caregiver Expense Grant Program - Established
This bill establishes a Caregiver Expense Grant Program within MDOA. It provides grants to individuals who care for a qualified family member and whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed $75,000 ($150,000 for joint tax filer). Eligible caregivers can apply for a grant amounting to 30% of qualified expenses that exceed $2,000 with a maximum grant of $2,500 per fiscal year. This legislation has been signed into law by Governor Moore.

Why is it important? A 2021 AARP study found that family caregivers incur an average annual out-of- pocket cost of $7,242. This grant program aims to alleviate the financial burden on family caregivers, supporting those who care for loved ones at home and helping to delay the need for more expensive and restrictive care settings. The Commission strongly endorses this effort as a significant step in easing the financial challenges faced by caregivers.

2023-2024 CAREGIVERS' SURVEY

MCC conducted the 2023-2024 Maryland Caregivers' Survey to gain insights into the needs of informal caregivers and their families across the state. The survey aimed to enhance support for family caregivers, recognizing their invaluable contributions. This survey focused on several critical components:

- Prevalence of caregivers;
- Identification of care recipients, caregivers were asked about the individuals they provide care for, including demographic information and specific needs;
- Types of assistance required, the survey explored the types of assistance caregivers provide, such as daily living activities, medical tasks, transportation, and advocacy;

- Awareness and utilization of resources, caregivers' awareness of available resources and their utilization were examined to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement;
- Burden experienced by caregivers, the survey measured the emotional, physical, and financial burden experienced by caregivers.

In addition to the newly formulated workgroup, the 2023-2024 Caregivers' Survey built upon previous surveys conducted in 2014, as well as insights from AARP's Family Caregiving Survey 2022 and the Administration for Community Living's 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. By incorporating relevant questions and comprehensive data collection, the Commission aimed to create a robust understanding of caregiving in Maryland.

The 2023-2024 Maryland Caregivers' Survey provides valuable data to guide the Commission's actions and contribute to improved caregiver support. By recognizing caregivers' contributions and addressing their needs, Maryland can create a more compassionate and supportive environment for caregivers across the state. The analysis of the survey insights will be utilized to influence policy decisions, ensuring better support for caregivers at the state level, allocate resources strategically to address the identified gaps and challenges faced by caregivers, develop targeted programs and services to alleviate caregiver burden and enhance their well-being and to increase awareness within communities about the vital role of caregivers and the available resources.

This caregiver survey went live on November 21, 2023, during National Family Caregiving Month and was open until December 31, 2023. It was estimated to have reached over 100,000 recipients through email, newsletters, and social media. After vetting responses for duplicates and bot submissions, there were more than 4,000 responses to analyze.

Data analysis will be conducted and a preliminary report will be presented to Commissioners and partners in October 2024's meeting. The MCC and its partnership network will develop tools for disseminating the results, including infographics, presentations, and press and legislative briefings. MDOA will use the findings to measure progress in its Longevity Ready Maryland, the state's multi-sector plan on aging.

The development and dissemination of the survey and the analyzing survey findings was a large success for the MCC among adults. There has been discussion of including caregivers who provide care to someone younger than 18 years of age. As the workgroup members agree in the future to solicit feedback from the caregivers of younger age groups as well. The burden of caring for children with significant disabilities should not be overlooked and these caregivers have a different set of challenges they face and systems they encounter.

Another opportunity would be to survey caregivers who do not have English proficiency. Hispanic, Korean and Chinese caregivers experience their own sets of challenges and caregiver experiences. The ability and resources to translate and then analyze this survey into multiple languages would be a better representation of Maryland's diverse caregiving population and would support the goal of the Moore-Miller Administration *to leave no one behind.*

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

National Family Caregiver Month is observed every November, and the MCC is pleased to highlight several innovative initiatives in celebration of National Family Caregivers Month. For the first time, the MCC developed a dedicated website for family caregivers in Maryland, available here. This comprehensive resource platform provides valuable information, including:

- Toll-free numbers for reporting abuse and neglect
- Support group details
- Caregiver resources
- Informative caregivers' videos
- Other relevant materials

The website is continually updated to address the evolving needs of caregivers. Additionally, we launched the hashtag #caringformdcaregivers to promote the state's caregiver community and Commission mission. In honor of National Family Caregivers Month, we produced a heartfelt video montage expressing appreciation and gratitude to caregivers, which can be viewed here. We extend our sincere thanks to all contributors, particularly our Commission chair, Theresa Robertson, for her leadership and dedication. The MCC website, housed within DHS, was updated and is accessible here. The updated site includes:

- Updated Commissioner information
- Caregiver’s videos/additional caregiver resources
- A more user-friendly interface

These enhancements are designed to better support Maryland’s caregiver community. Throughout November, the MCC also coordinated the dissemination of social media messages, videos, and resource information via DHS’s social media accounts.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The MCC has a strong partnership network and benefits from the valuable investment of time and resources from numerous partner organizations, extending well beyond its membership. Organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association Greater MD Chapter, Easter Seals, AARP, the Arc of Howard County, the Arc of the Northern Chesapeake Region, NAMI, Hands of Hope, and various representatives from the Area Agencies on Aging have all shown interest in the Commission's work. They have actively participated in meetings and contributed valuable feedback during discussions.

TESTIMONY FROM MEMBERS

As the “Voice of the Caregiver” the MCC is committed to providing a forum for caregivers and its members to share their experiences of caregiving and on serving on the Commission.

“I would like to share a brief thought about the Commission on Caregiving for the State of Maryland. The Commission on Caregiving is a wonderful organization. I have had the opportunity to work with an awesome group of people representing agencies and organizations throughout the State of Maryland. I have learned a lot from each of them, which has helped me to share information with my group of caregivers in Prince George's County. The journey being a caregiver is stressful. Thanks to all of the members, Chair Theresa Robertson and Co-Chair Kate Farinholt for helping me to help others.”
-Patricia Morris.

Appendix A - MD Commission on Caregiving Members

Chair Elect
Theresa Robertson -Family Caregiver

Chair's Designee
Kate Farinholt
NAMI Maryland (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Executive Director

Commissioners

Larry Bram
Senior Vice President, Innovation & Program Development
Easter Seals Serving DC/MD/VA

MD Department of Health - Vacant

Mary Anne Kane-Breschi, Director of Family Supports
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Maryland Department of Health

Chalarra A. Sessoms, LCSW-C
Chief, Rural Health and School Based Programs
Primary Behavioral Health and Early Intervention Division
Maryland Department of Health
Behavioral Health Administration

Shalini Arora, LCSW-C
Commission Executive Director
Assistant Director, Office of Adult Services
Maryland Department of Human Services

Yetunde Olobatuyi
Respite Program Administrator, Office of Adult Services
Maryland Department of Human Services

Trina Townsend
Kinship Navigator, Social Services Administration
Maryland Department of Human Services

Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) - vacant

Representative of the House - vacant

Representative of the State Senate - vacant

Kathy Wehr
Caregiver Support Program Manager
Howard County Office on Aging and Independence
Area Agency on Aging representative

Maryland Respite Care Coalition representative - vacant

Ann Squire, Family Caregiver

Patricia Morris, Family Caregiver

Esther Ward, Family Caregiver

Terri Johnson, Family caregiver

Appendix B - MD Commission on Caregiving Logos

Horizontal Logos

MARYLAND
COMMISSION
ON CAREGIVING

MCC
MARYLAND COMMISSION
ON CAREGIVING

MCC

Vertical Logos

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ON CAREGIVING

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Appendix C - Caregiver Collaborative Series Videos/Tip Sheets

Discover Supportive Resources For Family Caregivers in Maryland
www.caring4mdcaregivers.com

Special video messages for caregivers
www.caring4mdcaregivers.com

Caregiver Collaborative Series Episode 1: Remote Supports, Monitoring, and ECU's.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKIv15FjfE0&t=448s

Caregiver Collaborative Series Episode 2: Health Management
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10MC8UMj9iw&t=544s

Caregiver Collaborative Series Episode 3: Independent Living Aids Final
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blymnRcraTA&t=2509s

Appendix D: MD Commission on Caregiving Priorities Poll

4/7/22

This poll was used to inform work throughout 2022-2023.

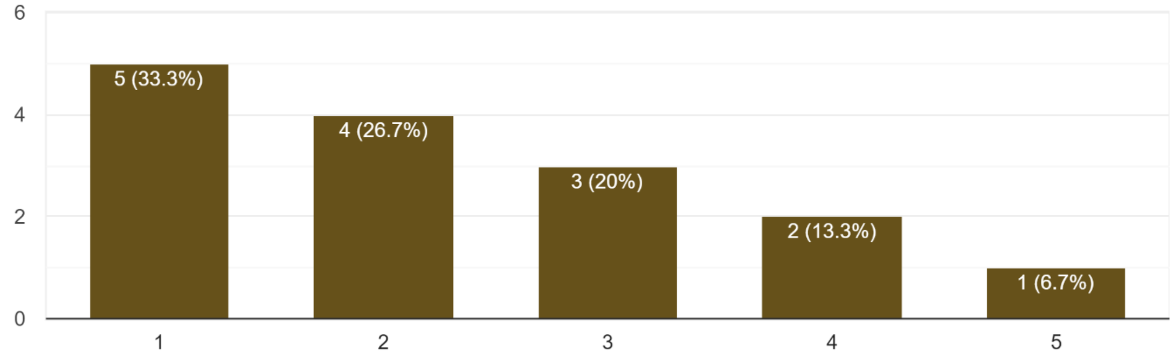
What caregiving population are you most interested in? Ex: dementia caregivers, parents of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (ID/DD), TBI caregivers, intergenerational caregivers, minority caregivers, etc. (15 responses)

- minority caregivers, parents of people with intellectual and mental health challenges
- dementia caregivers
- Caregivers of children born through three with special needs, medically fragile, etc.
- Dementia Caregivers
- Caregivers to older adults including dementia
- Caregivers provide social and other support to individuals with mental illness - all demographics.
- Parents of people with ID/DD, particularly aging parents.
- Cancer caregiving across the lifespan
- All of the above
- Early childhood
- All of the above, but work with a lot of dementia caregivers, spouses and adult children
- TBI/Caregivers/Aging
- All caregivers I hear more from minority caregivers
- Parents of people with I/DD
- Intergenerational Caregivers, Minority Caregivers

The following is a list of topics or actions that members and their partners shared as being important for the Commission to focus on in the short term. Please indicate your level of interest on each item.

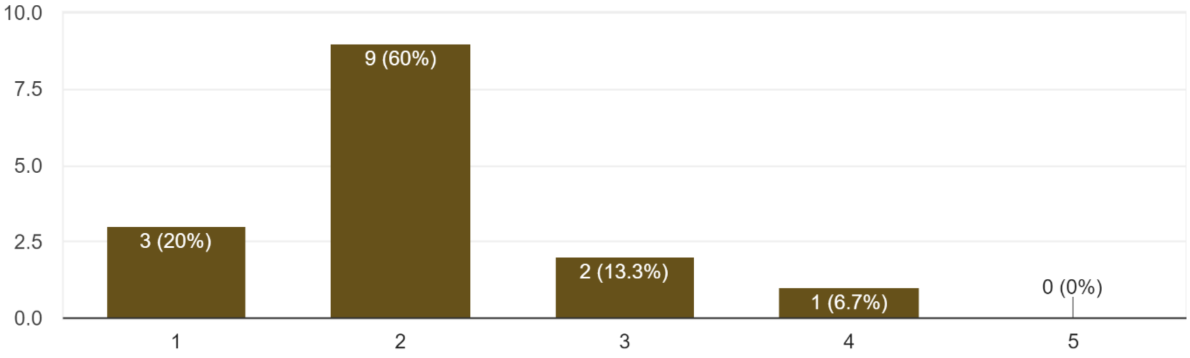
Multi-generational caregiving and dynamics among family members

15 responses



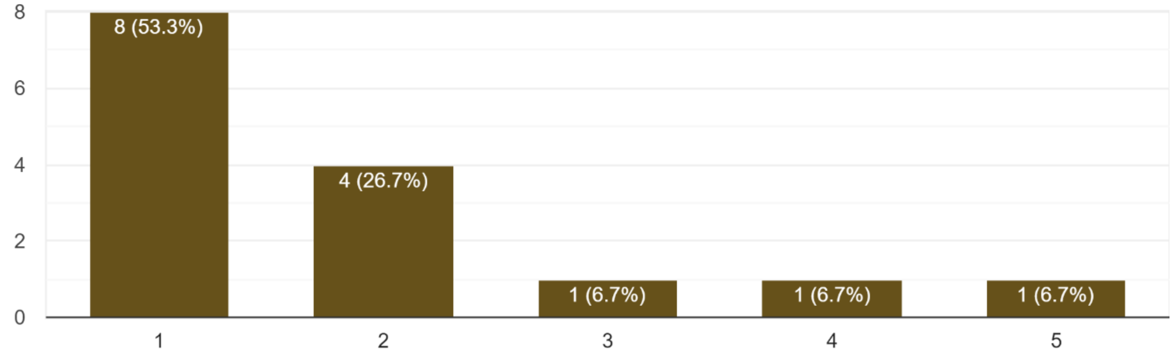
Researching and identifying best practices for caregiver supports in other states

15 responses



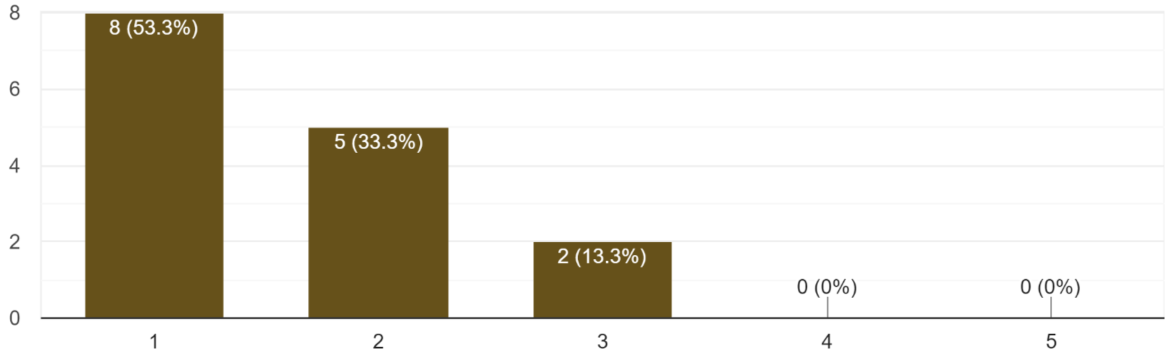
Developing and disseminating surveys to gather the concerns of the caregiver

15 responses



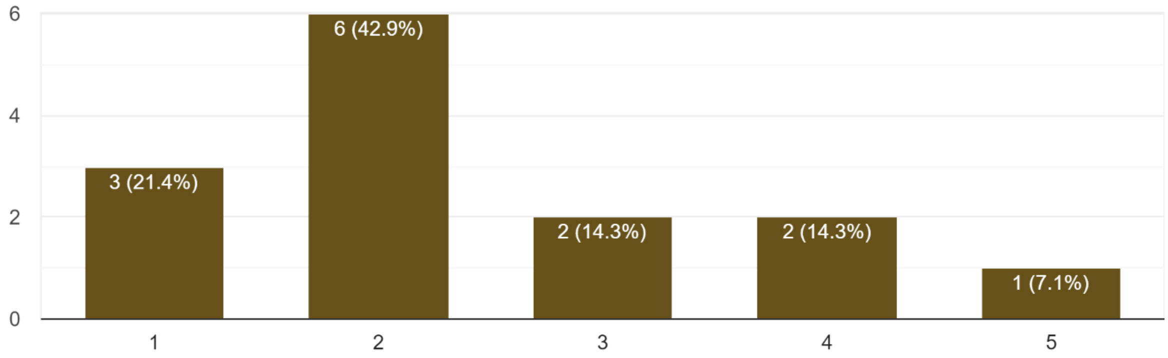
Developing strategies and identifying relevant information to communicate to caregivers (SMS messaging, promoting social media handles, prioritizing Caregiver Commission website)

15 responses



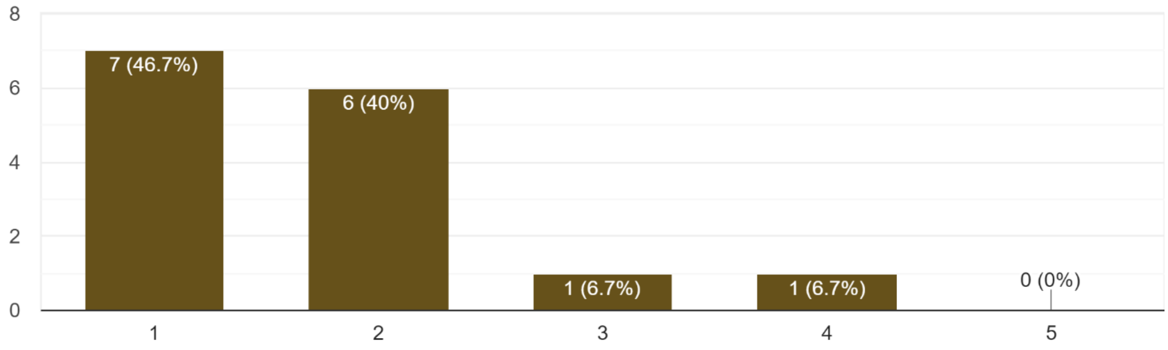
Researching and evaluating peer to peer models in caregiving: where is it and who uses it?

14 responses



Caregiver wellness and resilience; personal development opportunities (certified caregiving coaches)

15 responses



Priority/Topic/Issue(s) not mentioned: 3 responses

- Advocacy for caregivers
- Educating the provider community on the necessity/value of caregivers if given the support and education they need, effective communication and support tools
- Respite services and affordable caregivers' services when needed

These specifically relate to administering a survey:

If the Commission were to develop a survey, what questions do you want to ask and/or what data points are you wanting to collect about your specific caregiving population? Or the caregiving population as a whole? (14 responses)

- How can the Commission help caregivers?
- What are your pressing needs as it relates to caring for an infant/toddler with special needs? What support or resources would be most beneficial to you? What services are available at no cost or low cost?
- What is the best way to communicate with you? Email, SMS, social media, phone?
- Where do they look for resources/information/advice?
- We have done extensive surveys about the caregivers in our population, though not all are rigorous or evaluated. That said, I would want to know whether they felt adequately supported by the professionals/provider community, how they would improve communication and inclusion in treatment planning, what they need to support their own well-being (from $ to respite to training) and what they know of current services and programs to support them.
- Inclusion of questions on what works for caregivers. If it is possible to have subsections included easily for different populations, it would be helpful.
- Time lost from work due to caregiving responsibilities; Whether caregivers feel their own health has diminished as a result of caregiving
- What support do you need?
- How they find out about early intervention and other resources
- Their self-care supports, level of burden (particularly how CG affects their health), financial supports and future plans.
- Caregiver perception of how easy/challenging it is to navigate the system to identify supports for themselves and their loved ones.
- What is your greatest need as a caregiver? What challenge is facing you now as a caregiver

- Age of caregiver, diagnosis/challenges of person cared for, location of residence, greatest challenges i.e. money, time, lack knowledge personal knowledge of systems and resources, lack of energy, isolation, caregiver burnout, med equipment, respite, technology, life planning - what happens to my family member when I'm no longer here?
- Level of experience, percentage of time and level of training

What would you hope to accomplish with the information you're requesting above? How can that knowledge translate into action? (13 responses)

- Further the path toward more direct services for caregivers
- Be able to link families to available resources. Link families to a system of support inclusive of emotional well-being.
- I want to identify the easiest way to get information into the hands of caregivers
- Learn where to best communicate our resources
- I assume that results could help spur collection and/or development of resources (educational, outreach, even funding.) We have developed resource materials and even programs after our less scientific surveys, including training for providers on how to effectively communicate and support family caregivers and self-care planning for family caregivers. Of course, funding is always an issue. We would be pleased to use these survey results to educate various audiences.
- Understanding the most pressing and prevalent difficulties of caregivers will enable better and more targeted support to them. Learning coping strategies and which government programs work best from the caregiver’s perspective is of benefit well.
- Statistics to prove the needs of employers and legislators for respite or other support.
- Develop policy according to needs.
- We want to better serve the caregiver and how their duties affect them and help them look ahead so we can enrich their lives.
- Systems change/modification, making changes based on stakeholder input
- That my concerns would be heard and acted upon and to get caregivers more involved, hear directly from the caregiver)
- Identify caregivers not known to DD systems. Gain a better understanding of and prioritize their challenges in an effort to improve access and the obtaining of resources, support and services. Perhaps even develop new services to meet their needs.

- A needed for Peer-to-Peer groups, identify barriers, information sharing and needed training

Anything else you'd like to add? (5 responses)

- Just a thanks for all you do!
- Thanks. (and glad I reviewed before submitting- I somehow had reversed the 1-5 so that 5 was most important. I fixed my answers.
- Grateful for this survey!
- No

Encourage and provide opportunities for life and future planning utilizing PCT, and CtLC.

Appendix E - “Voice of the Caregiver” Survey

MARYLAND
COMMISSION
ON CAREGIVING

As the “Voice of the Caregiver” the Maryland Commission on Caregiving wants to know more about the experiences of family caregivers in the state and we need your help!

Family caregivers are people who assist adults aged 18 or older with disabilities, illnesses, diseases, or limitations that make it hard for them to take care of themselves. Caregivers help with things like personal care, household chores, managing money, arranging services from others, or regularly visiting to check on how they are doing.

We have developed a 15-minute online and anonymous survey that asks questions about the person being cared for and the caregiver’s knowledge of available programs and priorities for supports and services. If you care for someone, we would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the survey through the link below. If you aren’t a caregiver but know other caregivers, please consider forwarding this email to them so we can obtain as many responses as possible.

If you complete the survey, you will have the chance to enter a raffle where 50 people will be randomly chosen to get a $20 e-gift card.

Results from the survey will be shared publicly with special attention to legislators and the Departments of Human Services, Disabilities, Aging, and Health to improve policies and programs for MD caregivers just like you! The survey will remain open until December 31, 2023. Thank you for your consideration to participate.

https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Sb6Cei706L7zhQ