

Martin J. O'Malley
Governor

Gloria Lawlah
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Choice, Independence and Dignity for Older Marylanders

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Re: Human Services Article § 10-208(f), 2013 Annual Report, Maryland Commission on Aging (MSAR # 6509)

Dear Governor O'Malley:

Attached please find a copy of the Maryland Department of Aging 2013 Annual Report for the Maryland Commission on Aging pursuant to Human Services Article § 10-208(f).

The Maryland Commission on Aging in 2013 met in January, February, March, May, June, October, November and December. The minutes from each meeting are attached and five set of copies have been filed with the Department of Legislative Services.

Sincerely,


Donna DeLeno Neuworth
Legislative Liaison

CC: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services, Library and Information Services

Maryland Commission on Aging
Minutes

The Maryland Commission on Aging meeting was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Stuart Rosenthal presided.

Members Present

Mr. Stuart Rosenthal	Ms. Louise Lynch
Ms. Muriel Cole	Ms. Paula Martin
Mr. Maurice DiPoli	Mr. Chandhok Singh
Mayor Jordan Harding	Ms. Sharonlee Vogel

Members absent were Hon. Barbara Frush and Mr. Michael McPherson.

Maryland Department of Aging staff present were Secretary Gloria Lawlah, Donna Neuworth, and Geraldine Talley.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were not approved at this meeting; Mr. Rosenthal will review and edit for the approval at the next meeting on February 13, 2013.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Rosenthal welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year.

The proposed webpage for the Commission was discussed at length: United Seniors of Maryland's (USM) webpage was discussed as perhaps a model to follow; however, the Commission would like to play a more active role as a body in developing the webpage. Chairman Rosenthal explained he met with Secretary Lawlah and Jeff Myers (Department's Attorney General) and they reached an agreement about the placement of the Commission's webpage on the Maryland Department of Aging's website. They also agreed to the Commission establishing a Facebook page to enable better two-way communication with seniors throughout the state. Secretary Lawlah had asked the Chairman for a letter describing what assistance the Commission needs to create these important communication tools, and he provided such a letter prior to this meeting.

Secretary Lawlah's Remarks

Secretary Lawlah welcomed everyone back from the holidays and told the Commission a staff person and the necessary funds would be made available for the development of the Commission's new webpage. Mr. Rosenthal thanked Secretary Lawlah for making it possible for Commission to have their own webpage.

A letter sent to the Secretary by Montgomery County's Commission on Aging regarding its new Senior Agenda and its support for Communities of a Lifetime was read by Chairman Rosenthal and discussed. Secretary Lawlah described Montgomery County's work on this initiative as "transforming" and suggested the Commission work with Montgomery County to help other counties develop similar initiatives. Perhaps we can "train the trainers" and show other counties how to do this.

Mr. Rosenthal stated he will invite Judith Welles, the Chairwoman of the Montgomery Commission on Aging, to the Commission's next meeting to make a presentation on this initiative. He also asked Secretary Lawlah if copies of the Area Plans for each of Maryland's Area Agencies on Aging are available to the Commission, and she said yes. This background may help the Commission develop a statewide plan for a Senior Agenda.

Legislative Review

Mr. Rosenthal led a discussion on last year's legislation regarding Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC), which included new consumer protections and other new regulations that grew out an 18-month review by the CCRC Commission. New legislation this year will seek higher fees from CCRC residents to support the Department's regulatory responsibilities. Mr. Rosenthal asked that Marti Roach come to brief the Commission on further desired changes in regulation and legislation that did not pass last year.

New legislation to move responsibility for Innovation in Aging grants to the Commission on Aging will have a private sponsor.

Ms. Neuworth stated the SB 83 – Department of Aging – Aging and Disability Resource Center Program – Maryland Access Point bill is the Department's legislation. The primary goal of SB 83 is to codify the MAPS in statute.

There will be a budget update at the next COA meeting. A weekly legislative update and MDOA's "Bills of Interest" will be emailed to all Commission members every Monday during the legislative session.

There was a short discussion on the need for better attendance at Commission meetings and discussion on filling our vacancies. Ms. Cole stated a person from Baltimore City should be on the Commission. Ms. Neuworth will look into the appointment process for this vacancy.

Important Dates

- MDOA budget hearing in the Senate is February 22 and in the House it is scheduled for February 25.
- USM Rally is coming up on March 19

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Maryland Commission on Aging
Minutes

The Maryland Commission on Aging meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Stuart Rosenthal presided.

Members Present

Mr. Stuart Rosenthal	Ms. Louise Lynch
Mr. Maurice DiPoli	Ms. Paula Martin
Mayor Jordan Harding	Mr. Michael McPherson
Ms. Maria Jimenez	Mr. Chandhok Singh

Members absent were Hon. Barbara Frush, Ms. Sharonlee Vogel (excused – out of town), and Ms. Muriel Cole (excused – out of the country).

Maryland Department of Aging staff present were Ilene Rosenthal, Donna Neuworth, and Geraldine Talley.

Guests present were Ms. Judith Welles, Chairperson, Montgomery County Commission on Aging, and Ms. Odile Brunetto, Director, Montgomery County Area Agency on Aging.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Rosenthal mentioned that he went to Annapolis last week to testify in support of Department legislation that would shift the responsibilities of the long-dormant Innovations in Aging Services Advisory Council to the Maryland Commission on Aging. The bill (SB346) was approved by the Senate Finance Committee. The House should take up similar legislation shortly. The effect would be to grant our commission responsibility for reviewing and recommending grant proposals for innovative aging services, should funding become available in the future for such grants.

Webpage Update: Chairman Rosenthal stated Secretary Lawlah was working to make funds available for the development of the Commissions' new webpage. Commissioners Jimenez, Vogel, and Martin have offered to serve on a committee developing the webpage content. The committee met with Richard Warr, a consultant who has worked with the Department on other websites, who would like to design the webpage on a platform separate from the MDOA's website. However, Chairman Rosenthal spoke with Jeff Myers, Attorney General for the Department, and learned that the site must be developed within the Department's existing website and all its content approved by Department staff.

Presentation by Judith Welles

Mr. Rosenthal introduced guests Ms. Welles and Ms. Brunetto to the Commission and asked each of them to give a brief description of their position with Montgomery County.

Ms. Welles delivered a presentation on how Montgomery County plans to develop Communities for a Lifetime. Communities for a Lifetime developed out of the State Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission, which defined Communities for a Lifetime as:

“A community implementing a community-based and operated initiative dedicated to helping residents age in place, accomplished by organizing and delivering programs and services that allow residents to lead safe, healthy, and productive lives in their own homes.”

To achieve this desired result in Montgomery County, the County’s Commission on Aging has worked with the County Executive and County Council to identify major long-term goals (in the areas of housing, transportation, public safety, health and employment) to make the county an excellent place for all its residents to age. Welles stressed that these goals require specific plans to be designed and implemented over a period of time. In 2006, demographic studies were started. In 2008, a Senior Summit was held, bringing together stakeholders from throughout the community (residents, government workers and professionals in the aging field) that identified dozens of specific steps to be taken.

The County Executive in response created a “Senior Subcabinet” of county executives in charge of affected county departments to meet regularly and work together toward achieving the stated goals. The Commission has continued to conduct its own studies and propose legislation and other steps through “Calls to Action” to keep the county moving forward towards specific goals. Recently, it proposed a Senior Agenda, held a press conference to announce it, then asked for a County Council resolution adopting the agenda, which was obtained. Each step takes months and continued effort. But the Agenda is now accepted by county leaders and over time, it is hoped, will help direct the county’s progress, with continued advocacy by the County Commission and other senior groups and advocacy coalitions.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that this is a model for bringing the important demographic issues facing Maryland to the front and center on the local level, and he hopes the state Commission on Aging will, working with Ms. Welles and her commission, make this effort more well-known throughout the state so similar progress can be made in all counties where it is needed. For example, the state commission’s new website can make the Senior Agenda and other materials accessible to residents and senior advocates throughout Maryland. And we can help provide venues for Ms. Welles and others to speak around the state on how such an effort can be developed and pursued on a local level.

Ms. Martin said she will bring the Montgomery County Senior Agenda to the attention of the Prince George’s County Advisory Board and Mr. Singh said he will meet with the Anne Arundel County Commission on Aging.

Deputy Secretary Remarks

Deputy Secretary Rosenthal stated Secretary Lawlah is on board with the Montgomery County Commission’s Proposal for a Senior Agenda, and that she believes this is not just a senior issue but good for all residents of the state. We are all aging, after all. Maryland got the idea of Communities for a Lifetime from Florida. The more states and locales discuss it, the more the goal become reality. She encourages the state commission to help promote it statewide.

The Department is planning a forum on Health Reform in Maryland. It will be a half-day symposium to be held on April 16, 2013 at Ten Oaks in Howard County. Maryland is leading the country in health reform and we will hear more from the professionals who are working to implement the Maryland Health Exchange.

Planning has started for the Leadership in Aging Award ceremony on May 2, 2013. The categories are: visual and performing arts 60+, health and vitality 60+, trailblazer, and others. Nominations are being sought statewide.

Deputy Secretary Ilene Rosenthal gave an update on the MDOA budget for the coming fiscal year. She distributed a PowerPoint presentation handout as she explained the Department's Proposed Budget FY 2014.

Ms. Rosenthal stated the Department is getting ready for the budget hearings which are scheduled for the Senate on Friday, February 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. and the House – Monday, February 25, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

The Maryland Commission on Aging meeting was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Maryland Department of Aging, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Stuart Rosenthal presided.

Members Present

Mr. Stuart Rosenthal	Mr. Maurice DePoli
Mr. Chandhok Singh	
Mayor Jordan Harding	Mr. Michael McPherson
Maria Jimenez	

Members absent were Hon. Barbara Frush, Muriel Cole, Paula Martin and Sharonlee Vogel.

Maryland Department of Aging staff present were Secretary Gloria Lawlah, Deputy Secretary Ilene Rosenthal, Stephanie Hull and Donna DeLeno Neuworth.

Chairman's remarks and Secretary's remarks

Mr. Rosenthal welcomed Stephanie Hull, Chief of Long Term Services and Supports at the Department as today's speaker. Mr. Rosenthal also gave an update on the progress of the development of the Commission's webpage.

Ms. Rosenthal and Secretary Lawlah discussed the plans for the Department's staffing to support this work and the other work of the Commission. Ms. Rosenthal described a program out of the University of Maryland School of Social Work called "ReServe." ReServe matches continuing professionals age 55+ with rewarding part-time service opportunities at nonprofit organizations and public institutions in order to strengthen their communities while earning a stipend. Ms. Rosenthal is in conversation with ReServe to recruit someone who can support the Commission's work part-time.

The plan is for the ReServe worker to assist with content of the Commission's new website, while design and data entry would be performed by other members of the Department staff, including Richard Warr who works on contract for the Department.

The Secretary also discussed plans for the 2014 Innovations in Aging Expo. The Department has met with event planners and is following the road map laid out by the evaluation of last year's event. The Commission is invited to plan its own meeting and participate in the planning of the event in the coming months.

Department Presentation

Ms. Hull's presentation was on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), known as Maryland Access Point (MAP). MAP is the single entry/no-wrong door in Maryland for anyone seeking information, assistance and long-term services and supports for older adults and adults with disabilities. There are currently 20 MAP offices, providing 100% coverage for long term services and support, all housed in the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) with the exception of Worcester County, whose MAP is housed in their health department. MAP's website, which has over 10,000 listings of providers and other resource information, can be accessed at www.marylandaccesspoint.info.

Ms. Hull presented an overview of the long term care reform that is happening in Maryland, including Maryland being one of two states that first received the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) federal funding, which will involve the MAPS. <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Support/Balancing/Balancing-Incentive-Program.html>. Maryland will be receiving approximately \$104 million dollars from the BIP to increase access to home and community based services. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) received the funding and partnered with the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) to use the BIP funding to develop a standardized comprehensive assessment tool, a 1-800 number for the MAPs with 24/7 capability, conflict-free case management and more to increase accessibility to non-institutional services.

Maryland is also planning on applying for and implementing the Community First Choice (CFC) Option which lets states provide community-based, person-centered attendant services to Medicaid participants with disabilities. The CFC provides a 6% increase in federal matching payments for the expenditures related to this option.

New Business

The Commission discussed a proposal for a state-wide meeting of representatives of commissions on aging throughout the state of Maryland sometime this year. It is anticipated that we will host a state-wide meeting for all commissioners throughout the state at the 2014 Innovations in Aging Expo and Conference, but that a smaller state-wide meeting of commission on aging leaders should take place this summer or early fall. We could possibly meet at the Miller Building in Annapolis. Ms. Vogel, Ms. Jimenez and Mr. DiPoli agreed to serve on the committee planning this meeting.

The aim of all our state-wide commission meetings is to develop a strong communication network among senior advocates throughout Maryland so as to become a force for older adults that will be recognized as such by potential gubernatorial candidates in 2014. Our goal is that senior needs find a place on the platforms of all such candidates.

Ms. Rosenthal invited commissioners to attend a Health Reform symposium on April 16 from noon to 3:30 p.m. at Ten Oaks Ballroom sponsored by the Department for professionals.

Two commissioners, Maria Jimenez and Mayor Harding, agreed to serve on the selection committee for the Governor's Leadership in Aging Awards competition this year. The awards will be presented at an event in early May.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Maryland Commission on Aging
Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2013

The Maryland Commission on Aging (CoA) meeting was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the Maryland Department of Aging, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201; large conference room.

Members Present

Mr. Stuart Rosenthal	Mayor Jordan Harding
Mr. Chandhok Singh	Ms. Paula Martin
Ms. Sharonlee Vogel	Mr. Michael McPherson
Ms. Muriel Cole	Ms. Louise Lynch
Ms. Maria V. Jimenez	Mr. Maurice DiPoli

Member absent were Honorable Barbara Frush.

Maryland Department of Aging staff present were Secretary Lawlah, Deputy Secretary Ilene Rosenthal, Ms. Hutchinson Hutchinson, Rosanne Hanratty, and Veronica Lloyd.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved for the meetings that were held in December 2012, January, February and March 2013.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Rosenthal thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and due to time constraints immediately turned it over to Ms. Bernice Hutchinson, Chief of Client and Community Services at the Maryland Department of Aging, who gave a 45 minute presentation regarding the programs and services in her Division.

Bernice Hutchinson's Presentation – Overview of the Programs and Services of Client & Community Services Division

Ms. Hutchinson began by giving some background information on her work history – currently serves as Chief of Client and Community Services (C&CS) at MDoA; she previously held positions at the National Association of State Units on Aging and the Washington D.C. Office on Aging

- The Older Americans Act (OAA) and Client & Community Services;
- The mission – To assist older adults, persons with disabilities; family caregivers and families to live with dignity, make their own choices, and participate fully in society – same as MDoA;

- **The goals of C&CS:**
 - Work to protect the rights of those who are in need of the services;
 - To make sure individual rights are being honored in the community;
 - Promote quality of life;
 - Celebrate aging well in the community – what it is to be proactive; preventive; and positive;
 - Manages programs under the OAA Those programs include:
 - **Health Promotion and Disease Prevention** which screened over 50,000 people; over 192,000 fitness and exercise classes; and a training curriculum developed by Stanford University
- **Comments:**

Ms. Muriel Cole – Would like to know how she can help the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and their programs reach more people in her community. She would like to see people more engaged.

Mr. DiPoli – Transportation needs to be provided to persons to get to the sites where training will be held.

 - **Senior Nutrition** was established 40 years ago and includes home delivered meals; 1.2 Million meals were served in 2012; over 2,500 volunteers serve the program.

Question:

Mr. Rosenthal asked, what is the Department's (MDoA) role in all of this?

- **Reply:** Ms. Hutchinson stated, to distribute funding, monitor programs, capture data, serve as liaison to Federal Government and report on funding and participation; ensure compliance;
- **Support Services**
- **Senior Care;**
- **Senior Centers;**
- **Senior Center Plus;**
- **Senior Center Grants** (Senior Centers are administered locally; MDoA provides two grants for senior centers – senior center operating fund, \$500,000 annually; and capital improvement, which comes from the capital budget);
- **Emergency Preparedness** has nothing to do with the OAA but the Department works closely with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.
- **Family Caregiver Support** opened the door to take a look at those who are taking care of older individuals; \$2.8 Million program; launched during the Clinton Administration; MDoA will make a priority to looking at this program;

- **Elder Rights and Protections**
 - **Senior Legal Assistance Program;**
 - **Public Guardianship** – 850 that has a guardian awarded; avoided almost 500 preventive cases;
 - **Elder abuse prevention:** supports State & local coalitions and teams, outreach and education to increase public awareness
 - **SMP**
 - **SHIP;**

Ms. Hutchinson gave handout regarding the Waxter Wisdom Elder Abuse Workshop being held on June 12, 2013 at the Waxter Senior Center in Baltimore. (See flyer for more details)

Ms. Hutchinson will email her PowerPoint presentation today.

Other Topics of Discussion:

- Sharonlee Vogel presented the report of the subcommittee on statewide commission on aging meetings. The subcommittee suggested we host meetings every other year around the state so attendees from various regions will be better able to attend. For this September's meeting, it was suggested we meet in Annapolis, starting with continental breakfast and ending with a luncheon.

It was also suggested that invitees should primarily be local commissioners, and that the focus be on networking and promoting our mission. The main theme would be "Communities for a Lifetime," including speakers from Montgomery County who have made significant progress on promoting this agenda with their County Executive and County Council. (See minutes from April meeting where Judy Welles, president of the Montgomery County COA spoke.) Other suggested topics for future meetings included "What happens when people age"?; "What is the normal aging process"?; "Caring for aging parents" and "MAP."

- Ilene Rosenthal suggested "Culture Change In Long Term Care" as another topic. She also recommended inviting Dr. Lori Simon-Rusinowitz as a speaker for our September meeting. Dr. Simon-Rusinowitz has written a policy brief for the Department on Communities for a Lifetime.. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland Department of Health Services Administration and Center on Aging. Stuart Rosenthal will extend an invitation to her. Judy Welles has already accepted the invitation to speak.
- **Suggestion:** Muriel Cole – Each commissioner should bring a report to the meetings on areas that he/she is working on in their communities and share that with the others in the meeting

Louise Lynch suggested we have round tables of attendees by region. That was among the most useful elements of our statewide meeting last year at the Innovations in Aging Expo.

- Mayor Harding – Would like the Governor to be informed about the September meeting as it needs to be given a lot of time and attention. He would also like to know how the state commission is looked at by other county commissioners; counties without a commission should be encouraged to create one.

Ilene Rosenthal - Without a commission on aging, there is less sensitivity at the local level for senior issues.

Stuart Rosenthal suggested – We should go to the AAA's of those counties without commissions to inquire why they don't have one. He and Mayor Harding will work together in contacting the AAA's to encourage them to establish a local commission. Louise Lynch suggested that they contact the Community Action Agency where they function as the AAA.

Other Business:

Louise Lynch: Issues in Frederick county – the sale by the county of the New Citizen Assisted Living facility in Frederick county will result in poor elderly losing their only affordable assisted living (they only pay their Social Security benefits to live there). While current residents are protected, no new residents are permitted on these terms, and once a resident leaves the facility -- even just to go to the hospital -- they cannot return. She would like the CoA to write a letter informing Frederick County that they do not support the new changes to this facility;

Stuart Rosenthal states, The CoA can express concerns for what's happening; however, this is a county owned facility; therefore, it's a county decision. Louise concluded that there is a group advocating on behalf of the residents; but the chair of the county Commissioners (whose father is Senator Young) supports the change in this facility.

Mayor Harding would like to speak with Senator Young regarding this matter, if it's agreed upon by the CoA.

The group voted to send a letter to Frederick County to let them know the CoA is aware of the issues with this facility. Also, it was suggested that Louise draft the letter.

Secretary Lawlah joined the group prior to the meeting conclusion.

Muriel Cole passed out a letter regarding asking for donations for the Meals on Wheels program in Kent County to offset the cost. (See handout)

Finally, new stationery was discussed – how the commissioner names would appear on stationery, making it uniform; Ilene updated the commissioners about staff changes with MDoA – Medicaid Waiver changes (Quality Assurance and Billing units were transitioning to DHMH on July 1, 2013); and MDoA is in the process of having its scheduled Legislative audit.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The Commission Website subcommittee met immediately following the COA meeting.



MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING

Mr. Stuart P. Rosenthal, *Chair*
Ms. Sharonlee J. Vogel, *Vice-Chair*

Honorable Barbara Frush
Ms. Muriel Cole
Mr. Maurice B. DiPoli, Jr.
Honorable Jordan L. Harding
Ms. Maria V. Jimenez
Ms. Louise E. Lynch
Ms. Paula Martin
Mr. Michael C.A. McPherson
Mr. Chandhok Jasdip Singh

Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2013

Members Present

Stuart Rosenthal, Chair
Sharonlee Vogel, Vice-Chair
Maurice B. DiPoli, Jr.
Honorable Jordan L. Harding
Maria Jimenez
Louise Lynch
Muriel Cole
Paula Martin

Staff

Ilene Rosenthal, Deputy Secretary
Geraldine Talley
Donna DeLeno Neuwirth
Rosanne Hanratty - ReServe

Members Not Present (excused)

Michael C. A. McPherson
Chandhok Jasdip Singh

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Chair's Report

- ✦ The Montgomery County Commission on Aging wrote a letter to the Governor requesting set-aside sequester funding to go towards home-delivered meals because the Area Agency on Aging is having difficulty replacing the lost funding due to the sequester.
- ✦ Geraldine Talley will be retiring from the Department and she was thanked for her years of service and wished well. Ilene Rosenthal will also be leaving the Department after many years of service, and she was thanked for her work with the Commission and the Department. The chair said the Maryland Commission on Aging has benefited so much from Dep. Secretary

Rosenthal's and Secretary Lawlah's leadership and thanked her for her contributions. Ms. Rosenthal will be going to work for the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, so she will remain in the aging network.

- ✦ Senate Bill 346, Innovations in Aging Grants, passed into law last session. It calls on the Commission to assist the Secretary in developing an annual plan for an Innovations in Aging Program, setting out priorities for funding grants for innovative senior services and for training personnel who provide services to Maryland seniors. Should such grants be funded by the legislature, we will also be involved in evaluating grant applications and any funded programs. We should therefore start thinking soon about this responsibility and begin work on it with the Secretary in the coming months.
- ✦ Future minutes of our meetings will be more concise and capture the essence and outcome of discussions and report on action items.

Planning for Commissions' Summit Subcommittee

- ✦ Maurice DiPoli shared a budget for food and room rental for a space to hold the Summit/meeting of all the local Commissions on Aging. Maria Jimenez, Paula Martin and Sharonlee Vogel all shared their information on space in Annapolis that would be suitable places for hosting the Summit.

Maryland Department of Aging Report

- ✦ Deputy Secretary Ilene Rosenthal thanked the Commission members for all their hard work and agreed with the Chair that the Commission has been re-energized. Deputy Secretary also discussed the negative impact of the sequestration upon the Area Agencies of Aging (AAA)—roughly a 5% cut across the board is what the AAA have planned for, but more information will be forthcoming. The funding formula information was also shared with the Commissioners. The formula is dependent on the census, and Baltimore City lost \$1 million because of the low census, yet the city has the greatest need for services for low-income seniors. The funding formulas always have “winners and losers,” and it is a difficult process for some AAA's. Deputy Secretary announced the Innovations in Aging Expo has been delayed for a year, and the planning is now beginning for an Expo in 2015.
- ✦ Donna DeLeno Neuworth and Rosanne Hanratty gave an overview of what the Commission's webpage might look like, and Commission members requested that various documents be posted.
- ✦ Regarding the Commission's Statewide Summit of local commissions on aging, scheduled for September 12, logistics and details involving the food, invitation, presenters and such were discussed. Donna will follow through on several of the items discussed, as will the Summit Subcommittee, chaired by Sharonlee Vogel.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

The next Maryland Commission on Aging meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, at the Maryland Department of Aging offices on 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore.



MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING

Mr. Stuart P. Rosenthal, *Chair*
Ms. Sharonlee J. Vogel, *Vice-Chair*

Honorable Barbara Frush
Ms. Muriel Cole
Mr. Maurice B. DiPoli, Jr.
Honorable Jordan L. Harding
Ms. Maria V. Jimenez
Ms. Louise E. Lynch
Ms. Paula Martin
Mr. Michael C.A. McPherson
Mr. Chandhok Jasdip Singh

Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2013

Members Present

Stuart Rosenthal, Sharonlee Vogel, Maurice B. DiPoli, Jr., Honorable Jordan L. Harding, Maria Jimenez, Louise Lynch, Muriel Cole, Michael McPherson, Paula Martin

Members absent

Chandhok "Jesse" Jasip Singh, Delegate Barbara Frush.

Staff

Secretary Gloria Lawlah
Stephanie Hull, Acting Deputy Secretary
Donna DeLeno Neuworth
Rosanne Hanratty - ReServe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, June 12, 2013, were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report

- ✦ Stuart Rosenthal and the Commission on Aging thanked Stephanie Hull and Secretary Lawlah for sponsoring the Commission's "Summit" in September where most county commissions on aging representatives and other county leadership participated. The Commission's program of the Summit featured *Communities for a Lifetime*.
- ✦ The Chair also congratulated Secretary Lawlah on being elected president of NASUAD (National Association of State Units on Aging and Disability).
- ✦ Mr. Rosenthal thanked Mrs. Maria Jimenez for a job well-done on writing the 2012 Annual report of activities and goals for the Commission on Aging, and Mrs. Louise Lynch for representing the Commission on the state's Emergency Preparedness Task Force.

- ✦ Stuart thanked Mr. Maurice DiPoli, Jr. for volunteering to take the Open Meetings Act training. One member from each commission and committee must take this training due to new legislation passed last year.

Maryland Department of Aging Report

- ✦ Secretary Lawlah answered questions and discussed Commission members' absenteeism. She assured commission members every year the Department sends a report required to the Legislature reporting on various commissions and committees' members' absenteeism, and waivers requested if necessary.
- ✦ Stephanie Hull discussed the budget scenario for the upcoming new fiscal year and the sequester's impact on aging and disability services. Governor O'Malley and the Legislative Policy Committee responded to aging services requests to replace lost funding for home-delivered meals and other supporting services by allocating \$1.4 million dollars back into the Department's budget. Secretary Lawlah wrote to the Governor, Speaker Busch and President Miller and Secretary Eloise Foster of Budget and Management and thanked all of them for supporting these vital programs for homebound seniors and disabled adults.

Unfortunately, the sequester cuts are ongoing unless Congress takes action, so the Department will be again facing and planning for another round of budget cuts; Stephanie and Donna will keep the Commission members informed and current on the upcoming state budget and federal decisions that impact the Department and the Area on Agency's budgets.

Agenda Items

- ✦ **Summit on Communities for Lifetime**
Chairman offered a motion to have another Summit next fall – the vote was unanimous in favor. The Summit will be held in Western Maryland in September 2014. There was discussion about "villages" and how they fit in nicely with the Communities for a Lifetime concept; this could possibly be the focus of next year's Summit. Commission members and staff discussed the evaluations of the "Summit" – all agreed the presentations, networking and group discussions about how to implement the Communities for a Lifetime was valuable for all participants. Lessons learned and ways to improve upon the next Summit for all local commissions on aging were also discussed. Among the recommendations: 1) announce date and program earlier - probably in June for a September program. 2) be sure sound system is sufficient for all to hear well, 3) stay in touch with our local commission counterparts throughout the year (perhaps through a monthly email contact) so we can more easily communicate and follow-up on Summit issues as well as develop future topics of interest to attendees, and 4) include local commission members on the Summit planning committee.

Among future topic ideas suggested by attendees: 1) technological literacy, barriers to seniors, 2) have local commissioners present on their successes so we can all learn from them, 3) further discussion on how to promote Communities for a Lifetime and to identify appropriate funding for local communities.

Commission on Aging Bylaws

- ✦ Jeffrey Myers, Counsel to the Department, distributed changes he recommends the Commission make to the bylaws to be in line with their authority and charge per the statute. There was discussion around clarifying the role of the Commission relating to advocacy and Mr. Myers stated the Commission on Aging's charge is one that is advisory, to the Secretary, on all matters relating to aging and services, but not advocacy.
- ✦ There was a motion made by Mrs. Vogel to approve the recommended changes Mr. Myers suggested, and the vote was unanimous. Discussion continued around the Commission's role and having a Facebook page. Aside from the staffing issue and challenge of monitoring the page daily, Mr. Myers added anything posted or responded to or from external audiences would have to go through the same vetting and approval process the Department goes through before posting or responding to queries.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

The next Maryland Commission on Aging meeting will be on November 13, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Maryland Department of Aging offices at 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD.

Recording Secretaries: Donna DeLeno Neuworth, Rosanne Hanratty.



MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AGING

Mr. Stuart P. Rosenthal, *Chair*
Ms. Sharonlee J. Vogel, *Vice-Chair*

Honorable Barbara Frush
Ms. Muriel Cole
Mr. Maurice B. DiPoli, Jr.
Honorable Jordan L. Harding
Ms. Maria V. Jimenez
Ms. Louise E. Lynch
Ms. Paula Martin
Mr. Michael C.A. McPherson
Mr. Chandhok Jasdip Singh

Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2013

Members Present

Chandok "Jesse" Jasip Singh
Paula Martin
Muriel Cole
Maria Jimenz
Stuart Rosenthal
Maurice DiPoli
Sharonlee Vogel

Members Absent

Honorable Jordan L. Harding
Louise Lynch
Michael McPherson
Honorable Barbara Frush

Approval of Minutes

The October 9, 2013 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with recommended changes.

Chairman's Report

- ✦ Chairman Rosenthal noted several members will be late and/or have difficulty in coming to this meeting due the unavailability of garage parking.
- ✦ Regarding the committee to help plan the next Summit, Chairman Rosenthal has asked Ms. Lynch to be chair and invites other commissioners to volunteer for the

committee. Ms. Lynch has begun some work with Rosanne in securing a venue in Western Maryland.

Presentation by Acting Deputy Secretary Stephanie Hull
The Maryland Department of Aging and Community First Choice

Ms. Hull delivered a presentation and facilitated a discussion about Community First Choice (CFC), which is a federal option of the Affordable Care Act that, when in place, will give Maryland a 6% Federal Financial Match for most of the state's Medicaid home and community based services (hcbs). The CFC allows Maryland to expand Medicaid hcbs to all fiscally eligible people who have a nursing home level of care disability. Community First Choice goes into effect January 1, 2014.

Waivers will continue with the same financial and nursing home level of care eligibility requirements; waiver will also continue to have operational caps. CFC does not have enrollment caps; CFC and the Waivers have different financial eligibility requirements. Case management and supports counseling will be done by providers including Area Agencies on Aging and private, qualified providers.

The InterRAI will be the single assessment instrument used for all hcbs for the Medicaid program. Maryland Access Point (MAP) will administer the Level I Screen of the InterRAI which calculates a level of acuity. If a participant meets a specific level of acuity, they are automatically eligible for a more in-depth assessment that measures level of care. Local Health Departments will administer the full InterRAI assessment.

Community First Choice offers a self-direction component, which means the participant has the option to exercise choice and control over the budget, planning, and hiring of personal assistance services. Participants under the CFC will be given a flexible budget for certain services and then are empowered to determine their personal assistance hours and schedules.

Deputy Secretary Hull and several commissioners agreed CFC is moving long term services and supports for older and disabled adults in the right direction.

Agenda Items

- ✦ Revised Bylaws were handed out to Commissioners for their review.
- ✦ Commissioner on Aging webpage update: Ms. Donna DeLeno Neuworth thanked the Commissioners for their help in identifying items that need to be corrected and said while this is going to be a work in progress, the page should be "live" by the beginning of December 2013.
- ✦ When circumstances make it difficult to meet (such as inclement weather), Ms. Deleno Neuworth noted that our Commission may conduct meetings by phone.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

The next meeting will be December 12, 2013 at the Maryland Department of Aging in Baltimore.

Recording Secretaries: Donna DeLeno Neuworth, Rosanne Hanratty

Maryland Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes 12/11/13

Members Present: Stuart Rosenthal, Chair,
Maria Jimenez, Paula Martin, Maurice DiPoli, Jr., Sandra Callis, Michael McPherson
and Honorable Jordan Harding

Members Absent: Sharonlee Vogel, Louise Lynch, Chandhok Jasdip Singh and Honorable Barbara Frush

Approval of Minutes: November 13, 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously approved without change.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Rosenthal noted that the Commission is appointed by the Governor to offer advice to the Secretary of Aging and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) she heads, as well as to the Governor. However, we also are viewed as advocates and educators for and about Maryland's older residents, which is why we have started hosting annual summits for county-level commissions on aging throughout the state, and have established a website to facilitate communication between and among such commissions as well as older adults generally.

In upcoming meetings, we will focus on further improvements to our new website, www.aging.maryland.gov/Commission.html, as well as planning for our annual fall Summit Meeting with county commissions on aging throughout Maryland.

Presentation by Jeff Myers, Chief Counsel

Muriel Cole has resigned from the Commission as of the last meeting (November 13, 2013) and a replacement will need to be appointed to replace her. Handouts discussing term limits, reappointments, consecutive terms, and when current terms end were presented by Jeff Myers, along with the Attorney General's 2008 Opinion on term limits.

Mr. Myers noted that Commissioners may continue to serve after two (2) consecutive terms have been completed until the Governor appoints a new Commissioner for their slot, in which case they are deemed a "holdover." Myers also explained that a new Commissioner who replaces a departing member will be treated as having served a full term if the Commissioner they replaced was a "holdover," but not if they complete the balance of a term remaining from a prior Commissioner who resigned (as in the case of Ms. Cole) or passes away (as happened a few years ago).

It was also noted that Senators and Delegates appointed by the Governor are not restricted by the two (2) consecutive term limit, each term consisting of four (4) years, as are other Commissioners. Rather, Senators and Delegates serve at the Governor's discretion. Mr. Myers noted that there are four (4) seats serving 2011-2015, three (3) seats serving 2010-2014 and three (3) seats serving 2013-2017, for a total of eleven (11) seats.

As for who will take Ms. Cole's now vacant position, the filling of vacancies is the Governor's responsibility. While any Commission member may put a name forward, the formal recommendation must come from Secretary Lawlah to the Governor's Office. Chair Rosenthal suggested the Secretary recommend Mr. Lee

Hammond, who formerly served on the Commission but has for the past few years served as International President of AARP. Mr. Rosenthal has spoken with Mr. Hammond, who has expressed an interest in returning to the Commission. Other Commissioners agreed Mr. Hammond would bring valuable experience to our body. Donna DeLeno Neuworth, Legislative Liaison for MDOA, added that a request had been made for the Governor to appoint a Senator to the Commission as well.

Chair Rosenthal noted that the Commission's Vice-Chair position is to be filled through an election each January. He asked for volunteers interested in the position to contact him. Mr. Rosenthal noted the election of the Vice-Chair is not in the statute creating the Commission, but was added by the Commission's by-laws.

Open Meetings Act Report by Commissioner DiPoli, Jr.

Mr. DiPoli presented the report on the Open Meetings Act, which allows the public to observe our meetings but not participate. The meetings are posted on the Commission's website and on the Maryland General Assembly's Calendar, to comply with the requirement that notice be given so members of the public may attend.

Questions were raised on whether the Area Agencies on Aging receive e-mail notification of the Commission meetings, and if meetings could be held by telephone and still allow for public access. The difficulty of muting the observers and not the Commission members may make telephonic meetings impractical. The staff will look into this.

Mr. Harding recommended that meetings be held around the state, to make it possible for citizens in other parts of the state to attend more easily. This gave rise to questions on where such meetings could be held and what public notice would be required. The staff will look into this as well.

A concern was raised with the past practice of holding Commission meetings from January through April in Annapolis, which has been done so staff required to be in Annapolis during Session may more easily attend. Staff felt that the time required for such meetings has interfered on occasion with pressing duties, so it was suggested that in lieu of regular meetings in some of those months, the Commission meet in committee to work on particular projects, such as the annual Summit. It was also suggested that Commissioners could use the time to meet privately with Senators and/or Legislators in Commission Member's Districts to discuss concerns or lobby on important matters.

Mr. Myers pointed out that Senators' and Delegates' offices are open year round to meet with citizens and discuss concerns, and noted that it can be more difficult to obtain appointments with them during Session. He also pointed out that lobbying would be outside our roles as Commission Members, but Ms. Martin remarked that if a "White Paper" listing "Talking Points" was agreed upon by the Members but presented as private citizens, Senators and Delegates could be sensitized to the issues facing Maryland's seniors. Mr. Myers added that writing a "White Paper" on one or more issues and submitting it to Secretary Lawlah and the Governor's Office for approval would be appropriate under the Commission's statutory authority.

Ms. Callis noted that she finds a lack of money for Senior Programs in housing, transportation and meal programs are the complaints most reported to her by local seniors. Mr. Myers said if Commissioners want to voice concerns on local matters to their Delegate as a private citizen and not as a Commission Member that would be acceptable.

Ms. Jimenez suggested we collect facts on the aging population in Maryland and prepare an overview of Maryland seniors' concerns for such a paper or talking points. She was asked to take the lead on developing the talking points, which could be used Statewide by senior advocates, once approved by Secretary Lawlah.

Mr. McPherson stated that he produces an e-newsletter addressing all types of issues affecting seniors, and offered it as a starting point for talking points for the Legislature.

Chair Rosenthal moved that the Commission take the February and March Commission meetings off the Annapolis schedule and replace them with committee meetings to draft the White Paper and talking points. Stephanie Hull, Acting Deputy of MDOA, suggested Members e-mail each other with concerns, statistics, and suggested language for the talking points. The motion passed replacing the meeting scheduled for February with a committee meeting for drafting talking points. Chair Rosenthal appointed Ms. Jimenez as chair, and Mr. McPherson, Ms. Martin, Mr. DiPoli, Jr. and Ms. Callis as members.

Summit/Forum

Louise Lynch (who was absent) was to report on the Summit scheduled for Wednesday September 10, 2014. Rosanne Hanratty, MDOA, reported that Hagerstown Community College gave a bid of \$575, with Frederick Community College unsure if space will be available, and Mt. St. Mary's in Frederick County also a possibility. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Webpage

Ms. DeLeno-Neuwirth stated the link from the Department of Aging website, www.aging.maryland.gov now allows users to click on the Commission on Aging link and have a full view for meetings, schedules and Local Commission Members and schedules.

Continuing Care Retirement Centers CCRC

Martha Roach, MDOA Continuing Care Chief, presented handouts and information on the 37 Continuing Care Communities in Maryland. Each CCRC must have an agreement regulated by continuing care law addressing issues such as entrance fees, contracts, refunds, amount of care provided without fee increases and deposits. CCRC must have certain financing, pre-sale numbers and certifications prior to the State granting the CCRC Agreement Certificate. The facility must spell out exactly how much skilled nursing, home care and assisted living care are provided within the monthly fee charged and what type of care will require additional fees to each prospective resident. Facilities may also decertify, that is no longer be a CCRC, but can convert to rental or monthly fee for services facilities. Commission Members remarked that many "Baby Boomers" have average savings of \$37,000 and houses that are not paid for, so the entrance and monthly fees by CCRCs may be out of reach.

Ms. Roach also led a discussion on Chapter 202 (Senate Bill 195), concerning the issuing of written and oral notice to patients on their status after 23 hours of observation in a hospital, i.e. whether or not they have been admitted. The status makes a difference on reimbursements for Medicare Rehabilitation facilities, and which costs will end up as the patient's responsibility. The status also affects reimbursements for patients who end up being readmitted to the hospital, which face a 10% penalty on readmitted participants. It is unclear what type of penalty the hospital will face for failure to follow the new 23 hour rule.

Next Meeting

January's meeting is to be held in Baltimore. (NOTE: It was changed to Annapolis after the meeting adjourned, as it was discovered there is no room available on that date at the Baltimore office).