

Maryland Commission on Caregiving

April 04, 2024

10:30 AM -12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting Minute

Commission Member Present: Chalarra Sessoms, Jennifer Eastman, Trina Townsend, Patricia Morris, Yetunde Olobatuyi, Theresa Robertson, Shalini Arora, Kathy Wehr, Kate Farinholt, Larry Bram, Mary Kane-Breshci, Anastasis Edmonston, Terri Johnson

Guests: Betty Romero, Ruth Kershner, Dorinda Adams, Estelle Brooks, Greg Sesek, Mark Tesoro, Teresa Jeter-Cutting

Welcome & Introduction: Theresa Robertson, Commission Chair

Review and approval of March's minutes: Yetunde Olobatuyi

Motion to approve February's meeting Minutes: Yes

Welcome and new partners/guests (Commission Chair Theresa):

Theresa welcomed all members and guests to today's meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She advised that our guest speaker from the Department of Aging Betty Romero is also in attendance.

Updates on HB 32 and SB 202 Income Tax Caregiver Tax Credit (Dorinda Adams)

Dorinda provided an update on the bill, informing attendees that the Appropriation Committee would be voting on SB 202 at 1 pm today. She expressed hope that the bill would progress and gain momentum. Notably, this legislation marks a significant milestone as it would be the first time financial support would be provided to over 700,000 family caregivers in the state. However, she clarified that eligibility for the grants would be limited, and out-of-pocket expenses would be capped. To demonstrate support for the bill, she encouraged attendees to send a brief email to the Appropriation Committee before their 1 pm meeting, emphasizing the importance of this legislation, particularly for family caregivers. She shared a link to the committee's contact information to facilitate this process. As an advocate, she acknowledged that she had never worked on a bill this late in the session, making this one especially close to her heart. She extended her gratitude to everyone for their dedication and partnership.

Updates on HB39 and HB 189 Reimbursement for Personal Assistance Services and Maryland Medicaid Assistance Program (Jennifer Eastman) [Click here](#) for Jennifer's detailed presentation. If unable to open the link because you do not have @maryland email address, I am attaching it in the email as well.

Presentation from Betty Romero, guest speaker and Director of the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative, Multi-sector Planning, and Age-Friendly Initiatives of the Maryland Department of Aging. [Click here](#) for her detailed presentation. Topic is Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative. If unable to open the link because you do not have @maryland email address, I am attaching it in the email as well.

Feedback from Betty's presentation:

Mary Kane: She inquired about the availability of surveys for caregivers, noting that while a recently completed survey exists for caregivers supporting individuals aged 18 and older, there is a gap in resources for those caring for children from birth to age 18. She requested additional information regarding Betty's presentation, seeking clarification on the scope and details of the initiative. Furthermore, Mary sought insight into the logistical aspects of the program, including staffing, resources, funding, and other essential support structures necessary for its successful implementation.

Kate: She requested further clarification on how the commission can effectively support and assist Betty and her Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative. Specifically, she inquired whether Betty is seeking commission members to participate in a subcommittee or work group dedicated to this project, and if so, what specific roles or responsibilities would be entailed. Kate's inquiry aimed to ensure a clear understanding of how the commission can best contribute to the initiative's success.

Theresa also sought additional clarity and proposed that a small subgroup, comprising herself, Mary, and Kate, convene a separate meeting with Betty to gain a deeper understanding of the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative. She suggested that this smaller gathering would enable a more focused discussion, allowing them to return to the commission members with knowledge of the topic. To facilitate this, Theresa offered to schedule a separate meeting with Betty, Kate, and Mary Kane, to explore the project's details and determine how the commission can best support its success.

Betty clarified that the commission's role in the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative is for commission members to contribute their expertise and share existing knowledge and best practices regarding caregiver's support. She proposed identifying 5-10 key priorities for the first year, which can be refined and measured for progress. These initial priorities can serve as a foundation for future development. The goal is to align the initiative with local and state

agencies. Notably, the Governor has expressed full support for this initiative. Betty emphasized that the commission is not being asked to conduct surveys or provide new information, but rather to tap into the collective expertise of its members to advance the initiative. She also mentioned that their secretary will be sending a letter to all agency secretaries, ensuring that leadership is informed and aware of the initiative's objectives and scope.

Mark emphasized that the objective of the LRM is not to establish an additional work group, but rather to leverage the existing efforts and expertise of commission members, aligning them with the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative.

Shalini added that the Department of Human Services (DHS) will need to assess with our own agency what it is that we are doing now and the type of resources available. She also suggested developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, which would provide a reference guide for easy access, particularly when updating DHS leadership on the initiative's idea and progress.

Announcements

Anastasis Edmonston: She spoke about an upcoming webinar below.

In collaboration with the University of Maryland, School of Medicine Training Center, our office is sponsoring this upcoming webinar. We are absolutely thrilled to be hosting Dr. Erwin Conception of Minnesota on Friday April 26th, He will be addressing all manner of person centered approaches for engagement. He is a fantastic speaker with a kind and warm presence. The webinar is free and CEUs are available, see details below and in the attached agenda.

Webinar - Friday, April 26th, 10-12:00

Title: The Use of Core 4 Engagement Practices for Individuals Living with Brain Injury & Other Neurocognitive Disorders.

Registration Link

<https://www.edgereg.net/er/Registration/StepRegInfo.jsp?ActivityID=42606&StepNumber=1>

****Registration is a two part process.** Use the link above to register and then you will be sent a zoom registration link. Both registrations are required in order to participate.*

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024, from 10:30am-12 pm.

