

## **Maryland Commission on Caregiving**

**October 03, 2024**

**10:30 AM -12:00 PM**

### **Virtual Meeting Minute**

#### **AGENDA**

- Approval of September's Meeting by Yetunde
- 2023 Caregiver Survey Preliminary Results By Joan
- National Family Caregivers Month Update by the workgroup
- MCC's In- person Holiday Meeting in Dec
- Information on VA's Caregivers Healthcare system Event -Shalini
- Longevity Ready Follow up by Leslie DoA
- Questions/Concerns/Suggestions/Announcements
- Meeting Adjourned

#### MCC Attendance for October 3, 2024

1. Estelle Brooks
2. Theresa Robertson
3. Sarah Clem
4. Joan Davitt
5. Patricia Morris
6. Shalini Arora
7. Yetunde Olobatuyi
8. Mary Anne Kane Breschi
9. Kathy Wehr
10. Terri Johnson
11. Trina Townsend
12. Chalarra Sessoms
13. Jennifer Eastman

14. Dorinda Adams
15. Michael Gray
16. Senator Joanne Benson
17. Arene Jones
18. Ann Squire
19. Leslie Smith Ray

Commission Member Present: Yetunde Olobatuyi, Shalini Arora, Jennifer Eastman, Trina Townsend, Patricia Morris, Theresa Robertson, Ann Squire, Chalarra Sessom, Kathy Wehr, Mary Kane-Breschi, Terri Johnson

Guests: Joan Davitt, Sarah Clem, Michael Gray, Arene Jones, Estelle Brooks, Senator Joanne Benson (PG County), Dorinda Adams, Leslie Smith-Ray

Welcome & Introduction: Shalini Arora, Commission Executive Director

Review and approval of September's minutes: Yetunde Olobatuyi

Motion to approve September's meeting Minutes: Yes

### **2023 Caregivers Survey Preliminary Result by Dr Joan Davitt:**

#### **Survey Response and Demographics**

- Over 10,000 responses received, with 2,000+ valid responses
- Caregivers in Maryland are younger compared to 2013 results
- Women make up 7 out of 10 caregivers
- 70% of participants are married or partnered, 80% have higher than high school education, and median income is \$70,000
- White and Black respondents are overrepresented compared to 2020 census data

#### **Caregiving Characteristics**

- Average hours of care provided per week: 37 hours (slightly down from previous survey)
- 46% of caregivers are full-time, 22% part-time
- 15% provide care to veterans and care recipients
- Average age of caregivers: 60 years old (younger than previous survey)

#### **Challenges and Impact on Caregivers**

- 10% report that caregiving is not challenging

- 66% give up vacations, hobbies, and activities due to caregiving
- 57% take time off during workday, 39% take less demanding job, and 38% take leave of absence

### **Employer-Provided Services**

- 81% can take unpaid family leave, 74% have access to resources and referrals, 68% can take paid family leave
- 65% can work from home, 61% can take paid sick days, and 55% have flexible work hours

### **Utilization and Awareness**

- White caregivers have slightly higher service utilization than Black or African American caregivers
- Native American caregivers have higher service utilization, awareness, and other metrics compared to other racial groups

The preliminary report was shared with members/partners in November for reference. Dr. Joan concluded her update on the 2023-2024 caregiver's survey, noting that more presentations and updates on the report's findings will be shared in the future. The members expressed their gratitude to Dr. Joan and the School of Social Work for their valuable assistance and efforts in completing the survey, acknowledging their important contributions to the project.

**National Family Caregiver's Month by Theresa Robertson:** The members discussed plans for National Family Caregivers Month, which takes place in November. Theresa reported that the workgroup had put in a lot of effort to plan a series of activities for the month. Several counties are participating in the celebration, and more information and promotional materials (such as flyers) will be shared with all members and partners in the coming days.

**New Grant of \$490,000 by Leslie:** Leslie announced that the Department of Aging has been awarded a new grant from the federal government, totaling approximately \$490,000. The grant will be used to support the commission's work, but will not provide direct funding to caregivers. Members and partners asked questions about the grant, seeking clarity on its specific uses. Leslie promised to share an outline of the grant's objectives and uses with the group.

**Longevity Ready by Leslie:** Leslie provided an update on the "Longevity Ready, Maryland" initiative, reporting that a subgroup formed within the commission is still active and working on the project. More information is expected to be shared in the coming year.

**Next Meeting:** Yetunde reminded the group that there will be no meeting in November, as the commission has other activities planned for the month. She encouraged members/partners to arrange their schedule to attend the different activities.

- The holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 6, and Yetunde encouraged everyone to RSVP. Theresa to send the google invite for the holiday luncheon.

- Shalini thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting, and expressed appreciation for Theresa's hard work in advancing the commission's goals.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 10:30am-12 pm.**

