

COMMISSION ON AGING
HEALTH AND WELLNESS MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Vernell DeWitty

Barbara Selter

Marcia Pruzan

Kendell Mathews

Eleanor Tanno

Laurie Pross

Shawn Brennan

Rev Vikram

Dixie Butler

Mona Grieser

Betsy Carrier

Wayne Berman

Janice Zalen

Tina Purser-Langley

Kate Stein

Marsha Weber

Joyce Dubow

Morris Klein

Mr. Wang

Josi Makon

The meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed to the inaugural session of the Health and Wellness Committee for 2025.

After everyone had the opportunity to introduce himself/herself to the group, there was a short discussion concerning some "carry-over" topics from 2024.

The principle thrust of this meeting was Howard Gleckman's presentation to the group entitled "What Will the Trump Administration Mean For Older Adults?" (PowerPoint attached).

Highlights as follows:

- uncertainty and chaos in general surrounding this president
- disagreement among policy advisors
- uncertain role out of D.O.G. E.
- impact of non-re-authorization of Older Americans Act - which covers almost all programs supporting older adults except Medicaid
- With Medicare, there will likely be a continued push for increasing Medicare Advantage despite the fact that it is not saving the system as much as had been anticipated.
- Physician payment reform and drug price negotiations may continue; new drug approvals and the fate of the FDA generally is not clear.
- Medicaid is predicted to be a target for deep cuts with several strategies being employed: work requirements added to eligibility, per capita caps, changes to federal contributions thus requiring the states to contribute more, a lengthening the number of "look back" years and requiring estate recovery.
- Nursing Homes, particularly not-for-profit facilities, are experiencing growing financial distress due to reduced numbers of rehab admissions
- Biden Staffing Rule attempted to regulate staffing levels per pt; oversight and regulation will now likely fall to states.
- An estimated shortage of 300,000 direct care workers would result if the new administration's policies go into effect regarding immigration. Maryland is facing a \$3 Million budget shortfall; there are 50,000-65,000 federal employees in Montgomery County, 150,000 in Maryland. The effect is huge on the state, on the county as well.
- There was one positive note: a possible caregiver tax credit!
- Daughterhood- a national organization supporting the work of family caregivers is one Howard Gleckman has been associated with.

Howard Gleckman's recommendations for action:

- 1.CoA should concentrate on preserving current benefits and funding for older adults.
- 2.CoA should encourage state to strengthen HBCS LTC Supports and Services.

3.CoA should work cooperatively with other advocacy groups to address workforce shortage.

OLD BUSINESS:

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussing workforce issues, loss of partner/spouse fact sheet, social isolation fact sheet.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tues., Feb. 4, 2025.