

Martin J. O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gloria Lawlah
Secretary



July 21, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

In compliance with Health General Article §19-1409, MSAR 2824, the following is the required annual report of the ***Oversight Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities*** for 2013. The Committee met four times during this time period. A summary of the meeting minutes and activities are attached.

Please contact Donna DeLeno Neuworth, legislative liaison at 410-767-1097 or donna.delenoneuworth@maryland.gov if you need additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Lawlah", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gloria Lawlah
Secretary

cc: The Honorable Michael E. Busch
The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services
Alice Hedt, State Ombudsman

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***Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and
Assisted Living Facilities
Annual Report 2013***

The charge of the Oversight Committee is to evaluate the progress in improving nursing home quality and assisted living facility quality statewide, including consideration of nine specific areas:

1. Quality of care standards for nursing homes and assisted living facilities;
2. Standards for the identification of the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease;
3. Standards for the identification of conditions appropriate for hospice services;
4. Staffing patterns and staffing standards;
5. Policies and procedures for inspecting nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and responding to quality of care complaints;
6. A comparison of Maryland standards, policies, procedures to those of other states;
7. The labor pool available to fill nursing and nursing aide jobs;
8. State funding mechanisms for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, including the Medicaid Nursing Home Reimbursement System, and regulation of nursing homes and
9. The provision and quality of mental and behavioral health care services to meet the needs of nursing home and assisted living facility residents.

The committee members at each of the four meeting received reports on the status of the quality of care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, delivered by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Additionally, the members received reports on the status of Medicaid Nursing Home Reimbursement System. The focus for the year was on Culture Change, a philosophy for improving long term care that has not spread widely in Maryland. Culture change is the common name given to a national movement for the transformation of older adult services, based on person-directed values and practices. Core person-directed values are choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living.

The February 5th meeting of the Committee took place in Annapolis, with members receiving a presentation delivered by Karen Schoeneman, a nationally-recognized leader and consultant specializing in quality of life and culture change in long term care facilities. Ms. Schoeneman is one of the original founders of the culture change movement and the Pioneer Network. She discussed her work promoting culture change across the country and suggested ways on how Maryland can help improve the lives for residents living in long term care facilities and develop a Culture Change Coalition. It was announced that initial steps are being taken to establish a Culture Change Coalition in the state, hopefully to be functioning by 2014. (over)

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The Committee members, wanting to learn more about culture change, toured the Green House Residences at Stadium Place in Baltimore at the June 18th meeting. The Green House Residences at Stadium Place is a skilled nursing facility that offers a home-like environment for physical rehabilitation, skilled nursing and long term care services (visit <http://www.catholiccharities-md.org/greenhouse/> for more information). In addition to the tour, speaking with residents and presentations by staff members, David Farrell, Director of the Greenhouse Project and author of the book "*Meeting the Leadership Challenge in Long Term Care: What you do Matters*" delivered a presentation on what states and Maryland can do to promote culture change initiatives. Please visit this site for more information: <http://thegreenhouseproject.org/>. Discussion was held about how states can create incentives for long term care facilities to engage in culture change and about the need for more models like the Green House in Maryland.

Another comprehensive presentation and discussion on culture change took place during the December 12th Committee meeting when Judah L. Ronch, Ph.D, Dean of the Erickson School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County spoke about his work. Dr. Ronch, another leading expert on culture change in long term care facilities, discussed at length what other culture change practices and pieces of those best practices can be replicated in Maryland. The Committee toured and met at an assisted living facility in Prince George's County before the presentation. It was announced that the Maryland Culture Change Coalition is now functioning and will be offering webinars and other opportunities for Maryland providers to learn more about this movement to improve quality of care and quality of life.

In addition, a Committee meeting held October 2nd in Annapolis, focused upon the discussions on increasing quality of care after Patricia Tomsko Nay, M.D. and Executive Director of the Office on Health Care Quality (OHCQ) presented an overview of OHCQ. Dr. Nay shared her vision for the agency and their goals to increase the standards of care delivered in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. At this meeting, Committee members also discussed the future of the Oversight Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities and their goals for 2014 moving forward.

The Committee will continue to review and obtain recommendations on what measures can be implemented given the budget challenges faced by providers and government to insure the quality of care for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. When appropriate, the Committee will make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly to help insure the quality of care for Maryland's long term care population.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at donna.delenoneuworth@maryland.gov or 410-767-1097.