

THE OFFICE ON AGING

COMMISSION ON AGING

Chairperson: Margaret C. Schweinhaut, 1983

Appointed members: Edmund G. Beacham, 1983; Dana G. Cable, 1983; Reverend Msgr. Leo J. Coady, 1983; Viola M. Gardner, 1983; Rena Z. Greenblatt, 1983; Betty K. Hamburger, 1983; William E. Henry, 1983; Alexander W. Kramer, 1983; Pauline H. Menes, 1983; Edwin Robertson, 1983; John H. Shope, 1983; Rose Sullivan, 1983.

THE OFFICE ON AGING

Matthew L. Tayback, Sc.D., *State Director on Aging*

Harry F. Walker, *Deputy Director*

James F. Chmelik, *Assistant Director*

Room 1004

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Baltimore 21201

Telephone: 383-5064

The Office on Aging was established by Chapter 261, Acts of 1975, as an independent agency to administer, consolidate, and coordinate State-wide programs and activities to meet the needs of older Marylanders. Its predecessor agency was the State Coordinating Commission on the Problems of the Aging created by Chapter 1, Acts of 1959. The name of this agency was changed to the Commission on the Aging by Chapter 595, Acts of 1971. In 1974, by Executive Order, the Governor established the Governor's Coordinating Office on Problems of the Aging. The creation of the Office on Aging as a cabinet-level agency resulted in the merger of the Commission on the Aging staff with the Governor's Coordinating Office on Problems of the Aging. The Commission on Aging was reassigned as both an advisory and policy-making board to the State Director on Aging.

The State Director on Aging is appointed by and responsible to the Governor. The State Director's actions are subject to the advice, counsel, or approval of the Commission on Aging.

By Chapter 101, Acts of 1982, the State Director on Aging chairs the Interagency Committee on Aging Services to evaluate the service needs of elderly persons in the State, and establish priorities for meeting these needs. The same law authorizes the State Director to represent the interests of the elderly by serving as an advocate at all levels of government.

The Office on Aging is divided into two functional areas: the Program area headed by the Deputy Director and the Administration area headed by the Assistant Director.

The Program area has three divisions: Programs Management and Coordination, Planning and Assessment, and Nutrition and Community Services.

The Program Management and Coordination Division is responsible for the senior aides program, the public guardianship program, the life support program, legal services development, transportation, physical fitness and interprogram coordination.

The Planning and Assessment Division is responsible for program planning and development, establishment of program priorities, and assessment of program results. It also assists in preparing legislation.

The Nutrition and Community Services Division is responsible for State-wide direction. It monitors and technically assists a network of 18 area agencies on aging. These local agencies receive grants from the Office on Aging to provide nutrition and community services to older persons in their local areas. The area agencies encompass all counties and Baltimore City. Funding sources for grants include Title III of the Older Americans Act, Title XX of the Social Security Act, Section 700 of the Food and Agriculture Act, and State general funds.

The Program area also includes the activities of nursing home ombudsman (Chapter 857, Acts of 1975), training, and Gateway I (Chapter 102, Acts of 1982).

Gateway I is a coordinated State-wide activity to facilitate access to programs and services for older persons. A Gateway I project is operated by an agency in each local jurisdiction or area of the State as a single point of contact for older persons seeking services and benefits from public and private agencies.

GATEWAY I SITES

Allegany County

Cumberland Senior Citizens' Center

19 Frederick St.

Cumberland 21532

Telephone: 724-1141

Anne Arundel County

Arundel Center North

101 Crain Highway, N.W.

Glen Burnie 21061

Telephone: 757-5040