

Larry Hogan
Governor

Rona E. Kramer
Secretary



Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: MSAR #2824, Health General Article §19-1409, 2015, 2016 and 2017 Oversight Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities Annual Reports

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

In compliance with Health General Article §19-1409, MSAR 2824, the Maryland Department of Aging has enclosed the required annual reports of the Oversight Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Glick". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bonnie Glick
Deputy Secretary

Enclosures

CC: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services

Oversight Committee on Quality of Care In Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

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Dear Gentlemen:

Subject to §2-1246 of the State Government Article and to comply with Health General Article §19-1409 (Chapter 400 of the Laws of Maryland 2005), the following is the required annual report of the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities (the Oversight Committee) regarding its activity from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The Oversight Committee met four times during this period.

The charge of the Oversight Committee is to evaluate the progress in improving nursing home care quality and assisted living facility quality statewide.

In 2015 the Oversight Committee focused on: (1) behavioral health of older adults; (2) annual and periodic reports from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), Maryland Department of Health (MDH), on relevant issues, including updates on proposed regulations; (3) annual and periodic reports from the Long Term Services and Supports Administration, MDH, on Medicaid nursing home reimbursement, including implementation of a new payment methodology for nursing homes; (4) weaknesses in the care of persons with dementia; and (5) the State Ombudsman Program.

The Oversight Committee:

- ❖ Solicited input from outside experts. For example:
 - Susan Levy, M.D., Lead, Maryland State Coalition to Improve Dementia Care presented an *Update from the Maryland State Coalition on the Partnership to Improve Dementia Care* and discussed the national and local goals, and progress to meet these goals, to reduce the use of antipsychotic medication in long-stay nursing homes.

- ❖ Obtained reports from agency senior staff. For example:
 - Tricia Nay, MD, Director, OHCQ, MDH, provided an annual report, as required by statute, on the status of quality of care in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
 - Mark Leeds, Director Long Term Services and Supports Administration, MDH, provided an annual report, as required by statute, on Medicaid Nursing Home Reimbursement.
 - Trica Nay, MD and other OHCQ senior staff provided periodic reports on the implementation of OHCQ's statutory and regulatory long-term care mandates.

- Alice Hedt, State Ombudsman, Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), provided an annual informational report and periodic updates on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- ❖ Solicited input from its members. For example:
 - Kim Burton, Oversight Committee representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland provided a report on *Nursing-facility-based Behavioral Healthcare Challenges and Opportunities*.
 - Kim Burton also presented to the Committee suggestions for consideration by the Behavioral Health Workgroup convened by OHCQ as part of development of revised nursing home regulations.
 - Stephani O’Dea, Oversight Committee designee of the Director of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), provided an overview of the public behavioral health system and BHA’s Older Adult Services and Initiatives.
 - Susan Eddy, Oversight Committee representative of Voices for Quality Care, presented and discussed findings from Voices for Quality Care’s 2014 *Report on the State of Nursing Homes: Maryland & Washington, D.C.*
- ❖ Monitored the status of significant program initiatives.

Oversight Committee members expressed concerns about sufficiency of staff levels and training of direct care staff in nursing and assisted living facilities; the adequacy of behavioral health services, including care of persons with dementia; a pattern of repeat deficiencies in certain long term care facilities; and the ongoing difficulties associated with meeting the Committee’s statutory charges.

The Oversight Committee will continue to solicit input on evidence-based methods to ensure optimal quality of care for persons residing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Rosanne Hanratty, Oversight Committee staff, at rosanne.hanratty@maryland.gov.