

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, 2016 through December 31, 2016. The Oversight Committee met four times during this period.

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

In 2016 the Oversight Committee focused on: (1) behavioral health of older adults, (2) state of current practice, and innovations, in care of older adults and persons with dementia(s), (3) annual and periodic reports from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), Maryland Department of Health (MDH), on relevant issues, including updates on the proposed nursing home and assisted living facility regulations, (4) 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, (5) the State Ombudsman Program.

The Oversight Committee:

- ❖ Solicited input from outside experts. For example,
  - Judah L. Ronch, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of the Erickson School, University of Baltimore County (UMBC) provided a report on *Behavioral health in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: We Know More than We Think We Do*.
  - Dr. Ronch also reported on the work of the *Center for Innovation, Inc.*, which is intended to support and promote innovation, development, and implementation of non-institutional living care models and programs for older adults and the *Green House Project*, one such national model, which has a site in Maryland.
- ❖ 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.
- Stevanne Ellis, State Ombudsman, Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), provided an annual informational report and periodic updates on the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- ❖ Solicited input and recommendations from its members. For example:
  - Kim Burton, representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland, on behavioral health needs of older adults;
  - Ilene Rosenthal, representative of the Alzheimer's Association, General Maryland Chapter, reported on the work of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Council, of which she is a member.
- ❖ Monitored the status of significant program initiatives, including the proposed nursing home and assisted living regulations.

Oversight Committee members continued to express 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; 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 contact Rosanne Hanratty, MDOA, Oversight Committee staff, at [rosanne.hanratty@maryland.gov](mailto:rosanne.hanratty@maryland.gov).