

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, 2017 through December 31, 2017. The Oversight Committee met three times during this period.

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

In 2017 the Oversight Committee focused on: (1) appropriate care of persons with dementia; (2) improved approaches to meeting the changing needs of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, including residents' behavioral health needs; (3) informing itself about clinical assessments of nursing home residents and collection and use of the data from such assessments; (4) the annual report and period reports from the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), Maryland Department of Health (MDH); and (5) the annual and period reports from the Long Term Services and Supports Administration (LTSS), MDH, on Medicaid nursing home reimbursement, including implementation of a new payment methodology for nursing homes.

The Oversight Committee :

- ❖ Solicited input from outside experts. For example:
  - Katherine A. Marx, PhD, Principal Faculty, Center for Innovative Care in Aging, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing reported on *Neuropsychiatric Symptoms and Other Mental Health Concerns: How Do We Make a Difference in Assisted Living Facilities*, in which she outlined cutting-edge research and interventions to best meet the needs of persons with dementia residing in assisted living communities.
  - Mark Paugh, MS, RN, RAC-CT, Nurse Instructor, OHCQ, briefed the Committee on the Minimum Data Set (MDS). The MDS is part of the federally mandated process for clinical assessment of all residents in Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes. This process provides a comprehensive assessment of each resident's functional capabilities and helps nursing home staff identify health problems.
  - Stevanne Ellis, Maryland Long Term Care Ombudsman, Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), speaking on behalf of Leslie Flaim, the Beacon Institute, reported on an initiative piloted by the Beacon Institute, funded by a grant from OHCQ, in selected nursing homes and

assisted living communities, on the use of a nationally recognized and credentialed training module to inform direct care staff of best practices in the care of persons with dementia.

- ❖ Obtained reports from agency senior staff. For example:
  - Carol Fenderson and Margie Heald, OHCQ, MDH, on behalf of Tricia Nay, MD, Director, OHCQ, 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, LTSS, MDH, provided an annual report, as required by statute, on Medicaid nursing home reimbursement.
  - Tricia 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 from Oversight Committee members. For example:
  - Kim Burton of the Mental Health Association of Maryland described an initiative in Maryland—the Older Adult Behavioral Health Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Specialist Project—funded by MDH using federal *Money Follows the Person* funds.
- ❖ 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 addressing substance use disorders; patterns of recurring deficiencies in certain facilities and the need for strategies to address these deficiencies; 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.