

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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January 8, 2020

Senator Geoff Gratwick, Co-Chair
Representative Patty Hymanson, Co-Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Senator Gratwick, Representative Hymanson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

This letter accompanies two reports that have been prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS). The reports are being provided in response to your letter dated June 19, 2019, with reference to LD 1146, "An Act to Ensure the Provision of Housing Navigation Services to Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities".

The two reports provided with this letter are as follows:

- Review of Housing Programs Managed by DHHS and MaineHousing; and
- Maine State Plan on Aging Update.

Thank you for your attention to these important topics. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Saucier".

Paul Saucier
Director, Office of Aging and Disability Services



Update on the Maine State Plan on Aging

January 10, 2020

Response to the Joint Standing Committee
on Health and Human Services

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Aging and Disability Services

Introduction

The Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 requires each State Unit on Aging (SUA), to submit to the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living (ACL) a multi-year "State Plan on Aging" to be eligible for grants from its allotment for any fiscal year (42 USC §3027). In Maine, the DHHS Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) is designated by the Governor and approved by ACL as the SUA. The State Plan on Aging is a planning document that describes the goals and objectives of OADS and Maine's five area agencies on aging (AAAs; which are the Aroostook Agency on Aging, Eastern Area Agency on Aging, SeniorsPlus, Southern Maine Agency on Aging, and Spectrum Generations) in delivering Non-Medicaid home and community-based services. The State Plan on Aging must evaluate the need for supportive services including, legal assistance, information and assistance, transportation services, nutrition services, and multipurpose senior centers within Maine. Other programs funded by the OAA and included in the State Plan on Aging are the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Elder Rights and Protection Activities, and the National Family Caregiver Program.

State Plan on Aging Work Group

Maine's current State Plan on Aging (2016-2020) expires on September 30, 2020. OADS convened a Work Group consisting of various stakeholders to help guide the development of a new State Plan on Aging for years 2020-2024, which is due to ACL by July 1, 2020. Members of the Work Group are:

- Joy Barresi Saucier, Director, Aroostook Agency on Aging
- Dyan Walsh, Director, Eastern Area Agency on Aging
- Betsy Sawyer-Manter, Director, SeniorsPlus
- Megan Walton, Director, Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging
- Gerry Queally, Director, Spectrum Generations
- Jaye Martin, Executive Director, Legal Services for the Elderly
- Adam Lacher, Director of Advocacy, Alzheimer's Association Maine Chapter
- Jess Maurer, Executive Director, Maine Council on Aging
- Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director, Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- John Hennessy, Co-Chair, SAGEMaine
- Brenda Gallant, Executive Director, Maine State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Ruta Kadonoff, Senior Program Officer, Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF)

Goals

The first meetings of the Work Group were held in July 2019 at OADS offices in Augusta. During these meetings, members reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed goals identified through two planning sessions that OADS facilitated in July 2019 with the five AAAs, Adult Protective Services, Legal Services for the Elderly, and Maine State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The identified goals are:

- Support older Mainers to stay active and healthy in their communities of choice;
- Enhance program quality through outcome measurement and data standardization; and

- Prevent and improve response to abuse, neglect, and exploitation while preserving the rights and autonomy of older individuals and adults with disabilities.

Statewide Needs Assessment

The Work Group has identified preliminary objectives and strategies for each goal which will be finalized after collecting data on the needs and preferences of older people in Maine, their caregivers, and adults with disabilities. To gather data on the target population's needs and preferences, four strategies, detailed below, were implemented through a contract with the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service (USM). USM will provide both OADS and the AAAs with a detailed analysis in March 2020 that combines all four strategies.

Listening Sessions

OADS hosted eight listening sessions across Maine in the month of October. Below is a list of locations, dates, and times. These sessions were facilitated by USM staff, who developed a standardized protocol to ensure consistency and data integrity for each session.

Area Agency on Aging	Date	Time (pm)	Location
Aroostook Agency on Aging	10/02/19	2:00 - 4:00	Ashland Community Recreation Building Exchange St, Ashland, ME 04732
Spectrum Generations	10/08/19	2:00 - 4:00	VFW Hall 50 Mill Street, Waldoboro, ME 04572
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	10/15/19	2:00 - 4:00	Eastern Area Agency on Aging Offices 240 State St, Brewer, ME 04412
Spectrum Generations	10/16/19	2:00 - 4:00	Spectrum Generations Muskie Center 38 Gold St, Waterville, ME 04901
Eastern Area Agency on Aging	10/16/19	2:00 - 4:00	Uni. of Machias, Performing Arts Center 116 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME 04654
SeniorsPlus	10/22/19	1:00 - 3:00	SeniorsPlus Offices 10 Falcon Rd, Lewiston, ME
SeniorsPlus	10/23/19	1:00 - 3:00	Comfort Inn & Suites 1026 US-2, Wilton, ME 04294
Southern Maine Agency on Aging	10/24/19	2:00 - 4:00	USM, Glickman Library, 7th Floor 314 Forest Ave, Portland, ME 04103

Statewide Survey

A statewide survey using a mixed-methods approach (email, telephone, and mail) was sent to over 1,000 adults in Maine age 55 or older. USM obtained a list of potential respondents to ensure representation in each AAA. This survey started in late October 2019 and concluded in December 2019.

Caregiver Survey

The National Family Caregiver Program, established by Title III E of the Older Americans Act, provides services and programs to people who provide care and support to older adults or adults with disabilities as well as older adults who have primary responsibility for the care of a grandchild or other relative under the age of 18. An online survey was created to ask these caregivers about their needs and preferences to ensure compliance with the requirements set by the National Family Caregiver Program. This survey began in late November 2019 and concluded in December 2019.

State and Area Plan Development

Once OADS and the AAAs are provided a final report by USM, the AAAs will develop their unique area plan on aging to submit to OADS, which will then develop a State Plan on Aging. The goal is to have a common set of goals and objectives in each of the five area plans on aging so that outcomes can be measured consistently statewide. The State Plan on Aging will be prepared for Governor Mills signature no later than June 1st of 2020 with a submission date to ACL on June 30, 2020.