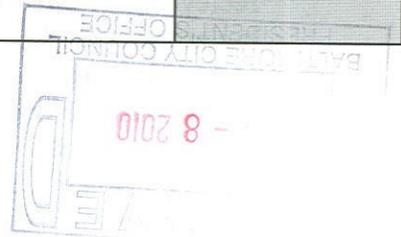


F R O M	Name Title Organization Address	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner of Health Baltimore City Health Department 1001 E. Fayette St.	<b>Health Department</b>  <b>Commission on Aging and Retirement Education</b>  <b>MEMO</b>
	Name Title Organization Address	Janie S. McCullough Executive Director, CARE 10 North Calvert Street, Suite 300	
	Subject	Council Resolution 10-0201R - Informational Hearing - How Best to Ensure a Continuum of Services to Baltimore's Elderly	

To: President and Members  
of The City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

May 26, 2010



The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to City Council Resolution 10-0201R - Informational Hearing - How Best to Ensure a Continuum of Services to Baltimore's Elderly. This resolution requests the Executive Director of the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE), the Commissioner of Health, the President of Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc. (BHCA), and the Director of Finance to report to the City Council on the proposed move of the area agency on aging senior services currently provided under CARE to BCHD, as well as the impact on the level, consistency, and quality of programs for and services to the elderly; and the fiscal implications to the City budget.

The transfer of the area agency will be invisible to the City's seniors; they will continue to receive services from the same individuals they know. There will be no disruption or noticeable change for recipients of services during the transfer. While there will be cost savings due to efficiencies created by consolidation, this transfer is about enhancing the services currently offered to Baltimore City's seniors.

**BCHD**

BCHD has been asked to take responsibility for the area agency on aging senior programs and services because it provides a variety of services to improve the lives of seniors in Baltimore, including comprehensive evaluations for seniors, personal care, medical transports, and job and volunteer placement. Movement of the area agency to the same division of BCHD will enable closer collaboration in areas similar services are delivered. In addition, BCHD has a long history of seeking and obtaining grant funding to supplement the limited City general funds available with 80% of its funding coming from grant funds rather than City general funds. As such, Health Department staff have significant experience in the development and implementation of

services for seniors. Thus, the move will give the area agency access to expertise it did not have previously.

### **BHCA**

As you may know, the area agency on aging currently has grants and contracts with many organizations (such as Family and Children's Services, Meals on Wheels, and others). These organizations provide services to seniors such as case management, congregate meals, recreation, and other services. BCHD plans to contract with BHCA to provide certain advocacy and client services previously provided by the area agency. The City staff currently providing those services will move to BHCA, and continue to provide the same services as before. Seniors will continue to gain access to services with the same CARE staff that they work with now, so, from a client perspective, the move to BCHD will be invisible.

BHCA was established in 1997 as quasi-public agency of the Health Department and has received national recognition for its administration of the Medicaid program in the City. They receive some funding from the Health Department to serve Baltimore's challenged populations, but are also funded by nine major Baltimore foundations. They intend to use their expertise and experience to garner additional grant funding and increase services. BHCA has been awarded the Maryland Nonprofits Seal of Excellence for their excellence and integrity in the services they provide and financial management. The Interim Health Commissioner, currently serves as the BHCA's Board Chair and oversees operations, spending and financial management of their, while ensuring their adherence to strict state, federal and grant-maker reporting requirements.

For many Baltimore seniors, this move will allow them to access wrap-around services in one location, rather than having to navigate through several agencies for similar services. BHCA already provides many of the same services to individuals on Medicare and Medicaid, such as advocacy services, intake and referral services via a call center, ombudsman and case management services. For example, this consolidation would allow grandparents caring for grandchildren in their homes to access services for themselves and their dependents in one location. The move of CARE's programs and services to the Health Department and BHCA will enhance the services currently offered to Baltimore City's senior residents and no reductions in services will result. The move will, however, permit reductions in the cost of some back office support services. On behalf of BCHD, CARE and BHCA, we appreciate the opportunity afforded to us by City Council Resolution 10-0201R to discuss our efforts and welcome further discussion.

CC: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
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