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DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Department of Aging - D26A07 FY 2020 Budget

Testimony of Rona E. Kramer, Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging

House Appropriations Committee, Health and Social Services Subcommittee
February 13, 2019

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, Health and Human Services Subcommittee
February 18, 2019

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) analysis of the Maryland Department of Aging's (Department's) FY 2020 budget request. The Department extends its appreciation to the DLS analyst, Matthew Mickler, who reviewed the budget and programs. Mr. Mickler's questions were thought provoking and insightful. The Department's response to the discussion item and the recommendation noted in the analysis are included below.

Discussion Item

MDOA should comment on how the agency plans to notify Marylanders of the Durable Medical Equipment program once operational, in order to promote donations and generate interest in the program. Further, MDOA should comment on how Marylanders will be able to donate to and utilize the services of this program once operational.

Response

MDOA will plan a statewide marketing campaign. We will use all of our existing resources, including the AAAs, senior centers, and the non-profit grantees with whom we partner with on the congregate housing and NORC grants. MDOA will also work with the Maryland Department of Disabilities to utilize their existing resources. We will certainly have to use a marketing consultant in order to expand our reach beyond existing resources and recognize that marketing will be an important part of the program rollout.

MDOA will take donations from individuals, skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, etc., at any of the local drop off and pick up sites throughout the State, as well as at the DME

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warehouse. Individuals will place requests for equipment at these sites as well. We have been working towards finding a large non-profit organization to raise funds and administer volunteer functions of the DME program. We envision that MES will continue to operate the warehouse functions.

Recommended Action

1.) DLS recommends restricting \$200,000 intended for the CFL program pending the submission of a report detailing lessons learned from, and best practices of, the initially funded programs.

The Department will gladly provide such a report.