



Massachusetts
Councils On Aging

Annual Meeting 2019

June 14, 2019



**Massachusetts
Councils On Aging**

Message from Our President

As we gather for our 40th annual meeting, many thanks are in order. Thank you to the membership for allowing me to serve as your President over the year.

Thank you to my fellow Board members and the staff of MCOA for your teamwork and dedication. This is certainly a celebration of all that we have accomplished.

40 Years of Making a Difference: MCOA has evolved in so many ways over the last 40 years. The one thing that has remained consistent is the dedication and commitment of this organization to making a difference in the lives of older adults across the Commonwealth.

Over the last five years, the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors, Inc. has grown dramatically: from a budget of less than \$500,000 to a current budget well over \$2 million; from 2 full time equivalent staff to 8.5 FTEs; and from an organization dependent on dues and attendance at trainings events, to an organization that has diversified its income to the point where we are now able to provide over \$1million in grants to our members.

Focusing on capacity building on the local level, we are providing hundreds of hours of technical assistance, have vastly expanded our resource and training portfolios, and have recently revised our Staff Certification process to readily dovetail with the NISC national standards.

As we expanded into Behavioral Health, we are creating elder mental health outreach teams and we were also designated the lead agency with Dementia Friendly Massachusetts.

Our immediate Past President, Brian O'Grady, continues to serve on the Governor's Council to Address Aging.

MCOA also embarked upon several new initiatives:

- developed a comprehensive membership survey
- supported intergenerational programming and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (where we recently received the 2019 Friends of the Commission Award)
- helped to create and fund, bereavement and caregiver support groups
- strengthened our Regional Representative network
- conducted a two-day retreat for Board Members to review all established MCOA policies, and defined the future direction of the Association including priorities for future funding and sub-grants
- promoted job fairs and other resources for older workers to focus on elder economic security
- participated in a campaign to increase SNAP enrollment and other benefits
- developed a manual with regional training focusing on housing
- participated in the statewide campaign to designate Massachusetts as the second Age-Friendly State in the country and spread the Age- and Dementia-Friendly concept throughout Massachusetts
- focused on introducing the Frameworks concept "Telling the Story about Aging" to rebrand and rethink "aging."

Our Fall Conference was the largest ever with 76 workshops, 8 roundtables, and 78 vendors. We were joined, from the Administration, by: Alice Bonner, Secretary of Elder Affairs; John Chapman, Undersecretary of Consumer Affairs; Heidi Reid, Commissioner of Massachusetts Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and, from our National Partners, Jim Firman, President and CEO of the National Council on AGING (NCOA); Jennifer Nichols from the Frameworks Institute; and Nancy LeaMond, AARP's Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer. At this event, held at the Sea Crest Resort, we awarded Heidi Reid and Emmett Schmarsow, Elder Affairs Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers, our Lifetime Achievement Awards for their dedication to our Commonwealth's Older Adults.

Advocating for the FY20 budget cycle, we were successful in fully funding the Service Incentive Grant program, while maintaining the Formula Grant at \$12/elder, and as I write this, we are hoping the Budget Conference Committee sides with the Senate version adding an additional \$300,000 to the Geriatric Mental Health line item to start a few new programs. Over the balance of this 191st Session of the Massachusetts General Court (through December 2020), we will focus on legislation that revises our Commonwealth's property tax relief for seniors, expands the Good Samaritan Law, establishes a Bed Hold Policy, and increases the Personal Needs Allowances for Nursing home residents.

We will also work on:

- "An Act improving public health through a common application for core food, health and safety-net programs "
- "An Act promoting affordability of home care services"
- "An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults with disabilities"
- "An Act to Establish the Family Caregiving Tax Credit"
- "An Act to establish the Massachusetts secure choice retirement program and expand the Massachusetts CORE plan to all employers"
- "An Act relative to construction and rehabilitation of senior centers"
- "An Act relative to intensive case management for clinically complex older adults"

In addition, MCOA will focus on providing adequate funding for Elder Affairs line items as well as supplemental funding for the salaries of front-line workers; adequate funding of the Medicare Savings Program (MSP: Fix the Senior Health Care Cliff) and increased funding for Elder Nutrition.

We have been, and will remain, busy for the foreseeable future. To that end, we need our Membership to join us as we forge ahead: **Making a Difference – the Next Forty Years.**

Sincerely,



Rebecca Moriarty
MCOA President, & Director, Hampden COA



MCOA 2019 Index Report

Fall Conference Registrants : 369
COA's represented at the Fall Conference : 172
Workshops held at the Fall Conference : 84
Vendors at the Fall Conference : 78
New Vendors at the Fall Conference : 16
New Sponsors at the Fall Conference : 0

Towns and Cities benefited from MCOA trainings, conferences, contracts, meetings : 68%
Individuals received CEU's : 44
Technical Assistance Calls : 173
Number of Contracts written : 89
Sites held Go 4 Life events : 22
Sites that started walking groups: 11
Towns that ran Job Seekers' 50+ groups : 15

Towns and cities interested or have started steps in becoming Dementia Friendly : 150
MA is the 2nd highest state with memory cafes : 110
Years MCOA funded eight memory café sites : 4

EMHOT contracts : 5
Towns and cities offered EMHOT services : 44
Units of EMHOT counseling provided to older adults in FY 2018 : 4,375
Percentage of clients who received direct counseling from EMHOT staff : 99%
Group Counseling Sessions conducted : 450
Individual counseling sessions provided to older adults in FY 2018
through EMHOT : 2,600

FY 2019 fiscal budget : \$2.4 million
COA's paid dues : 98.6%
Dues collected : 99.34%
Percentage of budget used for programs : 82%
Legislative visits made by David Stevens : 103

COA's enrolled in DTA/SNAP /COA Community Partners October start : 21