



Department of
Aging

John Kasich, Governor
Bonnie K. Burman, Sc.D., Director

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Kris
Jordan Ohio
Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Unified Long-Term Care System Advisory Workgroup.

The workgroup was established in HB 153 of the 129th General Assembly for the purposes of meeting during SFY 2012-2013. The workgroup was to serve in an advisory capacity regarding the implementation of a unified system of long-term care services that facilitated the following:

- Providing consumers choices of long-term care services that meet their health-care needs and improve their quality of life
- Providing a continuum of long-term care services that meets consumers' needs throughout life and promotes consumers' independence and autonomy
- Assuring that the state has a system of long-term care services that is cost effective and connects disparate services across agencies and jurisdictions

To address these issues, the workgroup convened four subcommittees on the following topics:

- current and future capacity of nursing facilities
- quality incentive payments under Medicaid
- Medicaid eligibility determinations for those seeking nursing facilities
- Medicaid reimbursement for nursing facility services.

Those subcommittees submitted reports to the General Assembly.

Membership included the Director of Aging, Governor's appointments comprised of long-term care advocates, providers of long-term care, managed care organizations, policy makers, two state representatives, and two state senators. The members of the workgroup were not compensated or reimbursed for expenses. The Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services provided staff and other support services.

With the conclusion of the reports, the workgroup has completed its statutory obligation. The Ohio Department of Aging continues to collaborate with long-term care partners on consumer and quality issues, but the purpose of the workgroup has been met. Therefore, it is recommended that the Unified Long-Term Care System Advisory Workgroup be sunset at this time.

Bonnie K. Burman
Director