



# Senate Aging & Youth Committee

Senator Kim Ward

Chairman

Room 168 Capitol Building • Senate Box 203039, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3039 • 717-787-6063 • Fax: 717-772-05

## AGENDA

Public Hearing – September 7, 2011

*“Long Term Care in Pennsylvania”*

The Center at the Mall, 284 Beaver Valley Mall, Monaca, PA

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 11:00 AM | Senator Kim Ward   |
| 11:05 AM | Secretary Brian Duke<br>Pennsylvania Department of Aging                                     |
| 11:25AM  | Crystal Lowe, Executive Director<br>PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging                 |
| 11:40 AM | William Pierce, President<br>Linda Doman, Vice President<br>PA Association of Senior Centers |
| 11:55 AM | Heather Sedlacko, Board Member<br>PA Adult Day Services Association                          |
| 12:10 PM | Vicki Hoak, Executive Director<br>PA Homecare Association                                    |
| 12:25 PM | Anne Henry, Chief Operating Officer<br>PA Health Care Association                            |
| 12:40 PM | W. Russell McDaid, Vice President<br>Leading Age PA  |

**Testimony of Secretary Brian M. Duke  
Pennsylvania Department of Aging  
Before the Senate Aging & Youth Committee  
September 7, 2011**

Good Morning Chairperson Ward and distinguished Members of the Senate Aging & Youth Committee. Thank you for the invitation to be with you today. It is good to make a return visit to Senator Vogel's district in Beaver County and to the Center at the Mall. My thanks to all with the Beaver County Office on Aging who not only serve as our partners in an important mission but also as the front door to the services we offer to fulfill the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and Office of Long Term Living's goal of "enhancing the quality of life of all older Pennsylvanians by empowering diverse communities, the family and the individual."

I am grateful to Governor Corbett for this opportunity to serve the Commonwealth as its Secretary of Aging. Governor Corbett is committed to older Pennsylvanians as evidenced by his protection of elders as Attorney General, in his principles he has prioritized throughout his campaign for Governor and in the first months of his administration through actions such as signing the PACE Moratorium legislation (HB 463, enacted as Act 21 of 2011) which protected valuable prescription drug benefits for 31,000 Pennsylvanians. Thank you to Senator Ward for your leadership in shepherding this legislation through the Senate.

My thanks is also extended to those with us today and those receiving services in our communities. We are indebted to you for your contributions which have made Beaver County the great county it is and for the lived experiences you share as we connect through service. It is great to visit a vibrant community like the one which meets here at the Center at the Mall. My thanks to those who work and volunteer here and to participants. Your vitality, interaction and sense of community make this a success.

As we look at Beaver County, we see over 22% of its population above the age of 62. This is 7% higher than the state's average. Pennsylvania ranks 5th in the nation of people age 60 and older and by the year 2020, 1 in 4 people you pass on the street will be over the age of 60. For all of us gathered here we are living in a time of challenge but also I believe a time of opportunity.

To define the challenge and opportunity it may be good to start with the 11-12 Budget. The FY 11-12 Budget was passed on time for the first time in 8 years. It is a reality-based budget built upon dollars available to be spent. There was a 4 percent decrease in spending overall with a budget totaling \$27.149 billion. And the wishes of Pennsylvanians were fulfilled in that there was no increase in taxes. There were reductions above what the Governor requested in Department of Public Welfare's budget and those will first be met by identifying and eliminating errors, waste and inefficiency. The programs and services in the Department of Aging supported by dollars from the Lottery Fund were basically flat funded. In conjunction with the Budget, Governor Corbett and the Legislature worked together to amend Act 1, which will provide older Pennsylvanians and other taxpayers with significant property tax reform.

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging remains grateful for the support received from the Pennsylvania Lottery. About 75% of our budget comes to us through the Lottery. And it is through these funds we provide community services, provide and coordinate long term care services and protect Pennsylvania's older citizens. This support here in Beaver County is reflected by \$3,217,000 provided to the Beaver

statement of our future does not negate the building blocks we need to get the job done. But if we only focus on these things, our future in the Commonwealth becomes ill defined and we will not be prepared for what needs to be done. As we look to the future, we must have a clear vision and strategic direction to guide our efforts. The Department of Aging will pursue a two-fold mission 1) Discover and pursue ways for older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities to age and live well; and equally important 2) discover and pursue ways to ensure our communities can become better places to age and live well.

Today the Senate Aging and Youth Committee will hear from the many valued parts of the long term care continuum. Each provider in this continuum from home and community based services to skilled nursing care provides a necessary service and we are grateful for their dedication and what they do. I fully intend to engage all of you, our partners and stakeholders, as we move forward. I am grateful for the partnership of the organizations in the room today and for those that couldn't be with us. We recognize that no one sector of society can achieve our goals in isolation.

Thank you for your time today and I welcome any questions or comments from the Committee now and in the future.