

# AGING in MASSACHUSETTS



*Shaping the Future*

**Governor's Council to Address Aging in Massachusetts  
Caregiver Workgroup Plan  
26 April 2018**

# Charge and Members

## Charge

- Design, develop and implement ways to support caregivers through employment, information, planning, services

## Deliverables

- Recommend top 2-3 initiatives and an implementation plan to:
  - Promote awareness and caregiver benefits to employers
  - Increase access to and awareness of information, programs, benefits
  - Elevate the conversation about caregiving and reduce isolation

## Members

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Riley (Co-Chair), Seniorlink</li> <li>• Liz Whitla (Co-Chair), Raytheon</li> <li>• Janina Sadlowski, Phillip</li> <li>• Ruth Moy, Golden Age</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelly Magee Wright, Minuteman Senior Services</li> <li>• Betsy Connell, MCOA</li> <li>• Nicole McGurin, Alzheimer's Association</li> <li>• Jessica Costantino, AARP</li> </ul> |
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# Meeting Discussion and Process

## Meeting Information

- Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Summary of meeting discussion
  - Highlight and promote work that is already ongoing that could be scaled/replicated
  - Build off of state and federal legislative/policy initiatives that are already in process
  - Find ways to use and promote technology
  - Increase number of people who self-identify as a caregiver
  - Explore link between caregiving and employment (employers can change the dialogue)
  - Discuss importance of paid caregivers and relationship to family caregivers
- Workgroup Focus
  - Focus on informal, family (unpaid) caregivers that will have some impact to the Commonwealth
  - Focus on public, private partnerships
  - Engage employers

## Path to Concrete Actions & Recommendations (by October 2018)

- Topics for consideration
  - Engage employers to increase dialogue and awareness regarding caregiving and benefits for caregivers
    - Survey of employers
    - Roundtable with chambers of commerce and other organizations
    - Provide research, data, stories to increase awareness, etc.
  - Increase number of people who self-identify as a caregiver
  - Increase in awareness of where to find the resources available to caregivers
- Work plan
  - Next meeting is Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and monthly meetings scheduled for June, July and August
  - Further research/data needed
    - Data on employer decisions on caregiver benefits
    - Information from other states on caregiver awareness campaigns
    - Current status of legislative policies in Massachusetts and other states

## Challenges

- Large employers more likely to engage and have resources to make changes, challenge of reaching small employers
- Caregivers may not identify as caregivers or want any assistance
- Information and resources are always changing, evolving and developing so is difficult to keep up to date

## Collaboration with Other Workgroups

- Employment workgroup – Ensure employers are both age and caregiver friendly
- Technology and innovation – Are there technology strategies to support this work, especially for long-distance caregivers?