

SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL

REPORT 2016

The year 2016 began with the resignation of Dr. John Cann and the appointment of Marian Sherratt as Chair of the Seniors Advisory Council (SAC). This followed on from a very productive year (2015) by Task Forces under Dr. Cann's leadership analyzing and reporting on Active (Healthy) Ageing; Education/Workforce Development; Comprehensive Planning and Accountability; Finance (financial security for older adults and caregivers); Long-term Care; and Public Policy/Legislation.

Two main objectives were taken from the year 2015:

1. Work towards adoption of "Ageing Well in Bermuda" (2013), a national strategy on ageing; and
2. Further the objectives of the SAC as "an oversight body to identify issues affecting the Island's senior population and to provide advice on policies, programmes, services and legislation impacting on seniors".

The year 2016 also began with optimism that the Sustainable Development Round Table under the chairmanship of Gary Madeiros would work with SAC, and that a Policy Analyst would be assigned to help guide "Ageing Well in Bermuda (2013)", a National Strategy on Ageing developed by the then Seniors Advisory Council, through Cabinet for formal adoption. This partnership did not come to fruition due, we believe, to reorganization within Government, nor did we gain access to a policy analyst.

It was also hoped that the Seniors Advisory Council would be confirmed as a statutory body but at time of writing it would appear there is no urgency on the part of Government to take this forward.

As and when a National Strategy on Ageing is adopted SAC sees its role as monitoring implementation of that Strategy across all ministries and advising the Minister of Health on gaps, failures, and successes. As a result, and because SAC sees its role as advisory only, SAC did not accept a lead role in the LTC Action Plan 2016 in the area of caregiving even though several members are knowledgeable, willing and able to assist wherever possible.

That all said, SAC has worked well as an advisory body. Four Board meetings were held during 2016: 21 January, 21 April, 26 May and 15 September. In addition, Chairperson Marian Sherratt attended four other meetings two of which included the Minister of Health and the Permanent Secretary, one LTC Group Workshop and one LTC Symposium. A schedule of those meetings is attached to and forms part of this report.

Also on a positive note, SAC has developed a good relationship with the office of Ageing and Disability Services and the Ministry of Health. We look forward to 2017 as we continue to advocate for a national strategy on ageing and advise the Minister on matters relating to our seniors and our ageing population.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Sherratt, MA,
Chair, Seniors Advisory Council

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ACTIVITY 2016

DATE	ACTIVITY	ACTIONS	DECISIONS/DISCUSSIONS	NEXT STEPS
21 January 2016	SAC Meeting	Round Table Discussion on LTC	Presentation by Rosheena Masters. Need for coordinated care; public awareness drive (education, focus on family, personal responsibility); overall governing body; Dr. Cann announced he was stepping down as Chair. Marian Sherratt agreed to take the Chair.	LTC System MoH takes lead MoH to monitor and regulate
30 March 2016	Meeting SDRT (Garry Madeiros); MoH, PS, SAC (MS), ADS (KB)	Discussion of work to date, Natl Strategy, Work Forces, Legislative Review, etc.	Discussion SDU to merge with CPU for cross-Ministry Policy unit. ADS/SAC dove-tailing.	Cabinet Paper; Adoption of Natl Strategy (Updated). N. O'Leary to assist.
21 April 2016	SAC Meeting	Review of Major Reports and Task Forces Review of Role of SAC	Role of SAC: To monitor implementation of the National Strategy on Ageing across all ministries and advise the Minister of Health on gaps, failures, successes.	
26 May 2016	SAC Meeting	Using October 2013 version of the Ageing Well in Bermuda document, some minor changes were discussed. MS noted no appetite for SAC to become a Statutory Body at this time.	J.Collis noted retired person who is willing to assist with Cabinet Paper.	Need to push for Cabinet paper as next step; Policy Analyst support needed. MS to meet with ADS (Ja-Mae Burgess) and DAC (Tinee Furbert)
1 June 2016	Meeting	MS (SAC), Tinee Furbert (DAC), Ja-Mae Burgess (ADS)	Discussed common ground, way forward	Meeting with MoH and PS

16 June 2016	Meeting with MoH and PS	MS, TF, J-MB, Keona Belboda	Discussed challenges, resources, ways and means of moving forward	Convening of LTC workshop
17 August 2016	LTC Working Group* Workshop	Intense and comprehensive presentations by key individuals	Identified Items that are actionable in the next year	Finalise Action Plan
7 September 2016	LTC WG meeting	Action Plan presented See Item B2	Adopted pending confirmation of role of SAC	Role of SAC to be discussed 15 September 2016
15 September 2016	SAC meeting	Lively discussion on role of SAC and MoH request that SAC assume responsibility as Lead Agency on caregiving	Role of Lead Agency declined due to remit as advisory body and lack of resources.	Sharon Swan offered to enquire what courses currently available among key stakeholders.
3 December 2016	LTC Action Plan 2016 Symposium			

*LTC Working Group by invitation of the MoH