

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a)

2025 o4a Advocacy Conference Renaissance Columbus Downtown

Description:

Every other year the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging hosts an Advocacy Conference at which Area Agencies on Aging and aging network partners can learn about important policy and legislative initiatives and how to advocate for the people we serve and for improvement to the systems that serve them. Held during the state budget process, the Advocacy Conference educates participants about o4a's budget priorities, as well as those of state agencies and advocacy partners. The agenda includes a special focus on strategies to increase housing options that are affordable, safe and accessible to older adults.

This year will include state and federal partners and aging and housing advocates speaking to how good public policy can ensure that everyone can live and age with dignity, autonomy and choice in their homes and communities.

DAY ONE: Tuesday March 4, 2025

12:00 – 1:00 REGISTRATION

1:00 – 4:30 CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS

Opening Address: Duana Patton, Board o4a President and CEO of Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging

Ohio's Aging and Medicaid Priorities:

- Ursel McElroy, Director, Department of Aging
- Maureen Corcoran, Director, Department of Medicaid

Ohio Legislative Panel:

- Representative Bride Rose-Sweeny (Invited)
- Representative Marilyn John (Invited)
- Senator Catherine Ingram (Invited)
- Senator Mark Romanchuk (Invited)

o4a Advocacy Agenda:

- Duana Patton, CEO, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging
- Tom Pappas, Esq., President, Pappas & Associates
- Kelsey Bergfeld, Chief Policy Officer, o4a

5:00 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

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DAY TWO: Wednesday March 5, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 am BUFFET BREAKFAST

9:00 – 3:00 pm CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSIONS

Federal Policy Updates and USAging Advocacy Priorities

- Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, USAging

Ohio Aging Advocacy Panel

- Lisa Von Lehmden, Executive Director, Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice
- Deanna Green, Chair, Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services and Washington County Home Administrator and Supervisor, Adult Protective Services
- Victoria Gresh, Executive Director, Ohio Assisted Living Association
- Maureen Fagans, President, Ohio Association of Senior Centers, Chief Executive Officer at United Senior Services of Springfield and Clark County

11:30-12:15 pm LUNCH

Using Research to Inform Aging Policy & Services: Insights from Scripps Gerontology Center

- Jennifer Heston-Mullins, Associate Director of Research and Senior Research Scholar, Scripps Gerontology Center
- Matt Nelson, Research Scholar, Scripps Gerontology Center

From Policy to Practice: Housing Challenges and Solutions for Older Adults

- Natalynne M. Baker, Executive Vice President, St. Mary Development Corporation
- Amy Riegel, Executive Director, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
- Leah Werner, Director, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
- Grant Ames, Government & Community Relations Manager, Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

Closing: Duana Patton, CEO, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging