

DEPARTMENT OF AGING BUDGET HEARING WRAP

Thursday, February 27, 2025



General Overview:

Pennsylvania Department of Aging Secretary Jason Kavulich and senior staff from the department testified before the House Appropriations Committee this afternoon. House Republicans focused their questions on funding and accountability issues with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Members continued to advance the ongoing budget hearing theme of the need for more efficiency in government.

Key Takeaways:

- In the FY2024-25 budget, AAAs were level funded.
 - Members pressed the department on how they can help AAAs use their federal funding more efficiently.
- Committee members expressed concerns over the failure of several AAAs to properly investigate cases of elder abuse and neglect, citing recent feature stories that have been reported in the media:
 - Several AAAs have been found to be woefully behind on elder abuse investigations, but the department seems unwilling to use any punitive actions on bad performers as reported by numerous media outlets.
 - The department seems unwilling to use punitive actions to express the seriousness of the failures at these AAAs. Committee members expressed that more must be done to improve elder abuse investigations.
- Department of Aging Secretary Jason Kavulich said the current funding levels, which the governor signed into law, have resulted in the closing of 30 senior centers around Pennsylvania and the reduction of other services for seniors.

Notable Q&A:



Aging Secretary Kavulich admits current funding levels have resulted in fewer services and the closing on 30 senior centers to Rep. Marla Brown.

Rep. Torren Ecker asked the Department of Aging to respond to recent media reports on the failure of the Philadelphia AAA to investigate elder abuse.



Rep. Eric Davanzo inquired on what the department is doing to ensure accountability and efficiency within their programs.