



**Testimony before the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee
Secretary Brian Duke, Pennsylvania Department of Aging
April 3, 2012**

Chairman Hennessey, Chairman Curry and Members of the House Aging & Older Adult Services Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today to discuss the report prepared by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in response to House Resolution 106 of 2011. This report encapsulates the use of the Pennsylvania Lottery fund for programs and services that support older Pennsylvanians.

Within the report, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee makes four main recommendations to which I would like to address the three that either directly impact or have the potential to impact the Department of Aging.

- Recommendation One: The Pennsylvania Lottery should continue to expand its retail network to facilitate an increase in ticket sales.

The Department of Aging supports this recommendation and recognizes the significance of the need to grow net revenue of the Lottery. In order to support the cost increases and demand for current programs, the current growth in the Lottery (about 1% on average) will likely not be enough to sustain.

- Recommendation Three: The General Assembly should limit the use of Lottery Fund monies to those programs and services currently funded in that manner.

The Department of Aging recognizes the need to provide for statutorily mandated programs and services. However, the Department would suggest that the use of the Lottery fund not be so limited that it would preclude new services that may be developed to support older adults through the Lottery.

- Recommendation Four: Greater effort should be given to the methods used in at least some of the Lottery-funded programs for making future projections.

The Department of Aging supports this recommendation. The Department continues to move to become more data driven. The Department is working to reinvent and re-architect how services are not only delivered but also measured and quantified.

The mission of the Department of Aging is "enhancing the quality of life of all older Pennsylvanians by empowering diverse communities, the family and the individual." Our broad purpose is prevention and protection: Prevention from instability in health and wellbeing and protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Support for these efforts comes to the Department through the Pennsylvania Lottery; approximately 75% of the Department's funding.

These dollars go to support many valuable programs and services, such as: PennCare, which provides community based services and in-home long-term care services through our 52 Area Agencies on Aging; the PACE program, which provides pharmaceutical assistance to over 300,000 older adults every year; the Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Program which is designed to reduce caregiver stress; and Alzheimer's Disease Outreach, which supports respite care, education and outreach efforts of the two Alzheimer's associations in the commonwealth.

During the Department's recent budget hearings, I was asked about the use of Lottery funds for long-term care services, specifically, nursing facility care. In response, I asked that we all continue to be cognizant of the entire continuum of long-term care when thinking about the support the Lottery provides to older adults. This support must be inclusive of all aspects of the continuum from in-home care to institutional based settings. All must be included in the discussion in order to ensure that people receive the right care, at the right time and in the right setting.

Through the support of the Pennsylvania Lottery, the Department is able to serve over 800,000 older adults on an annual basis. But as we look to the future and realize that Pennsylvania is predicted to experience a significant growth in the over 65 population: it is anticipated that by 2030, nearly a quarter of Pennsylvanians will be 65 and older; we must consider whether the projected flat growth in revenue for the Lottery can sustain this increase. A typical recipient of Department of Aging services can generally be described as a woman, over the age of 80 who is largely widowed and typically of limited economic means. With so many older adults already depending on the support of the Department of Aging and the Pennsylvania Lottery to meet their every day needs, a sustainable source of funding is paramount.

As you may already be aware, yesterday the Administration entered into an exploratory phase for securing a private management agreement for the Pennsylvania Lottery. This is a further demonstration of Governor Corbett's promise to protect older Pennsylvanians. The goal is to provide a more reliable and predictable lottery funding stream. This agreement would ensure the continued strength and viability of programs that are so vital to our older Pennsylvanians. Additionally, the established success of the only state lottery dedicated solely to support older residents would be enhanced. I fully support this process and believe that this is in the best interest of all Pennsylvanians.

As the commonwealth moves through this exploratory phase, my office along with Secretary Meuser and Todd Rucci will provide you with updates on the progress. Thank you for your continued support of the Department of Aging, the Pennsylvania Lottery and the programs and services that support older Pennsylvanians.