

# MN Legislative Task Force on Aging

## Opportunities and Innovations Through a Department for Community Aging

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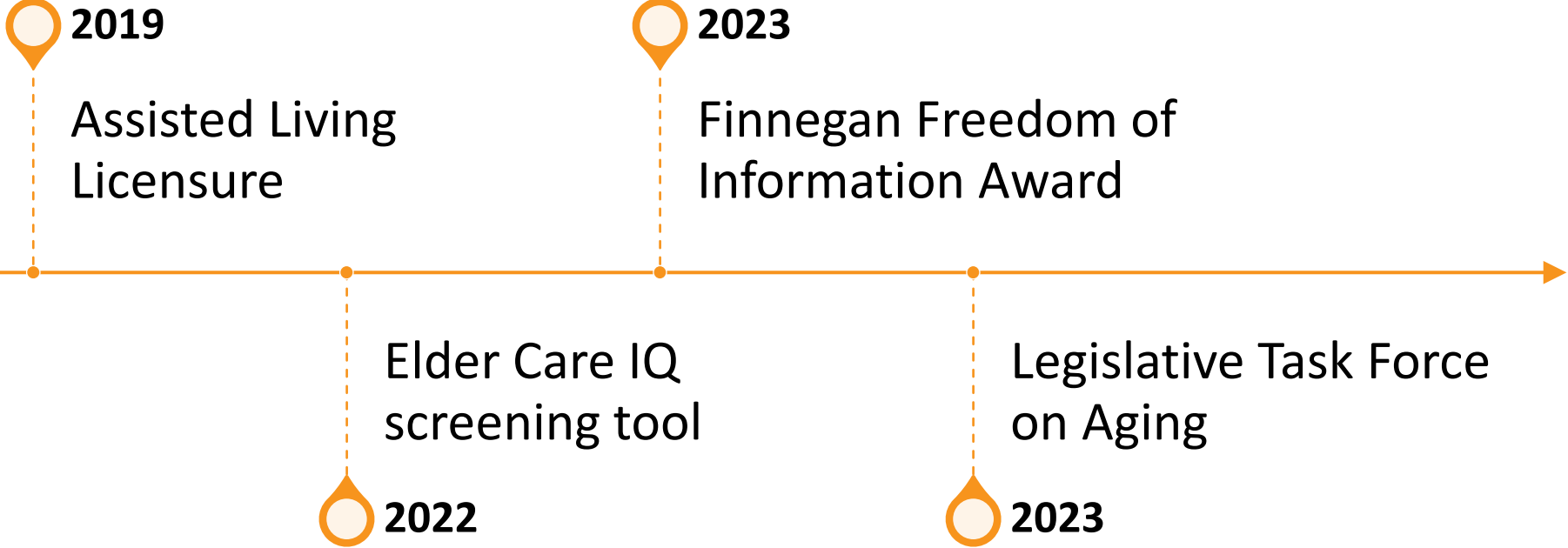
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**Mission:** Championing solutions that protect the human right to quality care by promoting the highest standards of care for all vulnerable adults.

**Values:** We value the humanity, dignity and voice of all vulnerable adults and elders. We will never compromise our singular focus on their wellbeing.

# Elder Voice Advocates Key Accomplishments



## State of Current Aging Services

- Numerous investments made in research and evidence-based care to improve the quality of care and life for long-term care recipients.
- Few of these recommendations and innovations have been implemented.
- Result is a long-term care system struggling to meet current and future quality care needs.

# What's Needed Today?

**Bottom line, consistent delivery of quality care required by:**

- Supporting and ensuring adequate staffing levels
- Targeting investments to improve education and income, benefits and working conditions for direct caregivers
- Instituting measurable outcomes to monitor care improvement for vulnerable adults



**Therese Mondembe,  
Certified Nursing Assistant**

Opinion Exchange, Star Tribune; Jan 22, 2024.

*“Minnesota has run out of time. The staffing crisis in our nursing homes is putting residents at risk, and we desperately need to draw more dedicated nursing home workers into the field. The current wages and working conditions won’t do it.”*

# Elder Voice Advocates Supports: Federal Minimum Staffing Standards and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting

- The Federal Government rule to establish long-term care nurse and CNA staffing requirements, which is essential to delivering quality care
- The Medicaid institutional payment transparency reporting requirement assures that the federal funds are used for the intended purpose

**Concern** – Lack of statewide plans to address the long-term care delivery system

**Concern** - Lack of endorsement of statewide plans to fully address the aging population that will initiate development of a long-term care *delivery system* - improvements in education, care standards, and accountability – all necessary measures to improve the quality of care

# Forward Thinking with Statewide Planning



**Focus on Aging in  
Community**

rather than

**Aging in Long-Term Care**



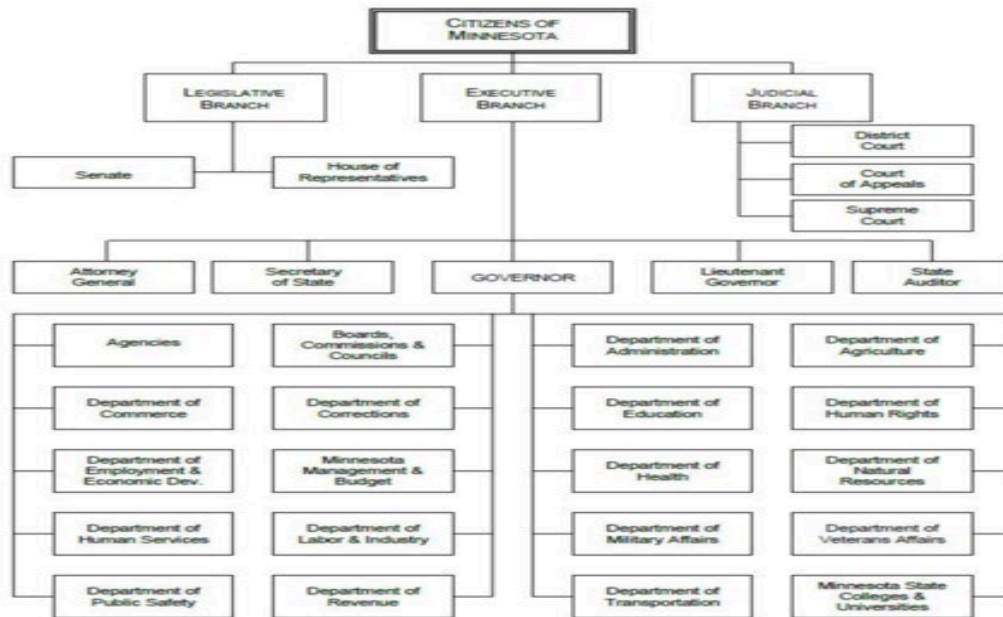
**Elder Voice Advocates Proposes that the  
Legislative Task Force on Aging:**

Recommend establishment of a  
**Minnesota Department for Community Aging**  
to be introduced and enacted in 2025

# Minnesota Department for Community Aging

Must be of equal prominence with all state agencies, to coalesce and optimize existing age-related programs and services now fragmented across state departments

2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report  
State Organization Chart



# MN Department for Community Aging

Prioritizes establishment of a statewide planning division to chart, oversee and communicate the proposed course of action with Minnesota's aging majority



# MN Department for Community Aging

Leads the way in analyzing and utilizing ongoing  
gaps-analysis data collected by counties, Area  
Agencies on Aging and others

# MN Department for Community Aging



Critically necessary to ensure that Minnesota develops and sustains a long-term care workforce statewide, bringing innovations to scale and deliver them statewide

# MN Department for Community Aging

Works with communities to build and sustain economic resources, ensuring that elders remain functional, active and know the feeling of belonging where they live.

*“Minnesotans rely on systems within our communities to age well - housing, transportation, parks and recreation, food availability, community businesses, libraries as evolving community centers.”*

Ann Bussey, winner of 2023 Minnesota Rural Health Hero Policy Award.



# MN Department for Community Aging Opportunities and Innovations

- Recognize Minnesotans are living longer; percentage of elders in rural counties is rapidly increasing without plans to address inadequate and limited resources;
- Perform statewide analysis of financial impact of aging for individuals, families and communities;
- Establish a Statewide Plan of Action in collaboration with counties, communities and the private sector;
- Assume accountability for development of long-term care resources and workforce development statewide;
- Address ongoing statewide housing crisis for elders;
- Address non-existent and insufficient public transportation for elders.

# Elder Voice Advocates Proposes:

The Minnesota Department for Community Aging to lead a multi-sector generated Statewide Plan of Action to meet the economic, social and health challenges ahead.

*The Minnesota Department for Community Aging will prove our State commitment to endorse healthy communities and care as we age.*



elder voice  
ADVOCATES



## Thank You

Kris Sundberg, Executive Director  
Elder Voice Advocates and Elder Care IQ

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