



FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

February 16, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT: Jack Eilber, agingcomms@pa.gov

**MEDIA ADVISORY: TOMORROW IN BERKS COUNTY – Shapiro Administration to
Highlight First Local Aging Agencies to Develop New, Regional Teams
Designed to Protect Older Adults from Abuse**

Tomorrow, **Pennsylvania Department of Aging Secretary Jason Kavulich** will visit the Berks County Office on Aging to discuss how the Department is helping the Berks, Lancaster, and Lehigh County Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) strengthen their work in protecting older adults from abuse. The three aging agencies are among the first in Pennsylvania to receive individualized, tailored support as they develop Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) to help address complex older adult protective services cases in their respective counties and regions.

MDTs are community-based groups that support the Department's commitment to protecting older Pennsylvanians from abuse by bringing together professionals from various fields like social services, criminal and civil justice, mental health, medicine, finance, and public health.

Governor Josh Shapiro's proposed 2026-27 budget invests more than **\$6 million** in Department of Aging services, including continuing to provide more transparency and accountability of the AAA network with the Comprehensive Agency Performance Evaluation, or CAPE. In his budget address earlier this month, Governor Shapiro also called for long-overdue updates to the **Older Adults Protective Services Act (OAPSA)**, including adding financial exploitation as a crime, and expanding background check requirements for caregivers.

WHO:

Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich

Jessica Jones, Director, Berks County Office on Aging (AAA)

JR Reed, Executive Director, Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services (AAA)

John Adams, Berks County District Attorney

Lisa Rachmuth, Program Administrator, Center for Elder Abuse Solutions, Weill Cornell Medicine

WHEN:

TOMORROW, Tuesday, February 17, 2026

12:00 PM

WHERE:

Berks County Office on Aging (AAA)
400 E. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

MEDIA RSVP:

Media interested in attending should RSVP with the name of photographer/reporter to agingcomms@pa.gov.