

Public Hearings on Rural Health Delivery

Senate Bill 707

“The workgroup shall: hold public hearings to gain community input regarding the health care needs in the five study counties”

“The study required under subsection (e) (1) of this section shall: take into account the input gained through the public hearings held by the workgroup”

Public Hearings

Goals:

- **Allow the public to voice opinions**
- **Gather information on health system needs in the community from consumers**
- **Gather information that can guide health policy to better address consumer needs**
- **Identify/Evaluate existing resources in the community or region**

Segments of the Public Hearing	Goals	Possible Information to convey	Information to gather from the public	Possible questions from the public (to be prepared for)
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce the reason for the public hearing and introduce the individuals or organizations involved To review the ground rules (accepting testimony) To identify community stakeholders 	<p>Welcome the public Give background information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate Bill 707 Define FMFs Timeframe <p>Describe who all of the “players” are and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work group (advisory committees), MHCC, University of Maryland, NORC 	Who from the community is attending the hearing and what is their role in the community?	<p>Who are the representatives from each county in the workgroup?</p> <p>Why are there not more consumer representatives in the workgroup?</p> <p>Why was the University of Maryland selected to complete the study of health care needs?</p> <p>Were other schools considered?</p>
Define community health problems and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify known health deficiencies and health care delivery issues Describe healthcare resources in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics (county and regional) Identification of vulnerable populations Describe continuing provider shortages Describe limits to access due to transportation barriers 	<p>Are there additional health care delivery issues?</p> <p>Are there additional vulnerable populations?</p> <p>Are there additional resources in the region?</p>	<p>How does this county compare with other counties in terms of chronic diseases?</p> <p>What will happen to the county citizens and employees if a hospital closes or downsizes?</p>
Establish priorities & goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe/ascertain priorities and goals for the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to hospital care, primary care and specialists Improve chronic health conditions and health outcomes 	<p>What are the priorities of the public?</p> <p>Establish the most pressing need for the community, from a consumer perspective.</p>	How were these priorities and goals determined?
Possible solutions or models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe solutions or models that have been identified by the workgroup that will 	<p>Describe a few “workable” models and examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Care Model 	What improvements or model will have the greatest impact?	How will the solutions that are developed with this study translate into solutions for other rural areas of the state?

	result in the delivery of more efficient and effective health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural workforce development	Are there local solutions that are successful?	Why were these models selected?
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