



Primary Care Report and Workgroup

**MARYLAND PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022





Background

- ▶ Considerable experience with primary care models, launched the State's first patient centered medical home (PCMH) program after the General Assembly passed legislation establishing a PCMH pilot (Chapters 5 and 6, 2010 laws of Maryland)
 - Required the five largest commercial carriers and the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to participate
- ▶ Engaged with the Maryland Primary Care Program since its inception in 2017
 - A voluntary program open to all qualifying Maryland primary care providers that provide funding and support for the delivery of advanced primary care throughout the State
- ▶ Fostered practice transformation initiatives aimed at small primary care and specialty practices
 - Developed programs to help practices deliver efficient, high-quality care while improving outcomes



The Law

- ▶ MHCC is required by Senate Bill 734 (Chapter 667, 2022 laws of Maryland) to convene a Primary Care Workgroup (Workgroup) and annually report on ways to improve quality and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding increased costs to patients and the health care system

- ▶ Key provisions:
 - Develop a *Primary Care Analysis and Reporting Plan* (Plan) based on input from the Workgroup, due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2023

 - Begin reporting to the Governor and General Assembly beginning December 1, 2024



Leading Workgroup Activities

- ▶ Analyze primary care spending investment in total and as a percentage of the total cost of care
- ▶ Develop plans to improve the quality of and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding increased costs to patients and payers
- ▶ Identify strategies for reducing the barriers to primary care access and utilization for individuals insured by public or private payers
- ▶ Identify approaches to increasing the primary care workforce, particularly in underserved areas



Key Plan Elements

- ▶ Key topics affecting access, costs, and quality
- ▶ Relevant State policies that hinder or support the delivery of improved primary care
- ▶ Experience of other states in assessing primary care investment
- ▶ An approach for analyzing primary care investment and a method for benchmarking investment as a proportion of the total cost of care for the State and smaller geographic areas such as county and ZIP Code



Key Plan Elements *(Continued)*

- ▶ An approach for aligning primary care investments with areas of the State where health disparities as measured by the Area Deprivation Index and other measures deemed appropriate by the Workgroup
- ▶ Workforce issues and options for expanding access, and other technical considerations that must be addressed by the Workgroup to meet the requirements in law
- ▶ A potential template for mandatory Workgroup reports to the Oversight Committees (Senate Finance and House Health and Government Operations)





Workgroup Stakeholder Categories

- ▶ The Maryland Primary Care Program
- ▶ The Health Services Review Commission
- ▶ The Maryland Insurance Administration
- ▶ The Health Care Financing Division of the Maryland Department of Health
- ▶ Maryland Academy of Family Physicians
- ▶ Maryland section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- ▶ Maryland Nurses Association
- ▶ Maryland affiliate – American College of Nurse Midwives
- ▶ Maryland Community Health System
- ▶ Payors of primary care services, including carriers and managed care organizations
- ▶ Health services researchers with expertise in primary care



Workgroup Next Steps

- ▶ Present nominees to the Commission (September 15th meeting)
- ▶ Identify a contractor to support select work
- ▶ Kick-off meeting anticipated in October/November
- ▶ Ongoing quarterly meetings thereafter





QUESTIONS