

Maryland Health Care Commission

2015 Home Health Agency Advisory Group

Background:

The Maryland Health Care Commission has regulatory oversight for the development of certain facilities and services, including home health agencies, through the Certificate of Need (CON) program. The Commission has the responsibility to develop a State Health Plan, which contains policies, a model for forecasting need, and CON review standards and criteria, to guide decision-making in the CON process. The Home Health Agency (HHA) Chapter of the State Health Plan is being revised and updated to reflect more current utilization trend data as well as other changes in the delivery and payment of home health agency services. Issues regarding certain aspects of the Commission's current regulatory approach for development of HHA services in Maryland will be described and addressed.

Charge:

The Home Health Agency Advisory Group's role is to assist Commission staff in: identifying contributing factors to the changes in HHA utilization; addressing issues related to the current regulation of HHAs in Maryland; determining how quality and performance measures can be incorporated into CON review, planning and policy development; and reviewing a possible new conceptual approach for forecasting need that promotes consumer choice of quality providers.

Participants:

The Advisory Group consists of representatives from Maryland HHAs of varying size, geographic location, and type, many nominated by the Maryland National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA), and a representative of a local health department that provides HHA services. Other representatives include a Residential Service Agency (RSA) provider, a consumer, payers, and State and federal regulatory agencies.

Timeframes:

It is anticipated that the Advisory Group will convene for three meetings, from February to April, 2015. All meetings will be held at the Commission offices at 4160 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland.