



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
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Monday, February 27, 2012, via teleconference

Minutes

Chair Moon called the public meeting to order, via teleconference, at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Conway, Falcone, Fleig, Grady, Lyles, and Schneider.

Bruce Kozlowski, Director, Center for Health Care Financing and Health Policy, Paul Parker, Acting Director, Center for Hospital Services, and Erin Dorrien, Program Manager, Governmental Relations and Special Projects, reviewed several bills scheduled to be heard.

- ***HB 1140/SB 749 “Physicians – Sharing of Information with Maryland Health Care Commission”***

This bill would authorize bilateral data sharing arrangements between the Commission, the Board of Physicians, Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the Office of Health Care Quality. The intent of this legislation is to enable efficient sharing of information on quality and utilization among organizations with oversight responsibilities. The information is needed to assure that MHCC is able to provide appropriate regulatory oversight to assure quality. Staff recommended that the Commission support this legislation. The sense of the Commission was to support HB 1140/SB 749.

- ***HB 1141/SB 750 “Maryland Health Care Commission – Cardiac Surgery and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Services”***

This bill identifies Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) services as a specialized service regulated by the Maryland Health Care Commission and decouples oversight of PCI from cardiac surgery. The legislation also makes oversight of PCI services and cardiac surgery services consistent across all hospitals. The bill transfers oversight of PCI from a waiver process to a certificate process requiring a Certificate of Initial Conformance and Certificates of Ongoing Performance. Lastly, the bill provides for consistent oversight of cardiac surgery, by requiring all 10 hospitals holding Certificates of Need to maintain Certificates of Ongoing Performance. This legislation codified recommendations the Commission included in the December report to the General Assembly on PCI and cardiac oversight. Staff recommended that the Commission support this legislation. The sense of the Commission was to support HB 1141/SB 750.

- ***HB 780 Multicultural Health Care Equity Certification and Accreditation – Work Group***

This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to convene a work group to provide recommendations to strengthen cultural competency through health literacy training and assessments and a health care equity certification and accreditation program. The work group would consist of representatives from the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Maryland Hospital Association, the health occupations boards, health care providers, academic centers of health literacy, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission. The work group must submit recommendations to the General Assembly by January 1, 2013. Staff recommended supporting this legislation with an amendment to extend the report deadline to January 1, 2014 to allow more time to thoroughly address the charge of the workgroup. Following discussion, the Commission requested that a summary be provided to obtain feedback from other Commissioners who were not available to be on the call.

- ***SB 781 – “Health Insurance – Coverage for Telemedicine Services”***

This bill requires all State regulated payers and Maryland’s Medicaid program to reimburse for services rendered through the use of telemedicine in the same manner as services rendered in person. The legislation prohibits health insurance carriers from discriminating against the use of telemedicine in their payment methods. Staff recommended submitting a letter of information providing recommendations of the three advisory groups established by the Telemedicine Task Force and jointly directed by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems and the Maryland Health Care Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.