

Craig P. Tanio, M.D.
CHAIR



Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
TELEPHONE: 410-764-3460 FAX: 410-358-1236

Monday, March 21, 2016

Via teleconference

Minutes

Chairman Tanio called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners present: Fleig, Moffit, Montgomery, O'Grady, Phillips, Pollak, Schneider, Stollenwerk, Thomas, and Weinstein. Randolph S. Sergent, who had not yet been sworn in as a Commissioner, was also present for the meeting.

Legislation Affecting MHCC

Ben Steffen, Executive Director, presented HB 1350/SB 707- Freestanding Medical Facilities- Certificate of Need Rates and Definition. Mr. Steffen discussed an amendment to the legislation that would require MHCC to convene a workgroup on rural healthcare delivery and commission a study on the delivery of health on five counties on the mid-shore. Commissioners requested that the study focus not just on the health system that is anchored in a hospital but also look at the adequacy of the network.

Erin Dorrien, Chief, Government and Public Relations, presented HB 1121- Health Care Facilities- Closures or Partial Closures of Hospitals- County Board of Health Approval. Ms. Dorrien stated that the legislation, along with companion legislation focused exclusively on Prince George's County, would require a hospital to seek and receive the approval of the County Board of Health prior to closure or partial closure. Ms. Dorrien also stated that many of the concerns that led to the introduction of the closure bills, including public notification, can be addressed in HB 1350/SB 707.

Mr. Steffen presented HB 1272/SB 886 Health- Collaborations to Promote Provider Alignment. He stated that the hospitals and the Maryland Patient Care and Access Coalition were working together on this legislation. MHCC and HSCRC are involved in drafting amendments that would require reporting and patient notification. Commissioner discussion included discussion of this legislation leading to more robust price transparency and how risk sharing arrangements should be broadly defined.

The last legislation Mr. Steffen discussed was HB 1385 Public Health- Advance Directives- Procedures, Information Sheet and Use of Electronic Advance Directives. He stated that the bill has evolved and changed since the Commission meeting. A requirement that DHMH/MHCC develop an AD registry, independent of the vendor solutions, has been dropped. MHCC is supporting DHMH, but has not submitted a position. Commission staff has informed DHMH that funding must be identified in order for the MHCC to fulfill the role outlined in the legislation.