

Craig P. Tanio, M.D.
CHAIR



Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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Thursday, May 19, 2016

Minutes

Vice Chair Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners present: Fleig, Metz, Moffit, O'Grady, Phillips, Pollak, Sergent, Thomas, and Weinstein

ITEM 1.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Fleig made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2016 meeting of the Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved.

ITEM 2.

Update of Activities

Ben Steffen, Executive Director, stated that SB 707 – Freestanding Medical Facilities - Certificate of Need, Rates, and Definition – was signed by Governor Hogan on May 10, 2016, and that Commission staff has begun the process of forming a Workgroup on Rural Health Care Delivery. He noted that staff would be recommending that the Commission appoint a chair and workgroup members in June.

The Commission is awarding a grant of \$251,000 to CRISP to continue support for the provider search function on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange's website. This feature will be featured on the MHCC's quality and reporting website and will benefit the consumers who use the MHCC's guides.

Mr. Steffen provided the Commissioners with an update on the use of its CCIIO grant award, noting that one of the objectives included in MHCC's approved grant application was a project to help clinicians reduce the use of inappropriate imaging. He stated that staff, in consultation with Commissioner Pollak, who was on the development team, decided to produce a CME course in partnership with colleagues from the St. Louis Business Coalition on Health. The no-cost, online course will focus on reducing use of inappropriate imaging in patients with low back pain, and is planned for release in late 2016. It will include utilization and cost information. Two versions of the course will be offered — one for primary care clinicians and one for emergency and urgent care clinicians.

Mr. Steffen also noted that the Commission is working with HSCRC, DHMH, and payer and provider communities to submit an application for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Comprehensive Primary Care Plus program. He stated that the deadline for payers to submit applications is June 8th.

Vice Chair Phillips thanked Ben Steffen for his leadership in the Primary Care Council.

ITEM 3.

ACTION: Certificate of Need: Suburban Hospital – Docket No. 15-15-2368

Kevin McDonald, Chief of Certificate of Need, presented staff's recommendation regarding a Certificate of Need application filed by Suburban Hospital to construct a 300,000 square foot building addition as part of a larger campus modernization effort. Following discussion, Commissioner Moffit made a motion to adopt staff's recommendation and issue the Certificate of Need, which was seconded by Commissioner Pollak and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Certificate of Need Application: Suburban Hospital – Docket No. 15-15-2368 is hereby APPROVED.

ITEM 4.

ACTION: Approval of Release of MCDB Data – The Lewin Group

Vice Chair Phillips thanked Srinivas Sridhara, Chief of Cost and Quality Analysis, for his service with the MHCC, first in the Center for Quality Reporting and Measurement and, most recently, as Chief for Quality and Cost Analysis in the Center for Analysis and Information Systems. She commended Mr. Sridhara for his efforts in accelerating the collection and the release of data from the Maryland MCDB, his work in health care workforce studies, and his commitment in working with our State partners at DOIT to develop, release, and award a contract to continue the MCDB database. On behalf of the Commission, she wished him the very best in his new position.

Mr. Sridhara then presented staff's recommendation regarding The Lewin Group's request for access to the MCDB under the Commission's data release policy. Commissioner O'Grady made a motion that the Commission approve release of MCDB data to the Lewin Group, which was seconded by Commissioner Weinstein, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Release of MCDB Data – The Lewin Group is hereby APPROVED.

ITEM 5.

ACTION: Privately Insured Spending Report for 2014

Vice Chair Phillips announced that Kenneth Yeates-Trotman, Methodologist for the Cost and Quality Analysis Division, has been appointed acting Chief of Quality and Cost Analysis and will assume many of Srinivas Sridhara's duties. She noted that Mr. Yeates-Trotman is an actuary by training and has been working with our partners at the MIA to support expanded rate review using the MCDB.

Mr. Yeates-Trotman then presented the highlights of spending and utilization patterns for Maryland residents insured through the individual, small employer, and large employer markets. The Commission members requested an executive summary and discussed proposed additional analyses for inclusion in next year's report. Staff agreed to provide an executive summary with the Commission prior to release of the report.

ITEM 6.

ACTION: COMAR 10.25.18 – Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information – Final Regulations

Vice Chair Phillips stated that the Commission adopted amendments to COMAR 10.25.18, the Commission's regulations regarding privacy and security of protected health information, as proposed permanent regulations at its February 2016 meeting. Angela Evatt, Chief of Health Information Exchange, presented the proposed regulations for adoption as final regulations of the Commission. Commissioner Thomas made a motion that the Commission approve the regulations as final, which was seconded by Commissioner O'Grady and unanimously approved.

ACTION: COMAR 10.25.18 – Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information – Final Regulation is hereby APPROVED.

ITEM 7.

PRESENTATION: Maryland Healthcare Quality Report Website: 2015 HAI Results and Plans for Promotion

Theresa Lee, Director of the Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting, and Eileen Witherspoon, Chief of Hospital Quality Initiatives, presented background information regarding the new Maryland Health Care Quality Reports website, and detailed staff's plans to promote consumer awareness and engagement. The members of the Commission discussed strategies for improving Maryland's national ranking regarding occurrence of healthcare-associated infections.

ITEM 8.

PRESENTATION: Draft COMAR 10.24.15 - State Health Plan Chapter for Organ Transplant Services

Vice Chair Phillips said that, over the last six months, the MHCC has held meetings of stakeholders to discuss modifications to the Organ Transplant Services Chapter of the State Health Plan. Eileen Fleck, Chief of Acute Care Policy and Planning, presented the draft changes to this State Health Plan Chapter, which was released for informal public comment on May 5.

ITEM 9.

Overview of Upcoming Initiatives

Ben Steffen, Executive Director, reported that the Commission's June agenda may include: Approval of Release of MCDB Data for the University of Maryland School of Public Health; proposed amendments to COMAR 10.25.16: Electronic Health Record Incentive; announcement of the Round 4 Telehealth Grants; appointment of the Rural Health Workgroup members and chair; and a Certificate of Need action.

ITEM 10.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. upon motion of Commissioner Pollak, which was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved.