



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
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Monday, February 5, 2018
via teleconference

Minutes

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

Commissioners present: Moffit, Fleig, O’Grady, Sergent, Thomas, and Wang

Legislation Affecting MHCC

Ben Steffen, Executive Director, presented an overview of SB 266 “Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study.” Mr. Steffen said that SB 266 would require the MHCC, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and interested stakeholders, to study the causes, beyond the known factors of low birth weight, teen pregnancy, poor nutrition, and lack of prenatal care of infant mortality rates amount African Americans and rural Marylanders. He noted that the MHCC would be required to report its findings and recommendations by June 30, 2019. The Commissioners agreed to support SB 266 with an amendment extending the completion of the report November 1, 2019, and to submit a \$300,000 fiscal impact statement for the work. Mr Steffen said that he would circulate a position paper to Commissioners.

Paul Parker, Director of the Center for Health Care Facilities Planning and Development, provided an overview of HB 384 “Substance Use Facilities and Programs – Certificate of Need – Repeal of Requirement.” He said that HB 384 would eliminate CON regulation of the ICF category called “alcoholism and drug abuse intermediate care facility treatment services” in the State Health Plan. As a result, the only type of addictions treatment services that would fall within the ambit of CON regulation would be acute hospital-level services provided within a licensed hospital. Staff recommended supporting HB 384 and, after discussion, the Commissioners agreed. Mr. Steffen said the hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 in the House Health and Government Operations Commission. He said that a position paper supporting this legislation will be circulated.

Mr. Parker provided an overview SB 619 “Health Maintenance Organizations – Certificate of Need Requirements – Modification.” He said that SB 619 would reduce the scope of CON regulation by amending the current law so that, other than a hospital project, an HMO would not be required to obtain a CON to build, operate, purchase, or establish a health care facility if “at least 90% of the patients who can reasonably be expected to receive health care services from the project” are individuals enrolled in the HMO. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to support SB 619. Staff will circulate the position paper once the hearing is scheduled.

Mr. Steffen provided an update on bills that were previously discussed with the Commissioners:

SB 13/HB 115 “Electronic Prescription Records Cost Savings Act of 2018” – hearings were held in Finance and the Health and Government Operations. The sense is that this bill may be delayed to enhance stakeholder engagement.

SB 17 “Health Information Exchanges – Definitions & Regulations” – hearing was held in Finance. Amendments were offered by the Maryland Hospital Association, and staff is in discussion with the Office of the Attorney General’s Health Education and Advocacy Unit.

SB 234/HB 596 “Interstate Medical Licensure Company” – hearing was held in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, and will be heard in Health and Government Operations on February 15, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. by consensus.