

Robert E. Moffit, Ph.D.
CHAIR



Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

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

**Friday, January 25, 2019
Via Teleconference**

Minutes

Commissioners present: Robert Moffitt, Marcia Boyle, Margaret Hammersla, Stephen Thomas, Cassandra Tomarchio

AGENDA ITEM 1.

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Steffen, Executive Director opened the call and asked Commissioners and Commission Staff to introduce themselves.

AGENDA ITEM 2.

Discussion of draft bills

Mr. Steffen reviewed the recommendations for statutory changes made in the Certificate of Need (CON) Modernization Report adopted in December 2018 and discussed CON-related bills that he expects to be introduced during the 2019 legislative session.

Maryland Hospital Association

The Maryland Hospital Association is working with legislators to introduce a bill that would change the capital threshold for hospitals and would require that the Commission annually and prioritize State Health Plan chapter updates.

Drug Treatment Facilities

Mr. Steffen noted that a bill may be introduced to allowing existing Intermediate Care Facilities that provide treatment services regulated by the Commission to expand without a CON.

Bed Expansion for Existing Operators.

Another possible bill noted by Mr. Steffen would allow existing psychiatric hospital or general hospitals with inpatient psychiatric units, and alcohol and drug abuse intermediate care facilities to expand or add inpatient beds without a CON.

Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Mr. Steffen stated that another bill may allow ambulatory surgery to have up to three operating rooms without CON or CON-exemption. Currently, physician-owned practices may receive a CON-exemption from the Commission that permits up to two operating rooms while most other owners are allowed a maximum of one operating room.

General Discussion

Mr. Steffen offered stated that the provisions related to bed expansions for Hospice and the MHA bill have the best chance of passage. Mr. Steffen will meeting with Delegate Pendergrass, the Chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee on Monday, January 28th and may have additional updates after that meeting.

Paul Parker, Director of the Center of Health Care Facilities Planning and Development, discussed the difference between inpatient hospice and hospice houses, including applicable billing rules, in response to a question from a Commissioner.

Mr. Steffen also discussed the possibility of a new drug treatment facility in a vacant former corrections facility on state land in Wicomico County. Some stakeholders within state and local government are interested in allowing this facility to move forward without CON, but that would require a statutory exception. A few commissioners asked clarifying questions about the current operational status of the facility (it is closed) and what role, if any, the Department of Corrections would have in this plan. Mr. Steffen noted that many details of the plan are unclear at this early stage.

AGENDA ITEM 3.

Next Steps

There are no follow-up items from this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m. by consensus.