



# PRIMARY CARE WORKGROUP

**KICK-OFF MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2022**



# The Law

- ▶ MHCC is required by Senate Bill 734 (Chapter 667, 2022 laws of Maryland) to convene a Primary Care Workgroup (Workgroup) and annually report on ways to improve quality and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding increased costs to patients and the health care system
  
- ▶ Key provisions:
  - Develop a *Primary Care Analysis and Reporting Plan* (Plan) based on input from the Workgroup, due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2023
  
  - Annual reporting to the Governor and General Assembly beginning December 1, 2024



# Leading Workgroup Activities

- ▶ Analyze primary care spending investment in total and as a percentage of the total cost of care
- ▶ Develop plans to improve the quality of and access to primary care services, with special attention to increasing health care equity, reducing health care disparities, and avoiding increased costs to patients and payers
- ▶ Identify strategies for reducing the barriers to primary care access and utilization for individuals insured by public or private payers
- ▶ Identify approaches to increasing the primary care workforce, particularly in underserved areas



# Key Plan Elements

- ▶ Key topics affecting access, costs, and quality
- ▶ Relevant State policies that hinder or support the delivery of improved primary care
- ▶ Experience of other states in assessing primary care investment
- ▶ An approach for analyzing primary care investment and a method for benchmarking investment as a proportion of the total cost of care for the State and smaller geographic areas such as county and ZIP Code



# Key Plan Elements *(Continued)*

- ▶ An approach for aligning primary care investments with areas of the State where health disparities exist based on measures deemed appropriate by the Workgroup
- ▶ Workforce issues and options for expanding access, and other technical considerations that must be addressed by the Workgroup to meet the requirements in law
- ▶ A potential template for mandatory Workgroup reports to the Oversight Committees (Senate Finance and House Health and Government Operations)





**THE END**

