

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

January 2026

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

- On December 29, 2025, Maryland was pleased to receive a notice of award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for \$168,180,837.61 for the first year, of five, of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The Maryland Department of Health is currently in discussion with CMS regarding approved programs and adjusted budget details. We deeply appreciate the feedback that helped shape the Department of Health's successful proposal. Please follow the [Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#) for updates, including competitive grant opportunities.
- Additionally, on December 19th, the Governor signed an [Executive Order](#) establishing all-payer total cost of care growth and primary care investment targets. Of note, the order outlines that it is the policy of the State to address primary care investment by establishing an all-payer primary care investment target annually starting in calendar year 2027 and each calendar year thereafter, informed by the recommendations in MHCC's primary care investment report. The Executive order further charges the Multi-Agency Regulatory Working Group (of which, MHCC is a member agency) to submit calendar year 2027-2030 all-payer total cost of care growth methodology and targets to the Governor in draft form by May 2026, and in final form by September 2026.
- After the Commissioners provided feedback on the overall agency vision during the retreat, MHCC is incorporating the feedback and has developed a tracking tool to monitor progress related to action items. Additionally, MHCC has developed an internal dashboard to better display the budget in real time.

Legislative Session 2026

The 2026 legislative session opened on Wednesday, January 14th. We have established the Commission's legislative subcommittee, which this year will consist of a small group of Commissioners and senior staff.

As a reminder, we have secured sponsors for our key pieces of legislation:

1. Material Change Transactions Bill: The Chair of Senate Finance and the Speaker of the House have agreed to sponsor this bill. It would expand MHCC's authority over mergers, acquisitions, and changes in ownership for non-hospital facilities, as well as provider practices and groups.
2. ASAM 3.7 Intermediate Care Facilities Bill: Delegate Bonnie Cullison and Senator Benjamin Kramer have agreed to sponsor this bill, which would grant MHCC the authority to approve or deny changes in bed capacity for these facilities.

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Claims

SCAS Management Group (SMG), the third-party administrator for the Trauma Fund processed **\$107,972.18** in uncompensated care claims through December 2025. This represents a 41% increase over the month of November. All claims processing is up to date.

Trauma Fund Grants

The final date to apply for the grant is **Friday, January 9, 2026**. All eligible trauma centers have been notified of the deadline. Each center may be awarded up to **\$495,537**. Trauma centers will only receive the funding amount justified and approved based on their submissions.

Internet Utilization

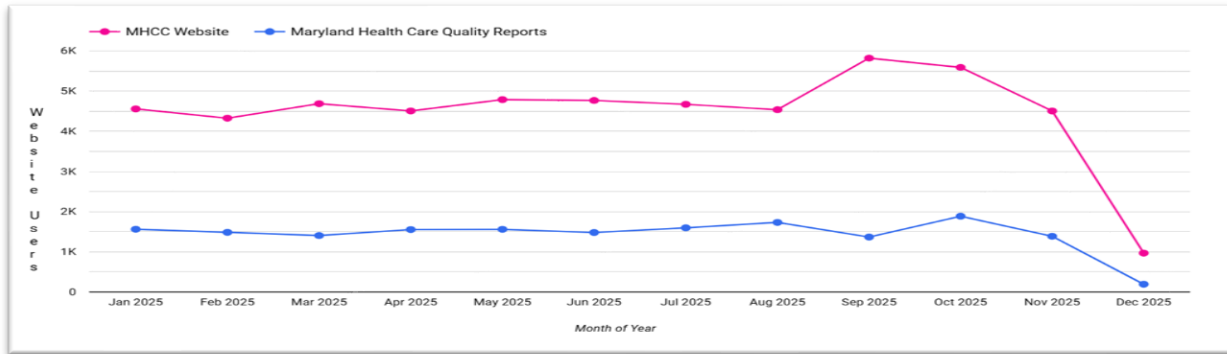


Figure 1 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the three websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is listed above.

MHCC Website The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 968 during the month of December 2025.

Maryland Quality Reporting

Maryland Quality Reporting

Maryland Quality Reporting had 1,530 users in December, which was similar to the previous month. The website also saw comparable activity among new users and sessions. Notably, the website had an 11.8% decrease in views per session and an 11.4% decrease in average session duration. The site received referrals from at least 10 users each from Maryland 211 (68, 41.0%) and Howard County Government (14, 8.4%). Facebook remained the primary source of social media referrals.

In 2024, the website had 16,887 users who spent an average of 7 minutes on the website. Maryland Access Point, Howard County Government, the Maryland Attorney General, People’s Law, and GovDelivery (the platform that sends the Quality Corner quarterly newsletter) referred the most users to the website, with Maryland Access Point accounting for 47% of the total users. Website traffic in 2025 was promising, but it also revealed opportunities to further increase awareness and engagement with the website.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- **MCDB Data Submission:** As of the end of December 2025, 94% (31/33) of the reporting entities have completed registration and encryption certification with Onpoint for 2026 data submission.

- CAIS staff engaged with representatives from the APCD in Colorado, Texas, and Connecticut to discuss their approaches to collecting denied claims data from reporting entities. This collaborative effort aimed to inform MHCC's strategy for collecting such data in the MCDB starting in 2027.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Streamlining Certificate of Ongoing Performance Applications

The Cardiac Services State Health Plan Chapter is under review to identify streamlining opportunities including areas where there may be redundant reporting.

Nursing Home Acquisitions

At the end of 2025, there were 24 notices of nursing home acquisitions pending review. The notices include 18 CommuniCare facilities, an application for an acquisition of bed rights only and five real property only acquisitions. All notices have yet to be deemed complete and are in the review process.

Home Health

The 2025 survey collection of FY 2024 home health data was completed with 100% compliance and the data submissions are under review for accuracy.

Hospice

A draft of revisions to the Hospice chapter of the State Health Plan is under review. Additionally, the Hospice Dashboard will soon be available for internal use, with a goal to launch to the public this year.

Facility Services Planning and Policy/Certificate of Need

- **12 Determinations of Coverage:**
 - **Change of Ownerships**
 - Clearway Surgery Center of Salisbury, LLC
 - Clearway Surgery Center of Catonsville, LLC
 - Clearway Surgery Center of Germantown, LLC
 - Clearway Surgery Center of Largo, LLC
 - Clearway Surgery Center of St. Mary's, LLC
 - Hospice of the Chesapeake, Inc. License Number
 - License # H1509
 - License # HOSPICE 005
 - License # HOSPICE 004
 - MSC Ambulatory Surgical Center (Bethesda)
 - MSC Ambulatory Surgery Center (Frederick) LLC
 - **New Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC's)**
 - Meridian Surgery Center, LLC - 19638 Leitersburg Pike, Suite 205 Hagerstown, Maryland 21742
 - **Misc Requests**
 - Atlee Hill Health and Rehab Center - construction of a 19,900 square foot second floor of shell space on the existing building.
- **Three Certificate of Need Letters of Intent (LOI's) were received:**
 - **Tuckerman Lane Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center** — *Montgomery County*
Tuckerman Operator operates the Facility which is currently licensed for 39 CCF beds. Tuckerman Property is the owner of the bed rights for these 39 nursing home beds.

Tuckerman seeks approval to relocate up to 60 CCF beds from Wilson in Montgomery County to the Facility in Montgomery County (“Relocated Beds”) to be placed into space at the Facility currently licensed as an assisted living program. The project would involve the existing space housing the existing CCF beds as well renovations to additional, existing space at the Facility to accommodate the Relocated Beds. All the Relocated Beds would be located in either private or semiprivate rooms. The Facility will continue to be Medicare and Medicaid certified.

- **Garrett Regional Medical Center for Outpatient Radiation Oncology -- Garrett County**
The proposed project entails the addition of 32,247 square feet for outpatient radiation oncology services to the existing square footage at GRMC. The three-story addition would house the Linear Accelerator, Open Pro CT, and a clinical treatment area for patients with needed exam rooms, waiting areas, consultation room, nurses' station, and appropriate space needed for the radiation equipment. The plan is to furnish the third floor to provide patient and family services and an expansion of the hospital's Well Patient Program, which provides chronic disease management addressing the overall social determinants of health for patients in Garrett County.
- **Quality One Home Health --** establish a new HHA in Western Maryland (Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Washington, and Carroll Counties)
- **One Project Change Request:**
 - **Shore Medical Center at Easton Docket No. 23-20-2463 --** SHS seeks a modification of the project costs to increase its capital costs, including financing costs, by \$124,903,000, bringing the total project budget to \$664,461,871. The requested project budget increase represents a 23% increase over the current approved budget of \$539.6M.

***CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIVE CARE
DELIVERY***

Health Information Technology Division

- Preparations to ready electronic health networks (EHNs) to submit electronic health care transactions to CRISP are ongoing. EHNs were requested to review draft technical guidance outlining the submission process. Regulatory guidance is being developed to address frequently asked questions about the legal requirements. The Delaware Health Information Network and CRISP are preparing to send and receive information on consumer opt out status in Q1 2026 to test the draft technical specifications for a centralized consent management application (CMA). All registered health information exchanges (HIEs) are required to connect to the CMA, which CRISP must make operational by April 2026. CRISP reported metrics follow.

Electronic Health Care Transactions

- Estimated percent complete toward go-live (to support AHEAD Model in advance of timelines in regulation): 15%
 - Percent complete in finalizing transaction technical submission guidance with EHNs (anticipated March 2026): 50%
 - Percent of EHNs reporting transaction information to CRISP: 0%

Consent Management Application

- Estimated percent complete toward go-live (i.e., CMA is made available to HIEs): 20%
 - Percent complete in developing the CMA technical infrastructure: 25%
 - Percent complete in conducting validation testing with HIEs (to ensure the CMA functions correctly before deployment – functionality, performance, and security): 0%

Innovative Care Delivery Division

- The 11th session of the *Real-World Medicine and Case Studies Webinar* series was recorded. The session highlighted the role of pharmacists in team-based care, including chronic disease management, medication optimization, transitions of care, and preventive services. A Learning Network event is scheduled for January to showcase innovative approaches used by Federally Qualified Health Centers in caring for vulnerable patient populations.
- The Primary Care Investment Workgroup (PCIW) convened in December to review data findings from the 2025 report. The PCIW considered approaches for establishing payer-specific primary care investment targets, which are required under the Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design Model. In January, the PCIW will continue to discuss approaches for setting targets and geographic strategies aimed at improving outcomes and reducing disparities.

CENTER FOR QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting

- In collaboration with HSCRC, CRISP, and hMetrix, MHCC developed a dashboard using patient-level HCAHPS data (i.e., patient experience data). The dashboard enables users to view hospital patient satisfaction results and trends at both the hospital and statewide levels, across numerous variables that are not publicly available (e.g., race, ethnicity, age, and service line). Housed on CRISP, the dashboard was released last month. MHCC staff participated in live training sessions, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback. This dashboard represents the first tangible product resulting from the joint learning collaborative among MHCC, HSCRC, MHA, and Maryland hospitals. Future phases will incorporate additional resources and advanced analytics.
- The results of the 2024 annual freestanding ambulatory surgical facility survey have been posted to the Commission’s public use data website. Staff are preparing for the annual update of descriptive data on adult medical day care programs and MDH programs that support and assist underserved populations across the state.