

# Legislative Update

*A presentation for Commissioners on the 2021  
Legislative Session*

**Tracey DeShields, J.D., LL.M., Policy Development**

Version Date: 1/15/2021



# Presentation Overview

- Role: Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC)
- MHCC Dates of Interest
- Role: MHCC Commissioners
- Position Paper Development
- Types of Legislation and Executive Agency Roles
- 2021 General Assembly: Key Changes
- Legislative Process
- Bill Hearing Debrief
- Discussion of Bill Positions

## **Appendix**

- General Dates of Interest
- Relevant Governor's Office Staff

# Role: Maryland Health Care Commission

- Educate legislators on MHCC roles and responsibilities & build relationships for the future.
- Suggest legislation (e.g. statutory changes related to Telehealth, Health Information Technology, Health Disparities).
- Provide support for MHCC budget requests.
- Review relevant bills and share MHCC position.
- Provide information in MHCC areas of expertise in response to requests from legislators.

# MHCC Dates of Interest

- **January 27:** Senate Bill Hearing – Finance Committee - SB 3 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021.
- House bill Hearing – HGO - HB 123 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021.
- **February 15:** MHCC Budget Hearing - House Appropriations Subcommittee.
- **February 15:** MHCC Budget Hearing - Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee.

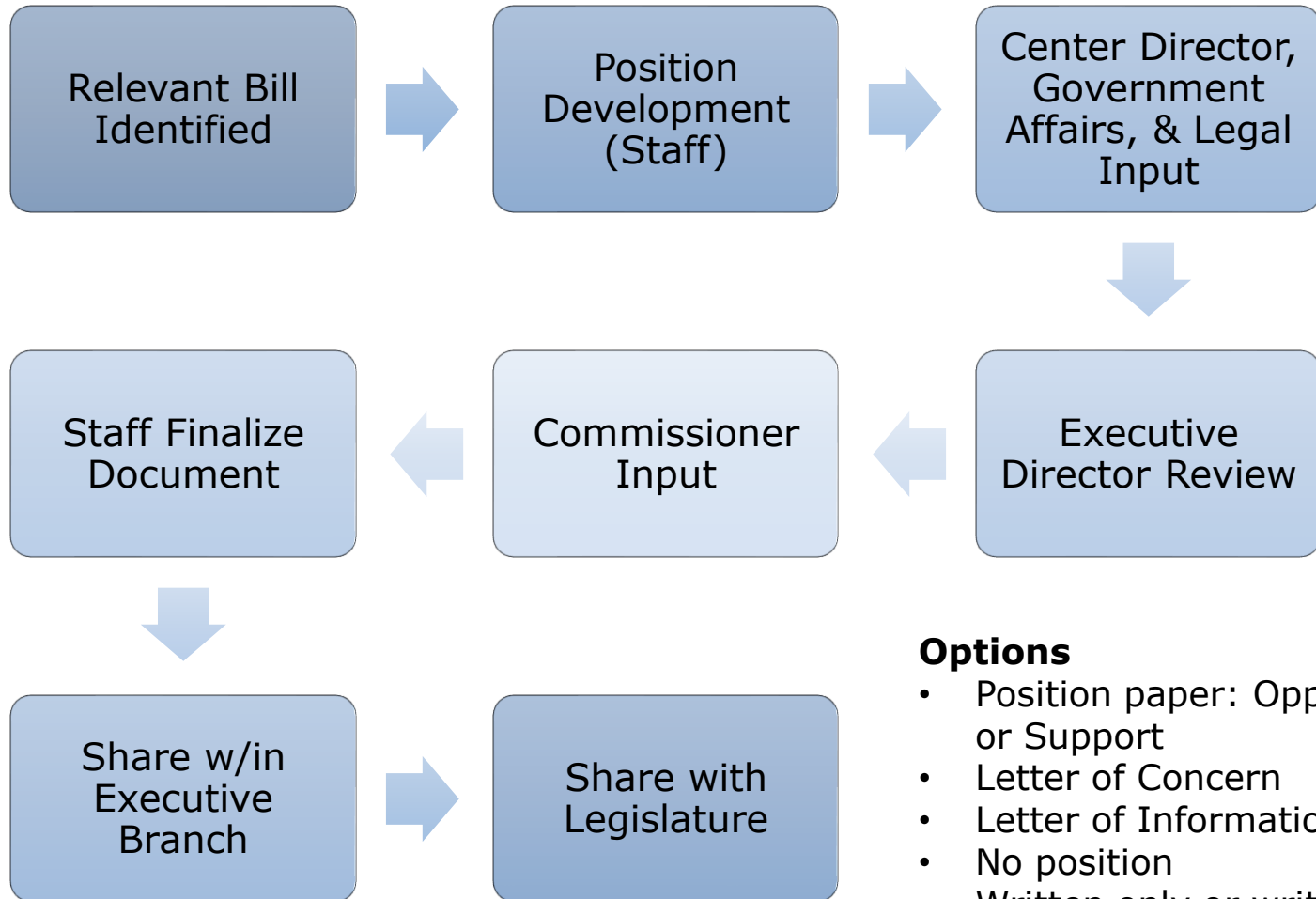
# Role: MHCC Commissioners

## MHCC Policy Phone Call

- Weekly calendar hold beginning 1/29, call held as needed.
- Review Bills related to MHCC mission, stated priorities or statutory responsibility; discuss possible MHCC position.

Provide support to MHCC staff on legislative relations, if needed.

# Position Development



## Options

- Position paper: Oppose or Support
- Letter of Concern
- Letter of Information
- No position
- Written only or written and verbal testimony

# Types of Legislation and Executive Agency Roles

<p>Administration Proposal - <i>The Governor's highest priorities</i></p>	<p>Amendments should ONLY be offered by the Governor's Legislative Office. Concerns should be addressed to the appropriate person on the Governor's staff.</p>
<p>Departmental Legislation - <i>Department &amp; Agency Priorities, Approved by the Governor's Office</i></p>	<p>No Executive Branch representative may oppose a departmental bill before the General Assembly. Concerns should be brought to the sponsoring agency and any conflicts between agencies will be resolved by the Legislative Office of the Governor.</p>
<p>Privately Sponsored Legislation</p>	<p>MHCC coordinates with MDH on positions and the Governor's office reviews positions, to avoid conflicting positions.</p>

# Key Changes for 2021 Legislative Session

- The Maryland General Assembly has implemented several procedural changes for the 2021 Legislative Session. (See Attached). Due to these changes, the OGA will need written testimony and the names of witnesses planning to testify to the respective committees **three (3) business days** prior to the bill hearing date.
- Going forward, to ensure that your administration/board/program will have sufficient time to draft testimony and confirm witnesses, the **Legislative Liaisons' meetings will be held on Mondays at 1pm beginning January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

# Discussion of Bill Positions – Weeks of 1/25 and 2/1

[Discussion Tentative/TBD]

# Appendix

# 2021 General Dates of Interest

- January 13- General Assembly convenes
- Late January
- Budget bill introduced by Governor
- Bill request guarantee date- last day legislators can request bill drafting
- Final day for introduction of Administration bills (i.e. bills from the executive branch) without Senate Rules Committee Referral
- Governor's State of the State Address (noon)
- February 8- Final day for introduction of bills without Rules Committee Referral
- February 21- Green Bag appointments submitted by Governor
- March 8- Final date for introduction of bills without suspension of Rules
- March 22- Opposite Chamber Cross-over Date
- April 5- Budget bill to be passed by both chambers
- April 12- Sine Die

# Relevant Governor's Office Staff

- Keiffer Mitchell serves as the Chief Legislative Officer for the Governor's Legislative Office.
- Jake Whitaker serves as the contact on health issues and legislation.