

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

October 2023

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Government Relations and Special Project – Tracey DeShields

State Policy Update

The Commission on the Study of Trauma Funding in Maryland, which is jointly convened by the IEMSS and MHCC, held its second meeting on September 29th. The focus of the second meeting was on the experience of trauma centers and how trauma programs differ between Maryland and the US. Additionally, during the second meeting there was a presentation on the Total Cost of Care Model and how trauma center costs are accounted for under the rate setting system. The presentations set the stage for the meeting discussion on options for modernizing the trauma fund. The third meeting of the Commission on the Study of Trauma Funding is scheduled for November 3rd.

The trauma centers continue working on the trauma cost survey and we expect to have them back by October 13th.

We are continuing the work on the mental health workforce assessment along with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). We received a proposal from the potential contractor/consultant to do the assessment and are now in the process of getting the sole source contract approved. In addition, we are monitoring the other legislative interim work by the Centers.

MHCC-related news coverage: selected articles and commentary

Hospitals

Hogan, J., “Maryland Senate finance chair leaving legislature to lead MHA,” The Daily Record, October 6, 2023

<https://thedailyrecord.com/2023/10/06/md-senate-finance-chair-leaving-legislature-to-lead-mha/>

Fischer, J. R., “Maryland hospitals see more than triple hike in errors,” Dotmed, Healthcare News, October 2, 2023

<https://www.dotmed.com/news/story/61321>

Nursing Homes

Jurberg, A., “Maryland Care Facility Shocks Community with Abrupt Elder Evictions and Staff Layoffs,” Newsbreak Original, October 5, 2023

<https://original.newsbreak.com/@ash-jurberg-560946/3180380087783-maryland-care-facility-shocks-community-with-abrupt-elder-evictions-and-staff-layoffs>

Broom, S., “Shocking shortcomings in elder protections exposed by memory care closure notice, critics say,” WUSA9, October 5, 2023

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/shortcomings-in-elder-protections-exposed-by-memory-care-closure-notice-critics-say/65-ea0b0796-11b4-4d1a-910b-76f8e992fce0>

Daily Record Staff, "Sage Health opening 3 central Md. centers for senior primary care," The Daily Record October 2, 2023

<https://thedailyrecord.com/2023/10/02/sage-health-opening-3-central-md-centers-for-senior-primary-care/>

Health Department

Roberts, A., "Baltimore Health Department receives first supply of COVID vaccines; free for uninsured, people whose insurance don't cover shot," Baltimore Sun, Oct 05, 2023

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-covid-vaccine-health-department-20231005-pgqtqepzvze7hhd6gkxo5gz63u-story.html>

Daily Record Staff, "Lorien Health Services Columbia ranked as one of Newsweek's best nursing homes again," The Daily Record, October 2, 2023

<https://thedailyrecord.com/2023/10/02/lorien-health-services-columbia-ranked-as-one-of-newsweeks-best-again/>

Health Law Update

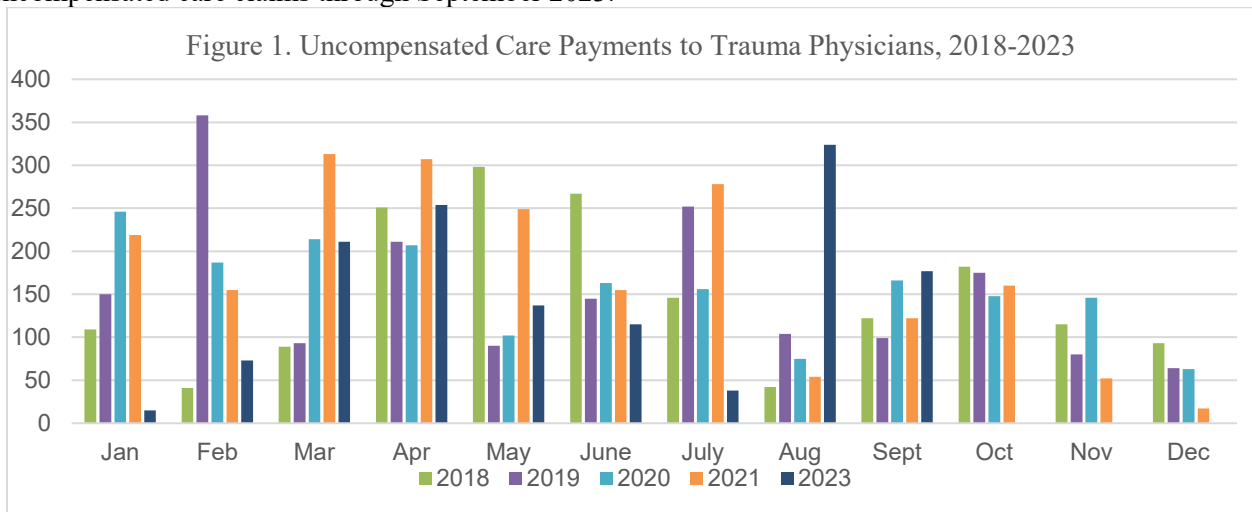
Brown, D., "Health law roundup: New measures to expand behavioral health, transgender care take effect," Maryland Matters, October 3, 2023

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2023/10/03/health-law-checkup-new-measures-to-expand-behavioral-health-transgender-care-take-effect/>

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Processing

Trustmark Health Benefits, the third-party administrator (TPA) for the Trauma Fund, processed \$176,504.50 uncompensated care claims through September 2023.



MHCC Website: The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 4,535 during the month of September 2023.

Wear The Cost

In September 2023, 251 users visited the site.

Maryland Quality Reporting

The Maryland Quality Reporting had 1,592 total users in September, a decrease of 50.6%. The website saw similar decreases in activity for new users (decrease of 53.2%) and sessions (decrease 43.1%). However, the average session duration increased 31.4% from 2 minutes and 27seconds to 3 minutes and 13 seconds, indicating the users who visited the site spent more time on the site, engaging with the content. The site received the most website referrals in September from Maryland 211, Google, and A Place for Mom. Facebook remains the primary social media referral source.

Figure 2 – Visits to MHCC Websites

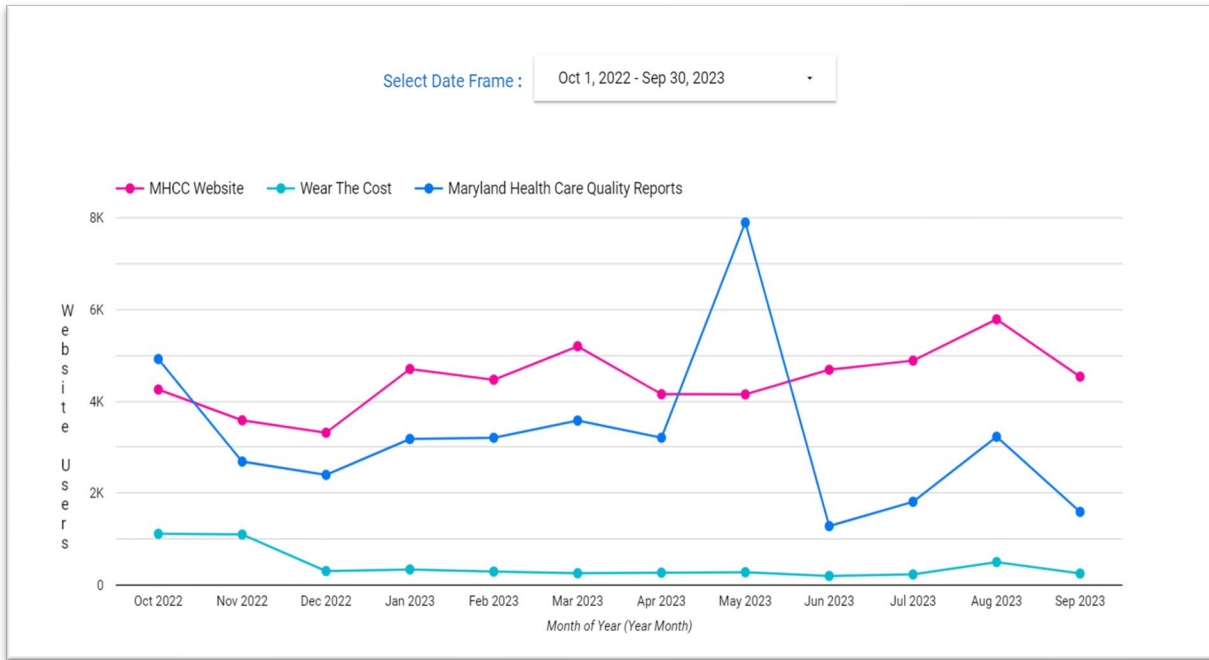


Figure 2. shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the three websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is listed above. The volume reported on the Health Care Quality Website for May 2023, reflects some autonomous program (bot) activity on that site.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Cost and Quality Analysis – Shankar Mesta

MCDB Data Submission Status, Payor Compliance, and Technical Support

Alternate Payment Method Data Submission

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is required to report the following information to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 31, 2023, in accordance with §2-1257 of the State Government Article

1. The number and type of value-based arrangements entered into;
2. Quality outcomes of the value-based arrangements;
3. The number of complaints made regarding value-based arrangement;

4. The cost-effectiveness of the value-based arrangements; and
5. The impact of two-sided incentive arrangements on the fee schedules of health care practitioners included in the target budget who are not eligible providers.

To report on these measures, MHCC identified CareFirst, Kaiser, Aetna, United Healthcare, and Cigna, who have APM contracts, to report their 2022 value-based arrangement data to MHCC in accordance with COMAR 10.25.06.03 and the APM Data Submission Guide before the deadline of 09/30/2023.

At the end of September, MHCC received data from Aetna, United Healthcare, and Cigna. CareFirst requested a waiver to submit data on or before 10/07/2023, and Kaiser requested a blanket waiver because Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. has not entered into any value-based arrangements authorized by Chapter 297 of the Acts of 2022 and, therefore, had no data to report.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Acute Care Policy and Planning – Eileen Fleck

Annual Supplemental Hospital Inventory Survey for 2023

This report is in the final editing stage and staff anticipates publication on MHCC’s web site in October.

State Health Plan Chapter for Acute Care Hospital Services (COMAR 10.24.10)

The draft proposed regulations are in final review. Staff anticipates presenting at the October Commission meeting for Commissioners approval to post for informal comment.

Legislative Study Requesting MHCC to Report Information on Radiation Injuries and Utilization of Specific Staff

Legislation was passed in the 2019 General Assembly session, Chapter 445, (HB 924), that among other things, required the Commission to conduct a review of hospital cardiac catheterization laboratories (CCL) in the State to determine the number and nature of radiation injuries that have occurred in a hospital CCL; the number and nature of instances in which the State Board of Physicians has imposed a civil penalty on a hospital under § 14-306(f)(3) of the Health Occupations Article; and the number of registered cardiovascular invasive specialists employed by hospitals and the number of vacant positions for technicians in hospital CCLs. The final report was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on October 2, 2023. A copy of this report will be provided to Commissioners, and it will be posted on MHCC’s web site.

Long-Term Care Policy and Planning – Linda Cole

Palliative Care Services Workgroup:

Pursuant to Chapter 301 (HB378 of 2022), MHCC convened a workgroup to address palliative care services statewide. The workgroup met six times between September 2022 and August 2023. SEA Healthcare was awarded a contract to conduct a statewide survey, review literature, and prepare an environmental scan of other states’ palliative care efforts. A presentation on “The Current Status of Palliative Care Services in Maryland” was made to the June Commission meeting. The Interim Report was submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly as required in July.

The workgroup held its final meeting on August 31st to review recommendations and an outline for the Final Report. Staff will present the Final Report to the Commission at the October meeting. The Final Report is due to the legislature by November 1, 2023.

FY 2022 Hospice Survey:

The FY 2022 Maryland Hospice Survey has been completed. Staff are currently reviewing the data as preparation for the Hospice Tables and the Hospice Public Use Data Set.

NASHP Technical Assistance Meetings:

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) awarded Maryland a technical assistance grant for its Serious Illness Institute to provide guidance on the development of palliative care programs in selected states. A call was held between Maryland staff, NASHP staff, and the five other states on September 21st. Progress made to date in the development of a final palliative care report was discussed. In addition, common issues, including staffing, financing, and education were discussed among the states. The next call will be scheduled in November.

Certificate of Need (CON) – Jeanne-Marie Gawal – Acting Chief

CON’s Approved

Hygea Detox at Camp Meade – Docket No. 23-02-2468

Establish a Track One 16-bed, alcoholism and drug abuse intermediate care facility (ICF) at 817 S. Camp Meade Rd, Linthicum Heights, Anne Arundel County.

Approved Cost: \$136,781

Determinations of Coverage

- **Ambulatory Surgery Centers**

UM Chesapeake Surgery Center, LLC – (Harford County)

Establish an ambulatory surgery center (ASC-2) with 2 sterile operating rooms and 2 non-sterile procedure rooms to be located at 515 South Tollgate Road, Bel Air

The owner is UM Chesapeake Surgery Center, LLC (UM CSC) is a Maryland limited liability company. Its members and their respective membership interests are:

Ownership Chart	
Partners / Owners of UM Chesapeake Surgery Center, LLC	% Interest in Company
Upper Chesapeake Health Ventures, Inc. (UC HVI)	51.0%
University of Maryland Orthopedic Associates, P.A. (UMOA)	10.8%
Raj Yalamanchili, M.D.	9.8%
Edward O’Mara, M.D.	9.8%
William Cook, M.D.	6.8%
Mathew Thomas, M.D.	6.8%
Richard Zell, M.D.	5.4%
Total	100.0%
Note: Ownership Interest have been rounded to 1 decimal point	

Facial Plastic Surgicenter, LLC – (Baltimore City)

Addition of a second sterile operating room to the existing surgery center located at 1828 Greene Tree Road, Suite 370, Baltimore. Ownership is unchanged.

Westminster Endoscopy ASC, LLC – (Carroll County)

Establish an ambulatory surgery center (ASC-P) with 2 non-sterile procedure rooms to be located at 535 Old Westminster Pike, Westminster

Ownership Chart	
Partners / Owners of Baltimore Endoscopy ASC, LLC	% Interest in Company
AmSurg Holdings, Inc.	40.0%
Endocentre of Baltimore Holdings, LLC	39.0%
LifeBridge Investments, Inc	21.0%
Total	100.0%
Note: Ownership Interests have been rounded to 1 decimal point	

Washington Vascular Specialists of Frederick, LLC – (Frederick County)

A determination of coverage to establish Washington Vascular Specialists of Frederick, LLC, was issued on December 12, 2022. This new determination of coverage is to correct the facility name. The corrected name for this facility is WVS Frederick ASC, LLC.

- **Acquisition/Change of Ownership**

Crescent Cities Nursing & Rehabilitation Center – (Prince George’s County)

Acquisition of the above-referenced comprehensive care facility (CCF) on November 1, 2023. Currently the real property and bed rights are owned by 4409 East West Highway LLC and will remain the same. The Operator of the facility is currently Crescent Cities SNF LLC and will change to Brightwood SNF LLC. Purchase Price: \$0, it is a lease with a line of credit.

Maple Lawn Surgery Center – (Howard County)

Minority change in ownership at the facility. The pre- and post-closing ownership chart below outlines the existing and post-closing ownership. USP Maryland, Inc. will own 54.7%, existing physician owners will collectively own 27.8%, and new physician owners will collectively own 18.0%.

Ownership Chart		
Owners of Maple Lawn SC	% Interest in Company Pre-Closing	% Interest in Company Post-Closing
USP Maryland, Inc.	56.8%	54.7%
Charter ASC, LLC	0%	18.0
David Baek	1.9%	1.2%
Mark Bullock	1.4%	0.9%
Casey Friske	1.4%	0.9%
Vajira Gunawardane	9.5%	6.0%

Joseph Layug	3.8%	2.4%
Scott Nutter	2.4%	1.5%
Harvinder Pabla	3.8%	2.4%
Vincent Sutliff	2.8%	1.8%
Hugo Torres LLC	7.6%	4.8%
Taralawn LLC	4.7%	3.1%
Jerry Thomas	3.8%	2.4%
Total	100%	100%
Note: Ownership Interests have been rounded to 1 decimal point		

- **Licensure**

- **Delicensure of Bed Capacity or a Health Care Facility**

Northwest Hospital SubAcute Unit – (Baltimore County)

Temporary delicensure of 17 beds in the sub-acute unit at the hospital

- **Relinquishment of Bed Capacity or a Health Care Facility**

Adventist Healthcare White Oak Medical Center – (Montgomery County)

Permanent relinquishment of 10 temporarily delicensed acute psychiatric beds at the hospital.

- **Other**

Adventist Home Health-Southern Maryland Region

Change in address for the Southern Maryland branch office of AHHS. The existing facility is located at 10709 Indian Head Highway, Suite D, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744, and will relocate to 11424 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland, 20744.

Gilchrist Hospice Care, Inc. - (Baltimore County)

Inpatient Hospice Services agreement to provide inpatient hospice services in a “scatter bed arrangement” at Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Inc. (GBMC).

Gilchrist Hospice Care, Inc. – (Prince George’s County)

Inpatient Hospice Services agreement to provide inpatient hospice services in a “scatter bed arrangement” at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center

Pending Notices of Acquisition/Change of Ownership for Comprehensive Care Facilities (Nursing Homes)

None

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

Health Information Technology Division – Nikki Majewski, Division Chief

Interstate Telehealth Study

The Interstate Telehealth Expansion Study Report (report) was finalized and includes nine recommendations and four notable considerations to inform a progressive regulatory framework for advancing interstate telehealth. The study was completed in response to a request from the House Health and Government Operations (HGO) Committee Chair in May 2022. The study scope aligned with House Bill 670, *Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth*, which was withdrawn during the 2022 session. The report is due to the HGO by December 1, 2023.

Telehealth Study

A Request For Proposals (RFP) was developed seeking a contractor to assess private payer and Medicaid payment adequacy of primary care and behavioral health outpatient services delivered in-person and by telehealth to the current Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Development of an RFP is underway to identify a contractor to analyze cost and effort to deliver telehealth services. The RFPs support study requirements in Chapter 382/Senate Bill 534, *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2023* and Chapter 291/House Bill 1148, *Behavioral Health Care – Treatment and Access (Behavioral Health Model for Maryland)* (2023). Findings are due to the Senate Finance (SF) Committee and HGO Committee due by December 1, 2024.

Noncontrolled Prescription Drugs (Non-CDS) Reporting

A technical review of the draft Noncontrolled Prescription Drugs Data Submission Manual (manual) is progressing. CRISP is collaborating with their technology vendor to ensure alignment with existing reporting requirements for controlled dangerous substances (CDS) using the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) reporting standard. Planning for a pharmacy reporting demonstration project (project) is moving forward. The project will evaluate format, content, and data quality to identify issues in CRISP consuming data before reporting is scaled to all dispensers. Chapter 296/House Bill 1127, *Public Health – State Designated Exchange – Health Data Utility* (2022) requires dispensers to report non-CDS dispensed data to CRISP.

Health IT Spotlight

Drafting is in process to develop a social determinants of health (SDoH) spotlight using information provided by health systems in Maryland and available national data. The SDoH spotlight will feature technical approaches used by health systems to collect and use SDoH data in care delivery. Roughly 18 health systems with 43 acute care hospitals completed the annual *Health Information Technology Survey* (in March). The spotlight is targeted for completion in Q4 2023.

Environmental Scans – Urgent Care and Home Health

An analysis is progressing on responses to a health IT questionnaire from about 19 urgent care centers (UCC) with 189 locations statewide. Questions were aimed at UCCs use of electronic health records, health information exchange (HIE), and telehealth to support on-demand services. Findings will inform strategies focused on promoting health IT best practices. A spotlight is targeted for release in Q1 2024. A draft health IT questionnaire was vetted by representatives from the Maryland-National Capital Home Care Association and select home health agencies. The questionnaire is targeted for release in Q4 2023.

Advance Directives

A digital poster (poster) encouraging Marylanders to create and share an electronic advance directive will be displayed at Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) branches statewide. The poster will appear on MVA announcement screens through November and includes a QR code directing viewers to MHCC's *Advance Directive Information Sheet*. Planning is underway in collaboration with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) for a public awareness campaign to promote mental health advance directives and build awareness among behavioral health crisis providers on how to access electronic advance directives through CRISP. Chapter 297/Senate Bill 154, *Public Health – Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database* (2023) requires MHCC and BHA to submit a progress report to the SF Committee and HGO Committee by December 1, 2023.

Regulations

Approximately 160 stakeholders were notified about the informal comment period for draft amendments to COMAR 10.25.18, *Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information*, and COMAR 10.25.07, *Certification of Electronic Health Networks and Medical Care Electronic Claims Clearinghouses*. The amendments support Chapter 249/House Bill 812, *Health - Reproductive Health Services - Protected Health Information and Insurance Requirements* (2023) that restricts the exchange of abortion care and sensitive health information (i.e., procedure, diagnosis, medication, and other related codes) by HIEs and electronic health networks operating in the State. The first legislatively mandated quarterly report pertaining to implementation of the law was submitted to the SF Committee and HGO Committee.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

A summary of findings for the 2022 EDI reporting cycle was drafted. A total of 32 payers submitted data on electronic health care transactions as required by COMAR 10.25.09, *Requirements for Payers to Designate Electronic Health Networks*. The summary is targeted for release in Q4 2023.

Innovative Care Delivery Division – Melanie Cavaliere, Division Chief

Primary Care Workgroup (Workgroup)

Drafting of the Primary Care Analysis and Reporting Plan (Plan) is nearing completion. In October, the Primary Care Workgroup (Workgroup) will provide comments on the draft Plan. The Plan establishes the primary care investment analysis framework that will guide MHCC in completing an annual assessment of payer primary care investments and identifying key policy issues for consideration by the Workgroup, stakeholders, and legislature. Chapter 667/Senate Bill 734, *Maryland Health Care Commission – Primary Care Report and Workgroup* (2022) requires MHCC to convene a Workgroup to obtain input on the scope and methodology for the analysis; the Plan is due to the General Assembly by December 1, 2023. The MHCC is required to 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 based on the Plan beginning in December 2024.

Practice Transformation Grant Activities

MedChi Care Transformation Organization (CTO) continues to assist about 17 practices and 185 providers at 35 sites in transforming care delivery as part of the Advancing Practice Transformation in Ambulatory Practices (APT) program. Key transformation activities include practice assessment, transformation training, and workflow redesign. The assessment and training framework are informed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative practice transformation modules. Promotion of the APT program is under way in collaboration with the CTO. The MHCC competitively selected the CTO for Round 2 APT funding in July 2022. The APT program concludes in June of 2024.

Learning Network

Planning is nearing completion for a dental cybersecurity symposium at the Maryland State Dental Association Chesapeake Dental Conference. Staff will present on Value-Based Care at the October Maryland Podiatric Medical Association Member meeting. A planning meeting occurred with several stakeholders for a fall symposium on team-based care and the evolving role of social workers in team-based advanced primary care delivery.

Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) Advisory Council

The Advisory Council reviewed the draft MDPCP Annual Report Recommendations (2022), which includes about 12 recommendations. The Maryland Total Cost of Care Model contract indicates that the State may submit an annual report on the MDPCP to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that suggest ways in which CMS can improve operations under MDPCP, such as modifications to participating practices' care transformation requirements; suggest utilization and quality measures for purposes of the performance based incentive payment; and, make recommendations to CMS on components of MDPCP implementation that are appropriate for delegation to the State. The report is targeted for release in October.

CENTER FOR QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Maryland Quality Reporting (MQR) website

MQR Website Updates

Staff continue to work with Advanta Government Services (AGS), the website contractor, to update the [Maryland Quality Reporting](#) consumer site. Hospice provider pages have been updated with star ratings, family satisfaction and quality measures ratings using the August 2023 CMS Care Compare data. Profile pages for assisted living facilities with 10 or more beds have been updated with facility characteristics and services provided, using data from the most recent MHCC Long Term Care survey. Additional enhancements and updated features are underway and routine updates and maintenance are ongoing. Staff continue to respond to consumer inquiries received via the quality reports email.

MQR Website Traffic

Staff monitors traffic to the consumer site using Google Analytics software. Website traffic was lower in September (1,592 users) compared to August (3,225 users). The most frequently viewed topics on the MQR site include assisted living, nursing homes, and hospital price transparency. Traffic to the site is presented graphically under the Executive Direction section of this update.

MQR Website Promotion

There were approximately 80 social media posts in September. Topics included National Assisted Living Week, Sepsis Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and general promotional posts for the MQR website. These topics generally coincide with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Health Observances or other important health related events and are designed to link readers back to the MQR website. Staff also promote the MQR website using additional social media platforms such as LinkedIn and NextDoor.

Hospital Quality Initiatives – Courtney Carta

Healthcare Associated Infections

All Maryland acute care hospitals are required to report certain healthcare associated infections to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). MHCC publicly reports this data annually on the MQR consumer website. Healthcare associated infections increased during the public health emergency both in Maryland and nationally. In particular, central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) increased significantly, especially in ICU units. Staff presented state trends and preliminary 2023 results during the Maryland Statewide Prevention and Reduction Collaborative (SPARC) focusing on CLABSI reduction. The collaborative included approximately 180 participants, statewide. Preliminary data shows that CLABSI infections appear to be declining.

Long Term Care and Health Plan Quality Initiatives—Stacy Howes

Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey

Resident lists have been collected from all nursing homes and are currently being formatted to begin the process of sending the survey out. The survey will be ready for distribution to Maryland residents by mid-October.

Health Care Worker Influenza Vaccination Survey

Assisted Living, Home Health, and Hospice

Staff are in the process of preparing for the 2023-2024 data collection year. MHCC will no longer collect the staff influenza vaccination data from nursing homes, as CMS now requires nursing homes to report this data through NHSN. The October CMS Care Compare refresh will be the first public reporting of this data by CMS, reflecting the 2022-2023 flu season.

Assisted Living Utilization Tables

Staff have created 2021 assisted living utilization tables detailing the race, gender, ethnicity, and ages of residents in assisted living facilities. Tables will be posted on the Maryland Quality Reporting website.

Assisted Living Quality Analysis SB531 Workgroup

Staff have been working, in conjunction with SEA Healthcare, on the recommendations and the technical report for the workgroup to review in October. Staff plan to share the recommendations with Commissioners in the near future.

SB509 Nursing Home Acquisitions Workgroup

The workgroup has met 4 times (July 14, August 4, August 25, and September 15). The workgroup has examined the effects of private equity and REITs on nursing home ownership through speakers from the University of Pennsylvania, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of Health Care Quality, and Nexus Insights. Staff have drafted a report and recommendations which will be shared with the workgroup, and once approved by the workgroup, will be shared with the Commissioners in the near future.

Health Plan Quality Initiatives

Data collection for the 2022 measurement year is complete as of the end of September, and the contractor, HealthcareData Company, has begun data analysis. Data analysis should be complete by mid-October, and the data should be posted on the Maryland Quality Reporting website by November.

Outpatient Quality Initiative—Mariama Simmons

Outpatient Quality Initiative

In June 2023, staff began working on a project resulting from House Bill 1146. The bill requires the Commission to collaborate with the Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland Hospital Administration (MHA) to complete several surveys and to develop a regional plan to expand pediatric dental surgical capacity

across the state. Staff administered a special survey of specific ASCs to assess the state's capacity to provide needed dental procedures to vulnerable populations including children. MHA administered a comparable survey of hospitals. Staff analyzed the results of the special dental survey, drafted a summary write-up, and provided this information to MDH. Staff continue to meet with representatives from MHA and MDH to address the requirements of the bill. Staff are supporting MDH in drafting the report that will go to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, 2023.

Staff launched the 2022 annual Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility (FASF) Survey on July 31, 2023. The annual reporting of ambulatory surgery facilities is required under COMAR 10.24.04. The data collected is used to support health system planning and CON related activities of the Center for Health Care Facilities Planning and Development and for public reporting on the *Maryland Quality Reporting* consumer website. Staff are working with a few facilities that have not submitted their annual survey. A total of 340 facilities were surveyed (this is two more than originally reported as these facilities were later identified as being operational). Survey results will be made available by the end of the year.