

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

March 2022

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Government Relations and Special Project – Tracey DeShields

State Policy Update

The 2022 legislative session began on January 12, 2022. Over 2,053 bills have been introduced to the House and 1,488 bills introduced to the Senate. March 21 was the crossover date for bills to cross over to the opposite chamber. MHCC (“the Commission”) is currently tracking over 188 bills related to health information exchange, behavioral health, nursing homes, electronic advance care planning, and proposed studies and workgroups.

The Commission is tracking two priority bills: *SB 253/HB 353 – Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments* and *HB 213 – MHCC Health Information Exchange – Definition*. The User Fee bill passed third reader in the Senate and was referred to the House. The bill will be heard in the Health and Government Operations Committee on March 30. The amended Health Information Exchange Definition bill passed third reading in the House and was referred to Senate Finance. The hearing was held on March 24. In addition to these two bills, the Commission is tracking and monitoring other bills. The legislation being monitored includes potential new legislative projects and studies on insurance mandates, assisted living, and palliative care.

The last day of session is April 11, 2022. The staff will provide an overview of enacted legislation affecting MHCC at the April meeting.

MHCC-related news coverage: selected articles and commentary

Legislation

Pasia, N. “Three key health workforce bills heard in committee.” State of Reform. March 4, 2022. Available from: <https://stateofreform.com/news/maryland/2022/03/three-key-health-workforce-bills-heard-in-committee/>

Seltzer, K. “Bill Seeks to Expand Role of UMD Center in Advancing State’s Health Literacy.” Maryland Today. March 9, 2022. Available from: <https://today.umd.edu/bill-seeks-to-expand-role-of-umd-center-in-advancing-states-health-literacy>

Sanchez, V. “Maryland considers legislation to protect and expand abortion care.” Southern Maryland Chronicle. March 13, 2022. Available from: <https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2022/03/13/maryland-considers-legislation-to-protect-and-expand-abortion-care/>

Health Facilities

Wilkins, T. “Health Care Workers Protest Staffing Shortage at UM Capital Region Medical Center.” NBC 4 Washington. March 3, 2022. Available from: <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/prince-georges-county/health-care-workers-protest-staffing-shortage-at-um-capital-region-medical-center/2989936/#:~:text=Health%20care%20workers%20allied%20Thursday,priority%20in%20the%20state's%20budget.>

Parker, L. “Local hospice groups say needs are met, no need for more programs.” My Eastern Shore MD. March 11, 2022. Available from: https://www.myeasternshoremid.com/qa/news/local-hospice-groups-say-needs-are-met-no-need-for-more-programs/article_c1cce2a1-c662-5bf7-bf27-f01c1743aa26.html

Sullivan, J. “University of Maryland Medical System chairman steps down.” Baltimore Business Journal. March 9, 2022. Available from: <https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2022/03/09/umms-chairman-resigns-chip-dipaula.html>

Governor Hogan. “Governor Hogan Announces Creation of Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Advisory Group.” Office of the Governor. March 8, 2022. Available from: <https://governor.maryland.gov/2022/03/08/governor-hogan-announces-creation-of-maryland-behavioral-health-and-public-safety-center-of-excellence-advisory-group/>

Health Disparities and Health Equity

Burnett, J. “New grant funding strengthens access to care for disadvantaged communities on the lower shore.” ABC 47. February 28, 2022. Available from: <https://www.wmdt.com/2022/02/new-grant-funding-strengthens-access-to-care-for-disadvantaged-communities-on-the-lower-shore/>

Littledale, M. “Addressing Wellness Disparities in Black Communities.” Psychology Today. March 8, 2022. Available from: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/margin-mainstream/202203/addressing-wellness-disparities-in-black-communities>

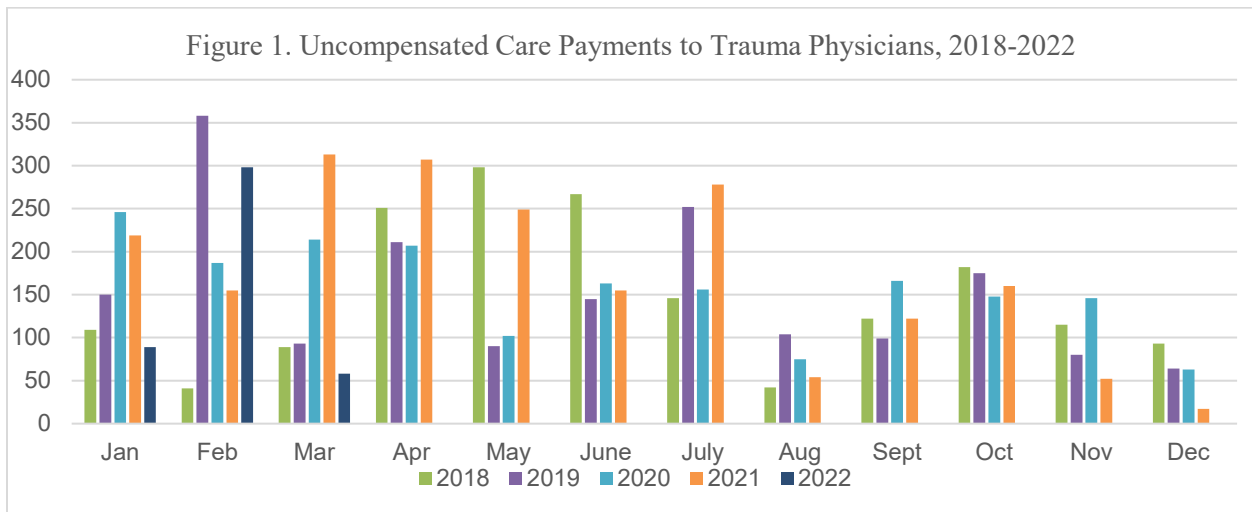
Cybersecurity

Gaskill, H. “Md. lawmakers introduce bills to bolster state cybersecurity.” WTOP News. March 2, 2022. Available from: <https://wtop.com/maryland/2022/03/md-lawmakers-introduce-bills-to-bolster-state-cybersecurity/>

Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Processing

Trustmark Health Benefits, the third-party administrator (TPA) for the Trauma Fund, processed \$58,140.44 uncompensated care claims through March 2022.



MHCC Website: The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 3,252 users in the month of March 2022.

Wear The Cost

In March 2022, 360 users visited the site.

Maryland Quality Reporting

The Maryland Quality Reporting had 6,749 users, 7,987 sessions and 9,776 pageviews in March. The average session duration was 43 seconds. The number of users, new users, sessions and pageviews increased between 24.2 %-28.9% this month.

The site receives the most website referrals from MHCC’s homepage (30.4%). However, this month the website also had 16.1% of its referrals from the launch of Google advertisements associated with the Maryland Public Television campaign.

There was a significant increase in referrals from social media sites. Facebook continues to be the primary social media referral source, accounting for 98.9% of all social referrals. BuzzFeed, Classmates, Dailymotion and Screen Rant were new social referral sources and are directly related to the launch of the MPT campaign.

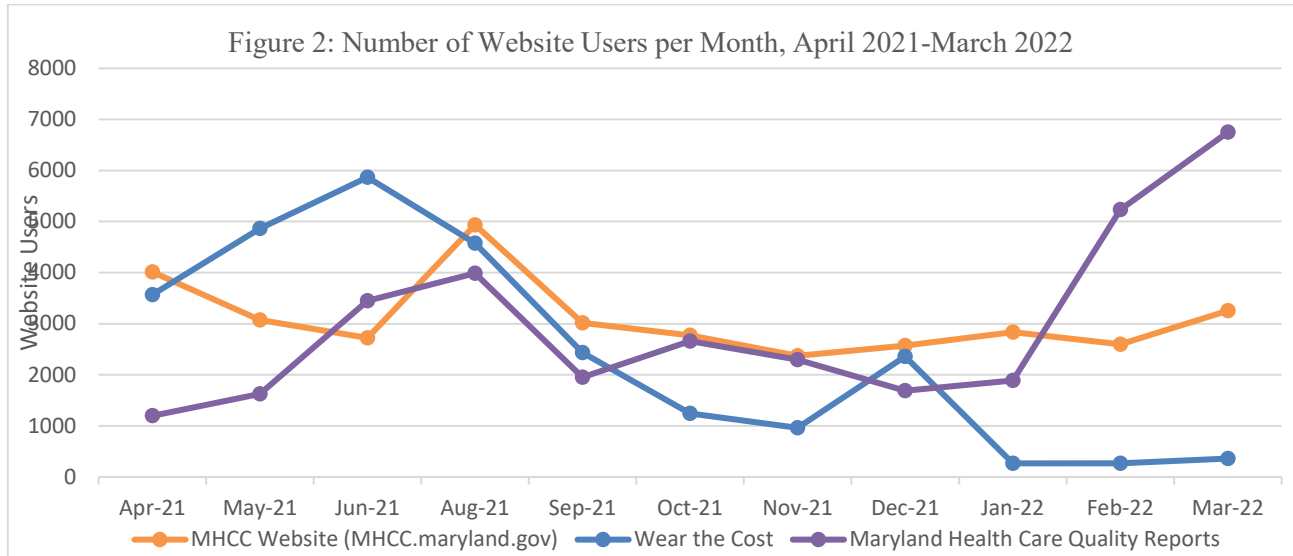


Figure 2 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the four websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is below.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

APCD Public Reporting and Data Release – Mahlet ‘Mahi’ Nigatu

Public Reporting

‘Wear the Cost’ production domain has been successfully transferred from SSS to Onpoint Health Data.

MHCC also issued two bid board notices, one for the communication work and the other for the episode development. This new phase of the ‘Wear the Cost’ work will cover the data study window of 2019/2020 for both private and Medicaid data. This will be the first time Medicaid data will be used for the ‘Wear the Cost’ public reporting.

MCDB Data Release

Johns Hopkins University Suicide Study Application

JHU have requested MCDB data including both commercial and Medicaid for a project titled “Advancing Maryland's Statewide Suicide Data Warehouse to Improve Individual and Population-level Mortality Prediction and Prevention”. The study aims to leverage the unique data types such as the MCDB, the HSCRC discharge data, linked to the Maryland Suicide Data Warehouse (MSDW) to improve suicide death predictions among a more generalizable patient population. MHCC Data Release Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the application.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Acute Care Policy and Planning – Eileen Fleck

Certificate of Conformance

MHCC staff continued its review of a Certificate of Conformance application for elective percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) services at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center. Staff anticipates presenting this report at the April Commission meeting.

Other

MHCC staff received some preliminary results for the additional analysis by Advanta Government Services of the American College of Cardiology’s National Cardiovascular Data Registry for CathPCI data collected from Maryland hospitals for the period of calendar year 2015 through 2019. MHCC staff anticipates receiving a final report in April.

Long Term Care Policy and Planning – Linda Cole

RFP for Minimum Data Set and Long-Term Care

The Commission’s contract with Hilltop Institute at UMBC expired earlier this year. An updated RFP is designed to address the federal Minimum Data Set (MDS) for nursing homes, as well as long term care (LTC) data from the Commission’s annual survey. Comments have been provided by the Maryland Department of General Services and Commission counsel. Staff expects to have this RFP ready for distribution and posting soon.

Hospice Data

The FY 2021 Maryland Hospice Survey was available for online data entry starting March 14, 2022. Part I surveys are due by May 16, 2022. Notice of survey launch was posted in their newsletter by the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland. Staff will send a 30-day reminder notice to hospice providers.

Chronic Hospital Project

Staff is gathering data on the status of chronic hospitals (known nationally as Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals) in the state and nationally. Staff have met with representatives of the Office of Health Care Quality, state chronic hospitals, and will meet this week with staff of HSCRC to gather data on this topic.

Certificate of Need – Wynnee Hawk

CON's Approved

Hygea Detox, Inc. – (Baltimore County)

Establish a new 50 bed Track One Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Level 3.7/3.7WM program will operate at 1210 Middle River Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21237.

Approved Cost: \$11,464,672

Emergency CON

UM-Capital Regional Medical Center – (Prince George's County) – Docket No. EM-H22-16-042

Add 16 medical/surgical/gynecological/addictions (MSGA) beds to two temporary modular care units adjacent to UM Capital Region Medical Center, 901 Harry S. Truman Drive North, in Largo, (Prince George's County).

By issuance of a previous Emergency Certificate of Need Order, dated April 24, 2020

Pre-Application Conference

Clarkview Surgery Center – Baltimore County

Establish an ambulatory surgical facility with the addition of an operating room to an existing ambulatory surgical center with two operating rooms and two non-sterile procedure rooms located at 1427 Clarkview Road, in Baltimore.

March 8, 2022

CON Applications Filed

Pyramid Healthcare, Inc. – Matter No., 22-16-2452

Pyramid proposes to establish an intermediate care/residential treatment facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with substance use disorders with 100 beds, which will include fifty (50) beds designated for Withdrawal Management and Medically Monitored Inpatient (Level 3.7WM and Level 3.7), to be located at 3000 Lottsford Vista Road, Bowie

Proposed Cost: \$8,833,000

Determinations of Coverage

• **Acquisition/Change of Ownership**

Ravenwood Nursing Care Center – (Washington County)

Acquisition of the above-referenced comprehensive care facility (CCF). Currently the land, building, and bed rights are owned by Diakon Lutheran Senior Living – Maryland, LLC, and after the transaction will be owned by 1183 Luther Drive LLC. The operator of the facility is currently Diakon Lutheran Senior Living – Maryland, LLC and after the transaction, the new operator will be Creekside SNF Operating Company LLC.

Purchase Price: \$15,850,000

Dimension Health Corporation d/b/a University of Maryland Capital Region Health – (Prince George's County)

Acquisition of the ownership interest in Dimensions Health Corporation (DHC) by its affiliate, UM Capital Region Health, Inc. (UMCRH), which is wholly owned by the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). UMMS is a multi-institutional health system based in Baltimore, Maryland that includes multiple hospitals, medical facilities, and a network of other health care providers which provide health care services to individuals throughout Maryland.

DHC is the licensee of five Certificate of Need (CON) regulated health care facilities in Prince George’s County, Maryland. This acquisition will insert a new direct corporate parent, UMCRRH, between DHC and the current corporate parent, UMMS. The facilities are:

1. UM Capital Region Medical Center, which is a 154-bed general acute care hospital, located at 901 Harry S. Truman Drive, Largo;
2. UM Laurel Medical Center, a licensed freestanding medical facility currently located at 7300 Van Dusen Road, Laurel, which provides emergency services, observation care, outpatient services and surgical services;
3. UM Laurel Alternative Care Site (UM Laurel 3-4-5), located on the campus of UM Laurel Medical Center; which is authorized to provide medical surgical inpatient services under a temporary emergency certificate of need during the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. UM Bowie Health Center, located at 15001 Health Center Drive, Bowie, a licensed freestanding medical facility which provides emergency services and a variety of outpatient services;
5. UM Capital Region Surgery Center, located on the site of the UM Bowie Medical Center, which houses three operating rooms and two procedure rooms. The facility was temporarily delicensed on February 15, 2022.

Capital Projects

Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center – (Baltimore City)

Capital expenditure to redistribute 31 licensed medical acute care beds, by a 26,585 square foot renovation of the existing Burton Pavilion to update and modernize the patient rooms and general areas.

Project Cost: \$10,500,000

Dimension Health Corporation d/b/a University of Maryland Capital Region Health – (Prince George’s County)

Capital expenditure for a building addition referenced as the “Cancer Center”. The project will involve construction and partial finishing of a 100,000 square foot, four-story building for delivery of outpatient services with a clinical focus on cancer, heart disease and women’s health. UM Capital Region proposes to finish two floors of the building addition with facilities for radiation oncology, medical oncology, and outpatient services and testing. The second floor of the building is not currently programmed for service and will not be finished upon completion of the addition. That floor will be “shelled” for future finishing and use. UM Capital Region will finance the project with debt.

Project Cost: \$74,200,000

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

University of Maryland Capital Region Surgery Center – (Prince George’s County)

Temporary delicensure of an ASC with 3 operating rooms and 2 procedure rooms located at 14999 Health Center Drive, Suite 103 Bowie.

Dimensions Health Corporation d/b/a University of Maryland Capital Region Health – (Prince George’s County)

Extension of temporary delicensure status of the 12-bed special hospital for chronic care operated on the Campus of UM Prince George’s Hospital Center until October 1, 2022.

- **Waiver Beds**

Patapsco Health & Rehabilitation Center – (Baltimore County)

Addition of 10 CCF waiver beds for a total of 170 CCF beds.

White Oak Rehabilitation & Nursing Center – (Montgomery County)

Addition of 3 CCF waiver beds for a total of 163 CCF beds.

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

Ravenwood Nursing Care Center (Washington County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: Diakon Lutheran Senior Living – Maryland, LLC

Owner of bed rights: Diakon Lutheran Senior Living – Maryland, LLC

Operator: Diakon Lutheran Senior Living – Maryland, LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: 1183 Luther Drive LLC

Owner of bed rights: 1183 Luther Drive LLC

Operator: Creekside SNF Operating Company LLC

Purchase price: \$15,850,000

Additional information: The CCF, located at 1183 Luther Drive, Hagerstown, MD has been run by a not-for-profit agency in the past but will be purchased by a for-profit entity. The facility currently has a 2 out of 5-star rating on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Medicaid. The anticipated closing date is April 15, 2022.

Commission staff notes that CCFs owned by the entities and persons acquiring the real property have below average or poor ratings (composite scores of one or two stars out of five) on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System, outside of Maryland¹. In addition, one facility has been flagged by CMS as a Special Focus Facility² and two facilities have been flagged for abuse³. Although the acquiring entity has met the notification requirements for an acquisition, it is notable that the track record of the persons acquiring the real property of this CCF would probably fail to meet the requirements for docketing of a CON application to establish or expand a CCF under the State Health Plan Quality Rating standard [COMAR 10.24.20.05A(8)].

Arcola Health and Rehabilitation (Montgomery County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Silver Spring LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Silver Spring LLC

Operator: SSC Silver Spring Operating Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Silver Spring LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Silver Spring LLC

Operator: 901Arcola Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 151 beds and is located at 901 Arcola Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902. The facility is currently rated two stars, which is below average on the CMS Nursing

¹ The rating scores were accessed on March 29, 2022, from the CMS Nursing Home Compare website. The data had been last updated on February 23, 2022.

² The agency Special Focus Facility initiatives give heightened scrutiny to nursing homes that have a history of poor performance or repeated violations of state and federal health and safety rules.

³ Facilities which have been cited for potential issues relating to patient abuse.

Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility has no Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Overlea Health and Rehabilitation (Baltimore City)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Baltimore LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Baltimore LLC

Operator: SSC Baltimore Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Baltimore LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Baltimore LLC

Operator: 6116 Belair Road Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 154 beds and is located at 6116 Belair Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21206. The facility is currently rated one star, which is below average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Patuxent River Health and Rehabilitation (Prince George's County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Laurel LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Laurel LLC

Operator: SSC Laurel Operating Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Laurel LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Laurel LLC

Operator: 14200 Laurel Park Drive Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 153 beds and is located at 14200 Laurel Park Drive, Laurel, Maryland, 20707. The facility is currently rated two stars which is below average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility has met the threshold of its Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars which is better than average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Summit Park Health and Rehabilitation (Baltimore County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Catonsville LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Catonsville LLC

Operator: SSC Catonsville Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Catonsville LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Catonsville LLC

Operator: 1502 Frederick Road Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 134 beds and is located at 1502 Frederick Road, Catonsville, Maryland, 21228. The facility is currently rated one star, below average, on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility is flagged by CMS for resident abuse which means the facility has received an abuse citation or repeat abuse citations within the year. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated by the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars, better than average, on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

North Arundel Health and Rehabilitation (Anne Arundel County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV North Arundel LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV North Arundel LLC

Operator: SSC Glen Burnie North Arundel Operating Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV North Arundel LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV North Arundel LLC

Operator: 313 Hospital Drive Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 116 beds and is located at 313 Hospital Drive, Glen Burnie, Maryland, 21061. The facility is currently rated three stars which is average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an overall rating of 3.04 stars which is better than average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Heritage Harbor Health and Rehabilitation (Anne Arundel County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Annapolis LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Annapolis LLC

Operator: SSC Annapolis Operating Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Annapolis LLC

Owner of bed rights: SMV Annapolis LLC

Operator: 2700 South Haven Road Opco LLC
Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 154 beds and is located at 2700 South Haven Road, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401. The facility has no rating on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System and is flagged CMS as a Special Focus Facility which means there is a history of serious quality issues. The facility has met the threshold of its Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars which is better than average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Glen Burnie Health and Rehabilitation (Anne Arundel County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: SMV Glen Burnie, LLC
Owner of bed rights: SMV Glen Burnie, LLC
Operator: SSC Glen Burnie Operating Company LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: SMV Glen Burnie, LLC
Owner of bed rights: SMV Glen Burnie, LLC
Operator: 7355 Furnace Branch East Opco LLC
Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The CCF has a bed capacity of 190 beds and is located at 7355 Furnace Branch Road East, Glen Burnie, Maryland, 21050. The facility is currently rated one star which is below average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid.

Commission staff notes that the CCFs affiliated with the person acquiring operation of the facility (Aryeh Stern) have an average overall rating of 3.04 stars which is better than average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System. The new operator has ownership interest in 21 facilities in Maryland, and 21 facilities outside of Maryland.

Carriage Hill Bethesda (Comprehensive Care Facility) - (Montgomery County)

Transaction: Change of Operator through lease

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: Carriage Hill Bethesda, LLC
Owner of bed rights: Carriage Hill Bethesda, LLC
Operator: Carriage Hill Bethesda, Inc.

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: Carriage Hill Bethesda, LLC
Owner of bed rights: Carriage Hill Bethesda, LLC
Operator: Carriage Hill Opco LLC
Purchase price: \$0

Additional information: The 108-bed facility is located at 5215 West Cedar Lane, in Bethesda, Maryland. The facility is currently rated five stars which is above average on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System utilizing data from the most recent quarterly refresh on February 23, 2022. The facility does not have a Memorandum of Understanding with Medicaid. This acquisition is anticipated to close on June 1, 2022.

Commission staff notes that the only other facility operated by the entity associated with the person who will operate Carriage Hill Bethesda is Falls Church Opco LLC, d/b/a Vierra Falls Church, which is located at 2100

Powhatan Street in Falls Church, VA 22043. Falls Church Opco LLC is owned by Derek Vucich who purchased the facility in August of 2021. The facility was previously operated as Powhatan Nursing Home. The facility is licensed by the Virginia Department of Health as a nursing home with the capacity for 160 beds and Mr. Vucich is in the process of applying for both Medicare and Medicaid certification. The facility currently does not report information on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website.

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION & INNOVATIVE CARE DELIVERY

Health Information Technology Division – Nikki Majewski, Division Chief

Telehealth Study

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) invited select providers to complete an online survey regarding their use of telehealth. The survey is open through May with a minimum goal of 500 responses. Consumer interviews are progressing with more than half (61) completed of the 114 that have been scheduled. NORC anticipates completing a total of 120 consumer interviews in April. A telehealth claims analysis using MHCC's All-Payer Claims Data Base is underway. Recommendations on telehealth coverage and payment are due to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by December 1, 2022, as required by Chapters 70 and 71 of the 2021 Laws of Maryland (LOM).

Patient Generated Health Data

Drafting has begun for a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain feedback from health systems on opportunities to use patient generated health data (PGHD), integrated into electronic health records (EHRs), to help improve care quality, outcomes, and patient engagement. The information gathered will inform strategies aimed at leveraging PGHD for clinical purposes.

Telehealth Awareness

A telehealth best practice flyer for independent behavioral health practitioners is advancing. The flyer will highlight use of audio-only and audio-visual technology to improve access to care for vulnerable populations. Guidance on telehealth implementation and meaningful use of the technology to help patients understand and manage their diagnoses will be highlighted.

Hospital Assessment

The 2022 *Hospital Health Information Technology Survey* (survey) was distributed to all acute care hospitals. The survey is conducted annually and assesses use of EHRs, health information exchange (HIE), telehealth, social determinants of health technology, electronic advance directives, and cybersecurity controls. Data collection will continue through April.

Cybersecurity

A cybersecurity flyer was developed for small practices looking to obtain new or modify existing insurance coverage. The flyer overviews common cyber threats and key considerations when evaluating cyber liability insurance. Planning is underway for a Q2 provider cybersecurity peer-to-peer learning event.

Electronic Data Interchange

Data collection of the 2022 *Electronic Data Interchange Progress Report* (report) is underway. COMAR 10.25.09, *Requirements for Payers to Designate Electronic Health Networks*, requires payers with a premium

volume of \$1 million or more to annually report census data on administrative health care transactions. Data collection will continue through May.

Preauthorization Regulations

Draft amendments to COMAR 10.25.17, *Benchmarks for Preauthorization of Health Care Services*, were finalized. The amendments modernize the regulations and are anticipated to be released for informal public comment in April.

Innovative Care Delivery Division – Melanie Cavaliere, Division Chief

Advanced Care Delivery

MDPCP Tutorial

Drafting of an educational tutorial (tutorial) on the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) is nearing completion. The web-based tutorial comprises nine standalone modules that highlight benefits to providers and consumers, care delivery requirements, and payment design. Modules support non-sequential learning based on user preference. The tutorial will be available on MHCC's website.

Practice Transformation Grant Activities

Practice transformation assessments were completed by the grantee, MedChi Care Transformation Organization, for the 48 practices in the *Advancing Practice Transformation in Ambulatory Practices* program. Development of individualized work plans for each practice is underway. Work plans are developed based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative practice transformation modules.

Practice Roundtable

Staff convened a practice health equity roundtable (roundtable) meeting. Roundtable participants discussed various health care delivery challenges in the medical neighborhood. Additional roundtable meetings are planned throughout the spring. Feedback will inform development of health equity best practice guidance materials.

Patient Reported Outcome Measures

Preparatory activities are advancing for a patient reported outcome (PRO) measures practice symposium (symposium). Participants will discuss select PRO measures, clinical data uses, practice tools and resources, and educational opportunities. The symposium will inform strategies aimed at building awareness of PRO measures and in developing practice guidance materials.

Learning Networks

Staff hosted a podiatric webinar on implementing remote patient monitoring (RPM). The webinar focused on best practices for selecting RPM technologies and navigating the payer reimbursement process. Attendees are eligible to receive continuing medical education credit.

Electronic Health Networks

The Electronic Health Network (EHN) workgroup convened to discuss the technical specification required to support Chapter 790 (House Bill 1022) and 791 (Senate Bill 748) of the 2021 LOM. The law requires MHCC certified EHNs to submit administrative health care transactions originating from a Maryland provider to CRISP for public health and clinical purposes.

Recertifications

Three EHNs renewed their MHCC certification during the first quarter. COMAR 10.25.07, [*Certification of Electronic Health Networks and Medical Care Electronic Claims Clearinghouses*](#) require payers that accept electronic health care transactions originating in Maryland to accept transactions only from MHCC certified EHNs. EHNs seeking MHCC certification must meet national standards related to privacy and confidentiality,

business practices, physical and human resources, technical performance, and security. Certification is valid for a two-year period; roughly 30 MHCC certified EHNs operate in Maryland.

Health Information Exchange Division – Alana Sutherland, Division Chief

Privacy and Security Regulations

Post & Schell, P.C (contractor) reviewed HIE Policy Board (workgroup) feedback on draft modifications proposed to sections .01 through .03 of COMAR 10.25.18, *Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information* (regulations). The workgroup convened to review sections .09, Registration and Enforcement, and .10, Requirements for Accessing, Using, or Disclosing of Data through an HIE for Secondary Use, of the regulations.

Consumer Consent Management

Technical specifications for an HIE consumer consent management utility (CMU) were reviewed with three registered HIEs. The State-Designated HIE (CRISP) is required under Chapter 798 of the 2021 LOM (House Bill 1375), *Health Information Exchanges – Electronic Health Information – Sharing and Disclosure*, to develop a CMU. The CMU will enable consumers to opt-out or back into data sharing through HIEs using a centralized web-based application.

HIE

Roundtable

A virtual national HIE and state health IT leaders event was convened in collaboration with Civitas Networks for Health and the Association for Health IT State Leaders (collaborative). Participants discussed opportunities to secure public and private funding for a health data utility (HDU) model. HDUs are non-profit organizations that operate a regulated health information exchange network that serves the whole state. HDUs facilitate exchange of clinical information, improve disease surveillance, and reduce data reporting burdens.

Registrations

Three HIEs renewed their MHCC registrations during the first quarter. COMAR 10.25.18, *Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information* require organizations that meet the definition of an HIE to register annually with MHCC. Registration is valid for one-year; roughly 12 HIEs are registered in Maryland.

Telehealth Flyer

A telehealth promotion flyer was distributed to several food and nutrition service organizations that target low-income populations. All combined, these organizations serve about 6,000 clients per week. The Area Deprivation Index developed by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health was used to identify targeted organizations.

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 newly redesigned website. Routine updates and maintenance are ongoing. The next major update is in progress and will include refreshed data for hospitals, and price transparency information. Inspection survey results for assisted living facilities with ten beds or more has been updated through August 31, 2021, the most current

data provided by OHCQ. Staff continues 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 significantly higher in March (6,789 users) compared to the previous month (5,236 users) which can be attributed to the MPT advertising campaign (discussed below in the MQR Website Promotion section). 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

Promotion of the MQR website is a Center priority. There were approximately 80 social media posts in March. Topics included Patient Safety Awareness Week, National Kidney 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.

Staff also continue to work with Maryland Public Television (MPT) on a promotional campaign to increase public awareness of the MQR website. Digital, social media, and print advertising began in early February and will continue through August. The first of three flights of the television/radio media campaign launched in late February and continued through mid-March. The ad aired during commercial breaks on various national news shows on CNN (e.g., Anderson Cooper 360), Fox Network (e.g., Fox and Friends), and MSNBC (e.g., Morning Joe). This portion of the campaign has shown early success; since the campaign began in February, the number of users to the site has increased significantly. Historically there are approximately 2,000 visitors to the site per month but there have been almost 12,000 visits to the site in February and March alone.

Hospital Quality Initiatives – Courtney Carta

Hospital Discharge Planner Webinar Series

Hospital discharge planners, social workers, and care managers are a vital part of smooth transition to the next level of care after a patient leaves the hospital. Staff plan to host a webinar geared toward care management teams for all acute care hospitals in the state. The goal of the webinar is to increase awareness of the Maryland Quality Reporting website and to demonstrate how users can navigate and access the many resources available to them. Representatives from the Department of Aging will also discuss several upcoming projects. Staff plan to begin hosting these webinars regularly to ensure that care management teams are aware of resources and can successfully use and share resources both internally and with patients and their families.

Long Term Care and Health Plan Quality Initiatives—Stacy Howes

Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey

Data for the 2021 administration are being tabulated and will be available within the next few weeks.

Health Care Worker Influenza Vaccination Survey (Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Home Health, and Hospice)

Data collection for the 2021-2022 flu season ended on March 31. Data reporting began on April 4 and will continue through May 20.

Hospice Utilization in Maryland

Hospice utilization data for FY2020 was collected by the Center for Health Care Facilities Planning and Development. The Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting calculates utilization rates from the data on an annual basis. Staff compiled a complete report regarding hospice utilization by race, age, location of services, primary diagnosis, and non-death discharges. Data were stratified by county and region of the state

and are compared to rates in prior years. The report has been posted on the Quality Reporting website and will be further updated when the 2020 Vital Statistics report is released.

Department of Aging Collaboration

CQMR staff met with staff at the Department of Aging to collaborate on methods of promoting our consumer websites. DoA staff requested copies of our Long-Term Care Planning Toolkit to distribute to Maryland Access Point (MAP) offices and requested a presentation of our Quality Reporting website. CQMR staff will present to the Long-Term Care Services and Supports team at the DoA in April.

Health Plan Quality Initiatives

The no-cost extension for our current contract with HealthData Company was approved for one more year. The RFP for a new contractor following that no-cost extension was approved and posted through the Department of Budget Management. The pre-proposal conference is scheduled for mid-April.

Outpatient Quality Initiative—Mariama Gondo

Outpatient Quality Initiative

Staff continues to prepare for the launch of the 2021 freestanding ambulatory surgical facility survey later this year

Health Disparities Initiative

In response to House Bill 309/Senate Bill 565 from the 2021 legislative session, the Commission staff worked in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHHD) to collect data and develop a report on the status of MDH activities designed to address the needs of vulnerable populations in Maryland. The report was shared with MDH for their review and to send it forward to the legislature. Staff is nearing completion of the standardized program summaries which will serve as the building blocks for establishing a catalog (inventory) of programs that serve vulnerable populations. Once all the summaries are completed, they will be forwarded back to MDH program managers for review and comment.

Staff is also working on updates to the health disparities section of the Quality Reporting website, to highlight specific conditions that disproportionately impact minority populations. The feature will include resources and information for these various conditions.

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