

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

October 2022

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

Government Relations and Special Project – Tracey DeShields

State Policy Update

MHCC staff continues to convene workgroups mandated by bills passed in the 2022 legislative session.

Mandate Studies Required under The Insurance Article

The Home Test Kits for Sexually Transmitted Diseases mandate study (*SB 634 – Health Insurance – Home Test Kits for Sexually Transmitted Diseases – Required Coverage*) and the Coverage of In Vitro Fertilization mandate study (*HB 142 – Health Insurance – Coverage of In Vitro Fertilization – Revisions*) are underway. Also underway is the study related to *SB 725/HB 974 - Physical Therapy Copays Mandate Study*. MHCC has selected vendors to conduct these three studies ([see further discussion on page 4 of this update](#)).

Workgroups Mandated by Statute

The Palliative Care Services Workgroup (*HB 378 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Palliative Care Services – Workgroup*) was established in September 2022. Monthly meetings will be scheduled over the next 12 months, and a final report with a summary of findings and recommendations will be submitted to the General Assembly by November 1, 2023 ([see page 4 of this report](#)).

The Healthcare Workforce Shortage (*HB 625 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment*) workgroup has begun meeting. Commissioner Bhandari is attending the meetings as the MHCC representative. Commissioner Bhandari with assistance from Shadae Paul (MHCC Program Manager, Government/Public Affairs & Legislative Initiatives) is leading the *Hospitals* subgroup.

The MHCC Assisted Living Programs study (*SB 531 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Assisted Living Programs – Study*) has identified a vendor to support the MHCC's study on approaches to better regulate small (9 beds or fewer) assisted living programs in Maryland. Workgroup meetings will begin within the coming weeks ([see further discussion on page 11 of this update](#)).

MHCC-related news coverage: selected articles and commentary

Health Facilities

Cision. "LHC Group and University of Maryland Medical System announce home health partnership." September 13, 2022. Yahoo.com. Available from: <https://www.yahoo.com/now/lhc-group-university-maryland-medical-110000413.html>

Famakinwa, J. "LHC Group pens joint venture agreement with University of Maryland Medical System." September 13, 2022. Home Health Care News. Available from: <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2022/09/lhc-group-pens-joint-venture-agreement-with-university-of-maryland-medical-system/>

MedStar Health. "MedStar Health earns nine "Healthiest Maryland Businesses" recognitions from the Maryland Department of Health." September 8, 2022. Cision PR Newswire. Available from: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/medstar-health-earns-nine-healthiest-maryland-businesses-recognitions-from-the-maryland-department-of-health-301620624.html>

Washington, T. "The University of Maryland Medical Center receives national recognition for outstanding clinical quality improvements." September 27, 2022. UMMS. Available from: <https://www.umms.org/ummc/news/2022/ummc-vizient-rising-star-2022>

Behavioral Health

Cision. "Maryland Department of Health awards DMI management of the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline." September 13, 2022. Yahoo.com. Available from: https://www.yahoo.com/now/maryland-department-health-awards-dmi120400908.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAABvbDEeIlgK9uRJODLfv_-6_xP3frKN1HyTm8DGA0Dtvz-JnI1T5gQPfZWboUhdyy_Ejnh3ELJBh7PYCtNMDgKDUt4Rrqq0GAO7JVcSZpOo_7RTO0KsWstvh0DW1MZw1_04n3M2xujPx88TW_A_P6wpr8TRDQY4nWR1XdOk_-Uyke

Office of Governor Larry Hogan. "Governor Hogan honors International Overdose Awareness Day and Recognizes September as Substance Use Disorder Recovery month." September 1, 2022. Southern Maryland Chronicle. Available from: <https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2022/09/01/governor-hogan-honors-international-overdose-awareness-day-and-recognizes-september-as-substance-use-disorder-recovery-month/>

Pasia, N. "Maryland looks to improve CCBHC quality and reporting measures." September 16, 2022. State of Reform. Available from: <https://stateofreform.com/news/maryland/2022/09/maryland-looks-to-improve-ccbhc-quality-and-reporting-measures/>

Telehealth

Siwicki, B. "Medical school's faculty physicians conquer the digital divide with telehealth and RPM." September 6, 2022. Healthcare IT News. Available from: <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/medical-schools-faculty-physicians-conquer-digital-divide-telehealth-and-rpm>

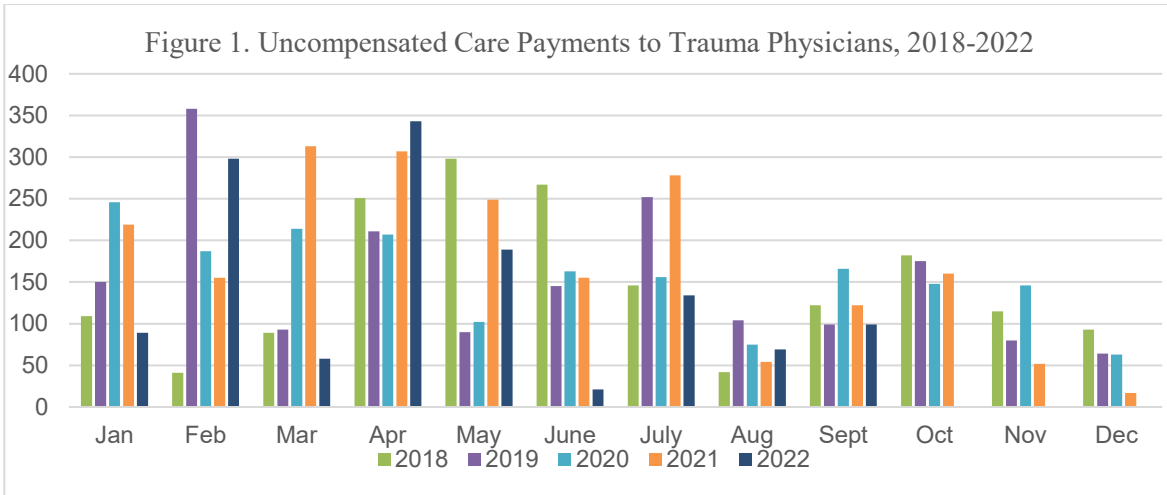
Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

Uncompensated Care Processing

Trustmark Health Benefits, the third-party administrator (TPA) for the Trauma Fund, processed \$98,652.56 uncompensated care claims through September 2022.

On-Call Reimbursements

Staff has processed the January through June 2022 On-Call applications for the twelve (12) eligible trauma and specialty centers. Total reimbursements for this period will be \$4,609,880.51. Additionally, the one-time annual stipend to Children's National Hospital Center, in the amount of \$590,000, has also been processed for disbursement.



MHCC Website: The MHCC website (<https://MHCC.maryland.gov>) had 3,835 users in September 2022.

Wear The Cost

In September 2022, 517 users visited the site.

Maryland Quality Reporting

The Maryland Quality Reporting had 4,023 users, 4,844 sessions and 6,069 pageviews in September. The average session duration was 46 seconds. Website activity metrics decreased, but the decrease was expected as the third flight of the Maryland Public Television (MPT) campaign ended in August.

The site received the most website referrals from MHCC's homepage (62%). The website also had referrals from Maryland State Archives, Maryland Access Point, Maryland Attorney General and St. Joseph's Nursing Home. During the month, 1,181 users were referred to the website from the MPT geotargeting campaign.

Facebook continues to be the primary social media referral source, accounting for 75% of all social referrals. Twitter accounted for 20% of social media referrals and the remaining 5% were referred by Screen Rant.

Figure 2: Number of Website Users per Month, October 2021 - September 2022

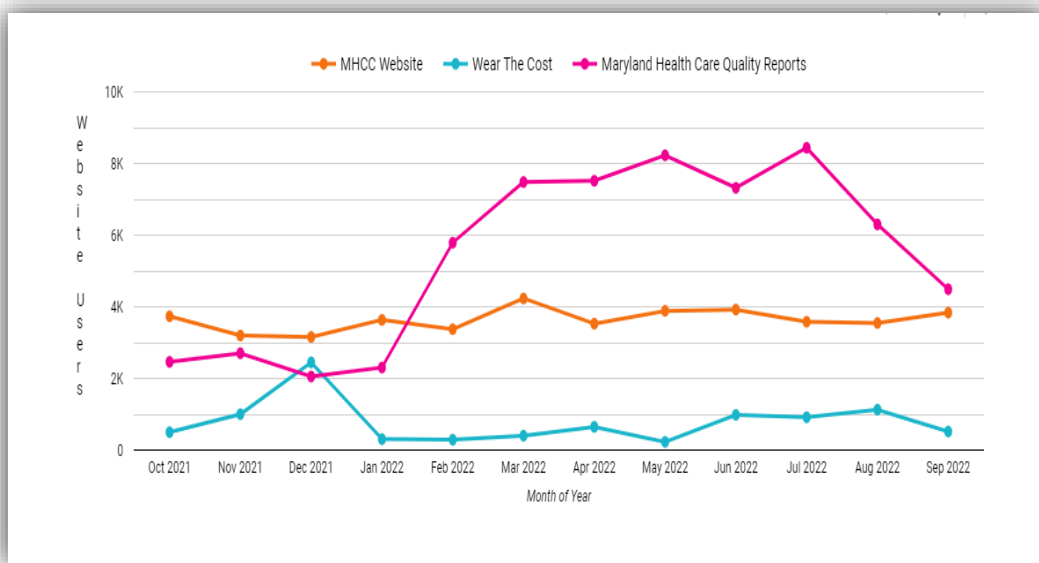


Figure 2 shows the number of website users over a 12-month period for each of the three websites maintained by Commission staff. Specific information about each website is listed above.

CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Cost and Quality Analysis – Shankar Mesta

NO UPDATE THIS MONTH

Special Projects – Janet Ennis

Requests for Mandate Analysis

Staff received formal letters of request from the Senate Finance and the House Health and Government Operations Committees to evaluate three proposed mandates that failed during this year's legislative session. Consistent with Insurance Article §15-1501, it is their practice to have MHCC assess the social, medical, and financial impacts of a proposed mandated health insurance service or coverage before approving legislation to adopt the new mandate. The requested evaluations relate to the following failed bills:

- (1) SB 634 - requiring coverage of home test kits for sexually transmitted diseases
- (2) HB 142 - revising the current coverage of in vitro fertilization (IVF); and
- (3) SB 725/HB 974 - Health Insurance - Physical Therapy - Copayments, Coinsurance, and Deductibles

MHCC staff drafted small procurement Bid Boards for actuarial consulting services to conduct each analysis, also allowed under Insurance Article §15-1501, to carry out the statutory provisions. Axene Health Partners is the successful bidder for the STD mandate evaluation and is working with carriers on survey questions, discussing the issues with the bill sponsor, and conducting a literature review for the report. BerryDunn continues similar work, along with discussions with industry stakeholders, on the analysis for out-of-pocket parity for physical therapy services, as does Lewis & Ellis on the report covering proposed revisions to the current IVF mandate. Staff anticipates that each actuarial evaluation will be completed by late Fall of 2022 and presented to the Commission for approval. All three mandate studies are due to the Legislature by the end of the year.

CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Acute Care Policy and Planning – Eileen Fleck

COMAR 10.24.10 State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: General Acute Care Hospital Services

Staff prepared an updated draft of COMAR 10.24.10 for posting on the MHCC website for informal review and comment. Staff will present an overview of the changes in this draft update of the regulations at the October Commission meeting.

Long-Term Care Policy and Planning – Linda Cole

Palliative Care Services Work Group

2022 legislation, HB 378, requires that the Commission convene a work group of interested stakeholders to study palliative care services and make recommendations to improve palliative care services in the State:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2022RS/bills/hb/hb0378t.pdf>

The first meeting of the Work Group was held on September 21, 2022. Staff presented a review of the charge and an overview of previous work that MHCC has done on palliative care. The initial meeting was focused on data collection needed to assess the state of palliative care services in Maryland, palliative care service capacity, and a perspective on geographic areas where significant gaps in palliative care services may exist. Materials are posted at:

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/workgroups_palliative_care_services.aspx

Hospice Work Group

The staff has been working on a response to a "Talking Points" memorandum developed by the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland and given to MHCC staff after the first meeting of this Work Group in July.

Nursing Home Bed Occupancy and Medicaid Participation

COMAR 10.24.20 requires the Commission to publish annual nursing home bed occupancy and required Medicaid participation rates used in CON regulation. This data, derived from the FY 2020 Long Term Care Survey, was published in the September 9, 2022 issue of the *Maryland Register* and posted on the Commission's website at:

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_ltc/hcfs_ltc.aspx

Home Health Agency Services

To clarify the differences between home health agencies, which are CON-regulated, and residential service agencies, which are not CON-regulated, staff from the Centers for Quality Reporting and Health Care Facility Planning and Development, collaborated in the development of a Fact Sheet. MHCC staff coordinated with the MDH Office of Health Care Quality in preparing this material. Refer to the MHCC website "Starting a Home Care Business in Maryland"

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_homehealth/hcfs_homehealth.aspx and to the fact sheet

https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_homehealth/documents/RSA_fact_sheet_provider.pdf

FY 2021 Long Term Care Survey:

Staff is merging the FY 2021 Medicaid Cost Report data set with the FY 2021 MHCC Long Term Care Survey data set to create the final data set used in development of the public use data set for nursing home services and used as a 2021 reference data in regulatory oversight activities of MHCC and reports addressing nursing home services.

Certificate of Need ("CON") – Wynnee Hawk

CON's Approved

Adventist Home Health Services, Inc., Docket No. 22-06-2456

Addition of Carroll County to the authorized service area of this existing home health agency.

Approved Cost: \$94,345

CareNet Health Systems and Services, Inc., d/b/a Lorien Health Systems-Mt. Airy - Docket No. 22-06-2457

Establishment of a home health agency authorized to serve Carroll County.

Approved Cost: \$230,000

CON's Relinquished

Atlantic General Surgical Center – (Worcester County) – Docket No. 18-23-2321

Establishment of an ambulatory surgical facility in Ocean Pines. (Note: The two-operating room facility was authorized prior to the changes in Maryland law that reset the threshold for ASF CON requirements from two to three operating rooms.)

CON Letters of Intent

Hope Health Systems, Inc. – (Baltimore County)

Establish a 16-bed child/adolescent special psychiatric hospital to be located at 1726 Whitehead Road in Woodlawn.

CON Applications Filed

Board of Child Care of the United Methodist Church, Inc. (Baltimore County) – Matter No. 22-03-2460

Establish a four-bed residential treatment center for the purpose of establishing and operating an Adolescent Hospital Overstay Program. The program will be in an existing building located at 3300 Gaither Road.
Project Cost Estimate: \$922,238

Request for a Change in an Approved CON Filed

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center – (Montgomery County) – Docket No. 20-15-2443

An increase in the approved project cost from \$180,011,359 to \$247,657,497

Determinations of Coverage

• **Ambulatory Surgery Centers**

ASC Development Company, LLC – (Howard County)

Renovations of an existing ambulatory surgery center (ASC) to remove one of two procedure rooms and add clean and soiled utility rooms and a biohazard disposal room.

SurgCenter of the Potomac, LLC – (Montgomery County)

Addition of Nadya Clarke, M.D, a plastic surgeon, to the practitioner staff of this ASC and the addition of plastic surgery procedures as a surgical specialty.

VSA Surgery Center of Abingdon, LLC – (Harford County)

Establish an ASC with two non-sterile procedure rooms to be located at 3435 Box Hill Corporate Center Drive, Suite H, in Abingdon

• **Acquisition/Change of Ownership**

Chesapeake Shores – (St. Mary's County)

Acquisition of a comprehensive care facility (CCF). Currently the real property, bed rights and operations of the facility are owned by LP Lexington, LLC and all will transfer to Lexington Park MD Opco LLC.
Purchase Price: \$18,842,982.50

Coffman Nursing Home – (Washington County)

Acquisition of a CCF. Currently the real property, bed rights and operations of the facility are owned by Coffman Nursing Home and will be transferred to Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, Inc.
Purchase Price: \$0

Signature Healthcare at Mallard Bay – (Dorchester County)

Acquisition of a CCF. Currently the real property and bed rights are owned by CSE Cambridge LLC and will be transferred to Cambridge MD Propco LLC. The operations of the facility are currently owned by LP Cambridge LLC and will transfer to Cambridge MD Opco LLC.
Purchase Price: \$24,119,017.50

Ridgeway Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center – (Baltimore County)

Acquisition of a CCF. Currently the real property is owned by Burleigh Enterprises Limited Partnership and will transfer to RWM REALTY LLC. The bed rights and operations of the facility are currently owned by Ridgeway Manor Inc. and will transfer to RWM Operations, LLC.
Purchase Price: \$7,300,000

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

Larkin Chase Center – (Prince George's County)

Temporary delicensure of this CCF.

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

Signature Healthcare at Mallard (Dorchester County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: CSE Cambridge, LLC

Owner of bed rights: CSE Cambridge, LLC

Operator: LP Cambridge, LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: Cambridge MD Propco LLC

Owner of bed rights: Cambridge MD Propco LLC

Operator: Cambridge MD Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$24,119,018

Additional information: The CCF is located at 520 Glenburn Avenue in Cambridge. The facility currently has an average 3 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 of the transaction is November 1, 2022.

Commission staff notes that other CCFs owned or operated by the applicant (Yecheil Hirth, Key Health Management) have below average ratings (composite scores below three stars out of five) on the CMS Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Quality Rating System¹. Although the acquiring entity has met the notification requirements for an acquisition, it is notable that the track record of the person acquiring 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)].

Chesapeake Shores (St. Mary's County)

Transaction: Acquisition of assets

CURRENT

Owner of the real property: LP Lexington, LLC

Owner of bed rights: LP Lexington, LLC

Operator: LP Lexington, LLC

POST-TRANSACTION

Owner of the real property: Lexington Park MD Opco LLC

Owner of bed rights: Lexington Park MD Opco LLC

Operator: Lexington Park MD Opco LLC

Purchase price: \$18,842,983

Additional information: The CCF is located at 21412 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. The facility currently has an average 3 out of 5-star rating on the CMS Nursing Home Compare website. There are no other CCFs owned or operated by Moishe Mayer, the purchaser. The facility does not have an MOU with Medicaid. The anticipated closing date of the transaction was October 1, 2022.

¹ The rating scores were accessed on September 2, 2022, from the CMS Nursing Home Compare website. The data had been last updated on August 31, 2022.

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION & INNOVATIVE CARE DELIVERY

Health Information Technology Division – Nikki Majewski, Division Chief

Telehealth Study

Drafting of the telehealth recommendations is underway using findings from the study categories (claims analyses, consumer interviews, focus groups, literature review, and provider survey). The National Opinion Research Center is drafting technical findings report. The Maryland Insurance Administration completed a draft report required by the *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021* that addresses the impact of telehealth on network adequacy. A final report with proposed recommendations on telehealth coverage and payment is due to the Senate Finance Committee (SFC) and the House Health and Government Operations (HGO) Committee by December 1, 2022.

Interstate Telehealth Expansion Study

Stakeholder outreach is underway for an Interstate Telehealth Workgroup (ITW) that will convene during the first quarter of 2023. The ITW will deliberate on the benefits, risks, opportunities, and barriers to interstate telehealth and is part of a study requested by the HGO Committee. Recommendations for expanding interstate telehealth are due to the HGO Committee by December 1, 2023.

Prescription Drug Reporting

The Noncontrolled Prescription Drug Workgroup (non-CDS workgroup) convened to discuss technical processes for reporting dispensed prescription drug information required by Chapter 296/House Bill 1127, *Public Health – State Designated Exchange – Health Data Utility* of the 2022 laws of Maryland (LOM). Dispensers are required to electronically report non-CDS information to CRISP for purposes of care coordination and treatment. The non-CDS workgroup is anticipated to meet again prior to yearend.

Health Data Utility Framework

The Health Data Utility (HDU) Advisory Council (Council) convened to discuss key components of an HDU. The Council consists of around 14 individuals from health information exchange organizations (HIEs) across the nation that support regional and state-level exchange through public and private funding models. Civitas Networks for Health was competitively selected to develop an HDU framework in Maryland to serve as a catalyst to improve health care delivery and public health that will serve as a model for other states.

HIE Regulations

A review of draft revisions to COMAR 10.25.18, *Health Information Exchanges: Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information* (regulations) by the Commission's Assistant Attorney General is advancing. Post & Schell, P.C (P&S) was competitively selected in 2020 to modernize the regulations. The Board of Public Works approved a P&S contract modification at its September 14th meeting. The modification will fund the development of draft regulations that support HIE legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2021 and 2022.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Environmental Scan

Data analysis is progressing on responses to the *FQHC Health IT Questionnaire* (questionnaire). The questionnaire inquired about FQHCs' use of health IT. Information from the questionnaire will help inform planning efforts to increase the use of health IT in care delivery. A findings summary is planned for release in November.

Health Care Data Breach Analysis

The staff completed an information brief based on findings from an analysis of health care data breaches affecting 500 or more individuals from 2018-2021. The brief compares trends in breaches for the nation with a cohort of seven states, including Maryland. Data on breach type, records compromised, and the reporting entity was obtained from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.

Electronic Data Interchange

Drafting of a findings summary from the 2022 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Progress Report (report) is underway. Payers with annual premiums exceeding \$1 million are required by COMAR 10.25.09, *Requirements for Payers to Designate Electronic Health Networks*, to submit a census report on HIPAA administrative transactions to MHCC annually. A findings summary is targeted for release in October.

Cybersecurity

Revisions to the *Cybersecurity Preparedness Self-Assessment Questionnaire* (questionnaire) was finalized; stakeholder vetting of the draft questionnaire is underway. The questionnaire is intended for use by small practices to help identify, assess, and respond to cyber risk. Select elements from the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework are included in the questionnaire. Stakeholder feedback will be considered in November; the questionnaire is slated for release in December.

Nursing Home Health IT Questionnaire

A review of responses to the annual Long Term Care Health IT Questionnaire (questionnaire) is proceeding. Nearly all (98 percent) of nursing homes completed the questionnaire. An analysis of the data is anticipated to begin in November; findings will inform health IT diffusion strategies.

Innovative Care Delivery Division – Melanie Cavaliere, Division Chief

Advanced Care Delivery

Maryland Primary Care Program Advisory Council

The Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) Advisory Council (Council) convened in September to discuss approaches for measuring primary care investment, a multi-payer data sharing initiative, and Track 3 implementation. The Council also discussed MHCC's Primary Care Workgroup and experiences of other states working to increase primary care investment.

Primary Care Workgroup

The Primary Care Workgroup (Workgroup) members were notified of their appointment in September. Planning activities are underway to convene the Workgroup in November. Chapter 667 (Senate Bill 734) 2022 Laws of Maryland, *Maryland Health Care Commission – Primary Care Report and Workgroup*, requires MHCC to annually study primary care investments and make recommendations based on its findings that include quality and access to primary care services, among other things. MHCC received responses for a Request for Proposals (not to exceed \$50,000) to identify a contractor that can develop a briefing document and workplan to support Workgroup activities. Freedman HealthCare is the successful contractor.

Practice Transformation Grant Activities

Practice transformation training in collaboration with MedChi Care Transformation Organization (CTO) are underway for about 44 practices in the *Advancing Practice Transformation in Ambulatory Practices* program. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative practice transformation modules provide the foundation for the training. Recruitment by the CTO for Round 2 is progressing; the CTO plans to provide transformation support for up to 25 practices.

Practice Roundtable

Planning continues for a practice health equity symposium (symposium), which is targeted to occur during the first quarter of 2023. Topics under consideration include identifying social resources for patients, patterns of need in the community, and community-based organizations for referrals. Participants of the practice health equity roundtable are anticipated to finalize the symposium agenda in December.

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. Hospice data was recently refreshed. Additional enhancements and updated features are underway and routine updates and maintenance are ongoing. 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 lower in September (4,023 users) compared to August (5,576 users). However, the number of users continues to remain higher than usual because of 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 90 social media posts in September. Topics included National Assisted Living Week, Hispanic Heritage Month, World Heart Day, 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 December. Staff created a new video geared toward adult medical day care which is now being used on various media channels. 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; since February there have been more than 48,000 visits to the site, or an average of approximately 4,000 users per month.

Hospital Quality Initiatives – Courtney Carta

Workplace Violence Public Awareness Campaign

SB700 requires the Maryland Department of Health to develop a public awareness campaign and dissemination plan to prevent workplace violence in healthcare settings. Dr. Blair Eig is Chair of the Workgroup and Theresa Lee is Vice Chair. The first meeting was held in late September and was very successful. Presentations included the state of workplace violence in healthcare along with individual presentations from the Maryland Hospital Association, Maryland Nursing Association, and MedStar Health. The next meeting is scheduled for late October.

Healthcare Associated Infections

Healthcare associated infections both nationally and in Maryland have increased as a result of staffing shortages and other pandemic-related challenges. Staff is collaborating with the Maryland Department of Health's HAI Advisory Committee to work on the State HAI Improvement Plan. The plan will help guide the State's activities and quality improvement efforts in the coming years.

Long Term Care and Health Plan Quality Initiatives—Stacy Howes

Nursing Home Family Experience of Care Survey

For the 2022 survey, all nursing homes have submitted their resident lists, and the contractor is preparing to send invitation packets to loved ones of nursing home residents. The current contractor, Market Decisions Research, is in their final year of the contract. A new RFP has been submitted to procurement.

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

Data collection for the 2022-2023 flu season is open for all long-term care facilities.

Assisted Living Quality Analysis SB531

SB531 requires the MHCC to conduct an analysis of the quality of care in assisted living (AL) facilities with nine or fewer beds. The contractor has been working with staff to gather deficiencies data, conduct interviews with interested parties, and to complete an environmental scan. Workgroup members have been identified, and the first meeting will be scheduled soon.

Health Plan Quality Initiatives

2021 data will be available on the Quality Reporting website in the next month.

Collaboration with Center for Health Facilities and Planning

Staff are actively assisting with the Palliative Care Workgroup. Staff have assisted with beginning the process of assembling the workgroup. Staff are actively assisting with the Hospice Workgroup by providing information about quality measures and calculating a proposed methodology for determining quality.

Outpatient Quality Initiative—Mariama Gondo

Outpatient Quality Initiative

In August, staff launched the 2021 enhanced freestanding ambulatory surgical facility (FASF) survey. The FASF survey is being administered to 347 facilities that were reported as operational in the calendar year 2021. To date 285 of those facilities have started their survey with 189 of that 285 completed and submitted their survey. The survey closes October 7, 2022.

Health Equity Initiative

Staff continues to work on building the health equity inventory that stems from the work of the 2021 House Bill 309/Senate Bill 565. The inventory will allow consumers to search by various variables (jurisdictions, types of services, etc.) to find which services support vulnerable populations across the state.