

RMC Health Care Committee Meeting  
September 6, 2016  
Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis  
Minutes

Participants: Tom McLoughlin, Chair; Charlotte Davis, Rural Maryland Council; Lara Wilson, Maryland Rural Health Association; Kerry Palakanis, Crisfield Clinic; Justine Springer, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Dr. David Pruitt, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Holly Ireland, Mid-Shore Behavioral Health; Karen Kverno, Johns Hopkins University; Meredith Donaho, Rural Maryland Council

Guest Speakers: Walter Sallee, Maryland State Department of Education; Alicia Mezou, Maryland State Department of Education

The meeting convened at approximately 1:15 pm.

Chairman McLoughlin called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

I Action on Minutes

The minutes from the June 7, 2016 meeting were presented for review. Dr. Pruitt requested that the name Dr. Wolf be revised correctly to Dr. Gloff. No other comments or suggestions were made. Upon Motion properly made and seconded, the minutes were accepted as amended.

II Department of Education Interaction with School Based Health Center Programs Presentation

Mr. Walter Sallee, Health Care Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education, and Ms. Alicia Mezou, School Health Services, Maryland State Department of Education, provided an overview of the Maryland School Based Health Centers Program. It was explained that SBHCs are health centers located in schools or on school campuses and provide onsite comprehensive preventive and primary health services. Staffed by professionals with prescriptive authority, the centers provide primary care services related to lab work, diagnosis, dental, psychiatric, and school safety.

Following their presentations, there was extended discussion., Included among the topics addressed was the awareness that the local health department or the local board of education is usually the service provider. However, the service delivery model varies across the state, and is sometimes shared between the local health department and local school board. Thirteen programs in Maryland are currently offered by the local board of education, and in one jurisdiction it is provided by the local hospital. Also mentioned was the role of School Counselors in areas where no SBHC is located.

Responding to another question regarding locations, it was pointed out that SBHC contacts are listed on the website: [www.marylandsbhc.org](http://www.marylandsbhc.org). Additional information can be obtained from the Maryland Assembly of School Based Health Centers, a state agency representing SBHCs, at its website: <http://masbhc.org/>.

In summation, Ms. Mezou and Mr. Sallee offered their assistance in furthering the Committee's efforts and suggested that its members consider attendance at future interdisciplinary meetings for school based clinics. Also they will make available additional data related to SBHC's activities in mental health care services and the different levels provided. Upon receipt of the data, it will be presented as an agenda item and reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

After the question and answer session concluded, Ms. Mezu and Mr. Sallee were thanked for their presentations and excused from the balance of the meeting.

#### III MAERDAF and RMPIF Grant Update

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council, provided an update concerning the FY17 MAERDAF and RMPIF grant programs. MAERDAF received a total of ninety-five applications requesting \$2,026,212.28 in funds; \$555,917 in funds were available. Forty-two organizations received funding, ten of the organizations were health care, including: Allegany Right; Asian American Center of Frederick; Chesterwye Center, Inc.; Compass Hospice Regional; Crossroads Community, Inc.; Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center; For All Seasons, Inc.; MAC, Inc.; MedStar St. Mary's Hospital; and, Women Supporting Women. Forty-three RMPIF applications have been received, including seventeen health care focused applications. The RMPIF applications are currently in the review process.

#### IV State Office of Rural Health's Maryland Rural Health Plan Update

Lara Wilson provided an update on the Maryland Rural Health Plan reporting that her agency, MRHA, has contracted with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to accept that responsibility. She also advised that MRHA has submitted a proposal for additional funding to RMC, to create a more robust rural health plan by conducting rural listening sessions across the state. That proposal will be presented to the RMC Executive Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

#### V Maryland Health Care Commission's Work Group on Rural Health Care Delivery Update

It was reported that the Maryland Health Care Commission Work Group convened a meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss health care delivery, specifically focused on the five Mid Shore Counties of the Eastern Shore. Senate Bill 707 – Freestanding Medical Facilities, was the major focus of the meeting including the concept of converting underutilized hospitals to free-standing medical facilities as well as barriers to health care access in rural communities, specifically transportation.

#### VI Other Issues

The Chair reported that the RMC Health Care Committee should be completing its activities by December 2016. He summarized Committee's deliberations since its first meeting in March 2015, its identification of the three short term objectives and the efforts developed to address them. He advised that he will draft a final report which will be shared for further input from Committee members prior to the November meeting; then edited for final review at the November meeting and the final report presented at the Committee's December meeting. Thereafter, the formal report will be presented to the Executive Board at its Annual Meeting in December.

#### VII Adjourn

There being no further business to be brought to the Committee's attention, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:05 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 1pm-3pm, via Conference Call.