



RMC Health Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:00 am – 11:00 am
Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chair Sara Seitz, Kat Rodgers, Jackie Ward, Christine Karayinopulos, Karan Kverno, Noelle Flaherty
RMC staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D’Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Chair Sara Seitz welcomed the committee and initiated the meeting at 10:02 am.

Ms. Seitz reviewed the vision and mission statement of the committee, and requested approval of the November 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Noelle Flaherty motioned to approve the minutes; Kat Rodgers seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Seitz reviewed 2025 legislation relevant to the general scope of health. This includes the following, in which RMC will be supporting:

- i. HB869 - Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2025
 - a. Designed to protect and expand access to health services
- ii. HB1199 – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians
 - a. Aims to make it easier for physicians trained in other countries to get licensed and practice medicine in the U.S.
- iii. HB19/SB216 Health Occupations – Nursing – Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension (Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025)
 - a. Focuses on supporting nurses by improving loan repayment programs and extending nursing opportunities/ programs

Ms. Seitz then opened the floor for additional bills. Jackie Ward encouraged members to investigate Maryland Gender Affirming Care through the Maryland Department of Health, in addition to recent proposed mental health bills. Committee members intend to follow up on specific findings.

Ms. Seitz moved the meeting focus to FY2026 RMPIF Grant Opportunities – Rural Health. Participants reviewed the guidelines and criteria from FY2025. Committee members suggested the following amendments and additions:

- Kat Rodgers proposed to include an additional section to target “Maternal and Child Health.” This portion would umbrella research and treatment of health impacts on populations, and in particular, before, during, and after pregnancy, and support of school-based access to care.
- Ms. Seitz proposed to expand on the “Oral and dental health” section to include support and awareness of around the importance of establishing a dental home.
- Noelle Flaherty proposed to emphasize on the inclusion of Peer Recovery Specialists & Community Health Workers to the “Recruitment and retention of health care and public health professionals” section.
- The committee proposed to include tele pharmacy under the “Improving access to health and medical/ dental/ behavioral health care” portion.

Program Administrator Megan D’Arcy opened the floor and requested any additional comments be submitted to RMC staff by April 2025 to be finalized.

The committee reviewed other business and upcoming events, including:

- a. RMC Legislative Luncheon and Quarterly Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 26, 2025
- b. MRHA Legislative Lunch, Thursday, February 27, 2025
- c. Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) - Appalachian Telehealth Best Practices Convening Survey
- d. Mid-Atlantic Rural Health Innovation Symposium, Friday, May 16, 2025

Kat Rodgers motioned to adjourn; Jackie Ward seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.