

# **Draft-13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission**

**March 2, 2007**

**Via Teleconference with the Public Having Access to the Call**

Acting Chair Alice Burton called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Commissioners Jude Boyer-Patrick, M.D., Kendall Hunter, John Hurson, Leon Kaplan, and Karla Ruhe Roskos also were present. Commissioners Yvette Benjamin, Jorge Calderon, M.D., Donald Roane, M.D. and Joseph Ross were excused.

## **HOUSE BILL 979**

Acting Executive Director Grace Zaczek summarized pending House Bill 979 “Regional Health Data Exchange.” The bill directs the Commission to use its \$1.7 Million funding for Information Technology to support a regional health data exchange. The Commission would be required to develop criteria for organizations to qualify as a regional health data exchange, develop and administer a grant program for the exchange.

Commissioner Hurson recommended that the Commission support the concept of the regional health data exchange. Acting Chair Burton recommended supporting the bill with amendments which would eliminate the Commission from the bill. Commissioner Hurson made a motion that the Commission support House Bill 979 with the amendments to eliminate the Commission from the bill and to leave the Commission’s Information Technology funding intact to use at the Commission’s discretion. Commissioner Kaplan seconded the motion which was approved through a voice vote of all the Commissioners present on the call.

Acting Chair Burton accepted Commissioner’s Hurson’s offer to testify on behalf of the Commission at the bill’s hearing.

## **EMERGENCY FUNDING PROCEDURE**

Commissioner Roskos summarized the draft procedure for considering emergency funding requests from eligible Community Health Resources (CHR). Commissioner Hurson noted that the document describes an excellent procedure. Commissioners Hurson and Roskos recommended that CHRs which have a current Commission grant could not divert funds from that grant for “emergency” use. Commissioner Hurson recommended that a CHR could still apply for a grant in a scheduled call for proposals in the same year in which the CHR has received emergency funding.

Commissioner Hunter recommended establishing regulations to govern the emergency funding process which will define the situations that qualify as “emergencies.” Acting Chair Burton recommended that “unanticipated” be included in the definition of an emergency.

Commissioner Roskos moved and Commissioner Hunter seconded a motion that the Commission create a process to consider and award grants for “emergency funding” requests. The motion was approved by voice vote of all the Commissioners present on the call.

Acting Chair Burton opened the call to any members of the public listening to the call. Howard Cohen of People’s Community Health Center asked if emergency funds were a loan that would have to be repaid. Acting Chair Burton and Commissioner Roskos replied that awarded funds would be grants which didn’t have to be repaid.

Salliann Alborn, Maryland Community Health Integrated Partnership stated that HRSA is holding an “All Grantees” meeting concerning Information Technology (IT) on April 16th, so no Federally Qualified Health Center staff would be able to attend the Commission’s meeting to discuss IT which is scheduled for that day. The Commissioners agreed to consider dates for re-scheduling the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Acting Chair Burton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Roskos made and Commissioner Kaplan seconded the motion. Acting Chair Burton declared the teleconference meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.