

**Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) for Physicians and
Physician Assistants Workgroup**

Virtual Meeting

September 10, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Approved Minutes

Attendees

Delegate Erek L. Barron, Erin Dorrien, Matthew Dudzic, Gene Ransom, Donna Parker, Elizabeth Vaidya, Kimberly Hiner, Stacey Little, Richard Rohrs, Roy Ziegelstein

MDH Staff

Sara Seitz
Sadé Diggs
Alphius Sesay

Additional Attendees

Hannah Friedman-Bell, Health Services Cost Review Commission
Susan Lawrence, Government Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)
Lindsay Rowe, Department of Legislative Services
Jason Caplan, MDH Office of Governmental Affairs
Kelly Kyser, MedStar Emergency Physicians
June Chung, Department of Legislative Services
Karin Weaver, MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital
Steve Wise attending on behalf of Med Chi and MD Academy of Family Physicians
Jane Krienke, Maryland Hospital Association
Shadae Paul, Paul, Maryland Health Care Commission
Kelly Schutz, MedStar Emergency Physicians

Notes

- I. **Meeting Opening and Welcome/ Roll Call:** The virtual meeting was called to order (10:02 a.m.) by Sara Seitz who provided roll call and requested guests sign in to the virtual meeting via the chat function.

- II. **Opening Business/ Remarks**
 - **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the most recent meetings, July 16, 2021 (Main Workgroup), June 21, 2021 (Data and Its Use Subgroup), July 1, 2021 (Sustainable Funding Structure Subgroup), August 10, 2021 (Student Incentives Subgroup) was distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed by attendees. No corrections were recommended. All minutes were approved as distributed.

- **MLARP Operational Updates:** Status update provided regarding the program's current operations. Details regarding Fiscal Year 2022 awardee payments were shared. Current program projects were provided that included the Annual Performance Report that is due to the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), retention survey project to be undertaken, and the profiling and analysis of applicant/awardee data.

III. General Assembly Report: Draft Review

- A review of the mandated workgroup activities was provided along with the proposed timeline for all presentations, discussions, and post-meeting action steps.
- The Workgroup walked through a detailed review of the General Assembly Report draft and provided discussion for each recommendation included in the report.
 - Discussion included how the state has relied solely on the Board of Physicians to run this program and is the bare minimum that a state should be doing in health care workforce development.
 - Recommendations should highlight where the state should be investing and to ensure that the office has the resources needed administratively. Remove discretionary component in the recommendations to help to have a stable base for the program.
 - State funds are the most important and should be the driver to sustainable solid stable base for loan repayment
 - Discretionary language should be removed from the current legislative language of making an ongoing state commitment, adding information about bridge funding as we determine what the appropriate level of funding is
 - Should suggest to other boards that they use their licensing funds to create a loan repayment for their health professions.
- Revisions to include:
 - Add further background regarding the Total Cost of Care alternative payment model
 - Add Michigan interest rate program as a student incentives example
 - Ensure facility rate assessment is included as a Tier 2 funding recommendation
 - Where appropriate, include stronger verbiage regarding state responsibility to support healthcare workforce development efforts
 - Include cap for Board of Physicians contribution in recommendation 2, whether a firm dollar amount or percentage
 - Determine whether there is space to suggest/mandate other Boards explore data/resources for loan repayment – build in or add as a separate recommendation
 - Variety of word choice examples
 - Recommendation 9/10: Broaden focus of advisory committee beyond MLARP to include workforce development more broadly

- Motion to approve the report, with administrative updates to be made as discussed:
 - First: Gene Ransom
 - Second: Erin Dorrien
- Passed with no additional comment or opposition.

IV. Next Steps

- Suggestion provided to consider including letters of support to be submitted with the General Assembly report that may be helpful. Potentially 4 to 5 letters of support could be included.
- An updated draft of revisions will be sent to the Workgroup members for their final comments by September 30
- Acceptance of revisions/ final membership comment will be requested by the week of October 11
- Workgroup members noted agreement in keeping the final Workgroup meeting, scheduled for November 12, for a review of the Workgroup's work and a status update regarding submission of the General Assembly Final Report
- The next meeting will be held on 11/12/2021 at 10:00 am.

V. Open Discussion with Public Comment: No guests provided comment during the time dedicated for this purpose.

VI. Adjournment: (11:32 a.m.)