

**34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the**  
**Maryland Community Health Resources Commission**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2009**  
**House of Delegate Building, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD**  
**Room 170**  
**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

- Chairman Hurson called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.
- Commissioners John Hurson, Ken Hunter, Mark Li, Margaret Murray, Jude Patrick-Boyer, Karla Roskos, Nelson Sabatini, Enrique Martinez-Vidal and AAG Mel Franklin, were present.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

- Chairman Hurson asked for a motion to approve the June 18, 2009 meeting minutes. The motion made by Commissioner Roskos and seconded by Commissioner Hunter was approved through a unanimous voice vote of the Commissioners present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

- Nelson Sabatini is the former Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH) under Governor William Donald Schafer and Governor Robert L. Ehrlich. Secretary Sabatini has served under both Democrat and Republican Governors, and he is considered to be an expert on Maryland health care. Chairman Hurson believes that Secretary Sabatini's expertise will be very valuable to the Commission.
- Dr. Mark Li a resident of Montgomery County and an expert in Hepatitis. He is also a practicing physician. He received his BA from University California Berkley.
- Enrique Martinez-Vidal is from Academy Health. In the 1990's he was a legislative analyst for the House of Delegates, and former staff to the Maryland Health Care Commission.

**COMMENTS BY THE NEW COMMISSIONERS**

- Commissioner Sabatini feels that of the three major healthcare commissions in the department this was the one that was the most intriguing.
- About six years ago, Commissioner Li felt that he should give back to his community, and so he became involved, and is honored to serve on the Commission.
- Commissioner Martinez-Vidal comes from AcademyHealth, which is a non-profit organization in Washington, DC. He also serves as the Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives (SCI) program which works with state policy leaders to help develop strategies to improve insurance coverage and generate systematic health care reform.

## **COMMENTS BY THE COMMISSIONERS**

- Chairman Hurson's main goal is to talk about the funding sources for the Commission given the economic crisis confronting the state and nation. The Commission is funded primarily through a portion of premium taxes of CareFirst and Kaiser Permanente. The statute that created this Commission dictates how those funds are spent. The statute also requires that both of those organizations be represented on the Commission.
- The Commission will continue to work to develop high-quality grant projects, and demonstrate the ongoing importance of community health resources in the state.

## **GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

- Mark Luckner presented the Master Grantee List to the Commission, and this presentation led the Commission to direct staff to review and evaluate the performance of grantees.
- Commissioner Roskos expressed doubts over the "integrity" of the data reported by grantees. Commission staff will examine the data reported by the grantees to the Commission and report back to the Commission.
- The Commission discussed the potential areas of focus for the future RFP's of the Commission. Staff advised the Commission of the Governor's interest in the areas of infant mortality, drug treatment, and health information technology.
- Commissioner Hunter indicated that he has been involved in the health information technology projects that the Commission has supported, and he made the Commission aware of his presentation before the legislative Joint Committee on Information Technology and Biotechnology in early November.
- Commissioner Roskos suggested that current grants that are deemed to be successful by the Commission should be afforded the opportunity to be renewed, pending the availability of the Commission's funds.
- Chairman Hurson wants to do an educational presentation for the community, to provide knowledge about the Commission and how to apply for grants.

## **GRANT MODIFICATIONS**

- Baltimore Medical System requested for a one-year extension and change in the project scope for its Commission IT grant. Andrew Sears, IT consultant retained by the Commission, advised that BMS still needs to submit to the Commission a modified budget and project timeline, and staff will contact BMS to this end. (The Commission voted *not* to approve this modification at this time, until the supporting documents are provided by BMS).
- Junction, Inc. requested an extension, which staff advised was a "non-controversial" request. (The Commission voted to approve this modification).

- Community Health Integrated Partnership requested for an extension, which staff advised was a “non-controversial” request. (The Commission voted to approve this modification).
- Union Memorial Hospital (BOOP) requested a ten-month extension, which staff advised was a “non-controversial” request. (The Commission voted to approve this modification).
- Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc. requested to extend the grant period and scope of its ER Diversion grant. (Commission voted not to approve this modification).
- Baltimore City Health Department (BSAS) requested to extend the patient population for services supported by the Commission’s grant. (Commission voted to provide a conditional approval for this modification).
- Health Partners, Inc. requested a six-month extension, which staff advised was a “non-controversial” request. (The Commission voted to approve this modification.)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Commission directed the Commission staff to examine the grantees whose payment schedules are “off-schedule”. Mark Luckner will work with AAG Franklin to determine the status of these grants.
- The Commission directed Commission staff to review the status of the fund balance of the Commission for FY 2010, and report back to the Commission.
- The Commission directed Commission staff to work with BMS and Chase Brexton to re-develop the grant modification requests that were submitted but not approved by the Commissioners at today’s meeting.
- The Commission directed staff to review the data in the grantees’ deliverable reports (ie, the number of patients seen) that has been presented in the Master Grantee list.
- In addition to the analysis of the grantees’ payment schedules, Commission staff will review the current process by which invoices are submitted, approved, and paid by the Commission.
- The Commission directed staff to develop and execute an active grant monitoring system and execute site visits on an ongoing basis.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Chairman Hurson adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010, in Annapolis, Maryland from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM.