







# Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

Study of  
School-Based Health Centers

February 5, 2007



# Today's Objectives

-  Review the Commission's charge
  -  Reach consensus on study goals and objectives
  -  Determine the process and timeline for commissioning the study
- 



# MCHRC Charge

"Study SBHC funding and access issues including:

(i) Reimbursement ... by MCOs, insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and HMOs; and

(ii) Methods to expand SBHCs to provide primary care services.

§19-2109(a)(15)(i-ii)



## MCHRC Charge (cont.)

- (d)(2) The Commission shall, in conducting the SBHC study ... identify the following:
- (i) A fee schedule for individuals accessing a school-based community health center;
  - (ii) Reimbursement rates to be paid by MCOs and insurers, nonprofit health services plans, and HMOs to the school-based community health center;



## MCHRC Charge (cont.)

(iii) Insurance payments owed to school-based community health centers and how much of the payments should be collected to offset any State subsidy;

(iv) Barriers to reimbursement of licensed health care providers who provide services at SBHCs, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants;



## MCHRC Charge (cont.)

- (v) A system of registering individuals who receive health care services from a school-based community health center that requires an individual to pay premiums and sliding scale fees; and
- (vi) Security measures to be used by school-based community health centers.

§19-2109(d)(2)(i-vi)



## MCHRC Charge (cont.)

(17) Evaluate the feasibility of extending liability protection under the Maryland Tort Claims Act to health care practitioners who contract directly with a CHR that is also a Maryland qualified health center or a SBHC.

§19-2109(a)(17)



# Purpose of SBHC Study


- 📁 Address "funding and access" issues listed in the legislation
- 📁 Explore ways to expand SBHCs to provide primary care services
- 📁 Inform future work of MCHRC





# Products of the SBHC Study

 Policy options and recommendations

 Directions for future work by MCHRC (e.g., grants program, technical assistance, advocacy/facilitator role)



# Study Process and Timeline

## Process:

- 📁 Develop scope
- 📁 Identify and engage a contractor



## Suggested Timeline:

- 📁 April - September 2007
- 📁 Report finalized by October 1 to submit with MCHRC's annual report to the legislature



# Study Methods

- 📁 Survey SBHCs to provide a comprehensive portrait of sponsorship, financing, and organizational strength
- 📁 Best practices research
- 📁 Legislative analysis
- 📁 Analysis of policy options
- 📁 Investigation of opportunities for MCHRC collaboration with other groups




# Survey of Maryland's SBHCs

- 📁 Sponsors (mission, capacity, commitment)
- 📁 Budgeted/actual expenditures
- 📁 Revenues (Medicaid, private insurance, state/local funds, grants)
- 📁 Fee schedules
- 📁 Staffing
- 📁 Billing capability
- 📁 Board composition
- 📁 Liability coverage




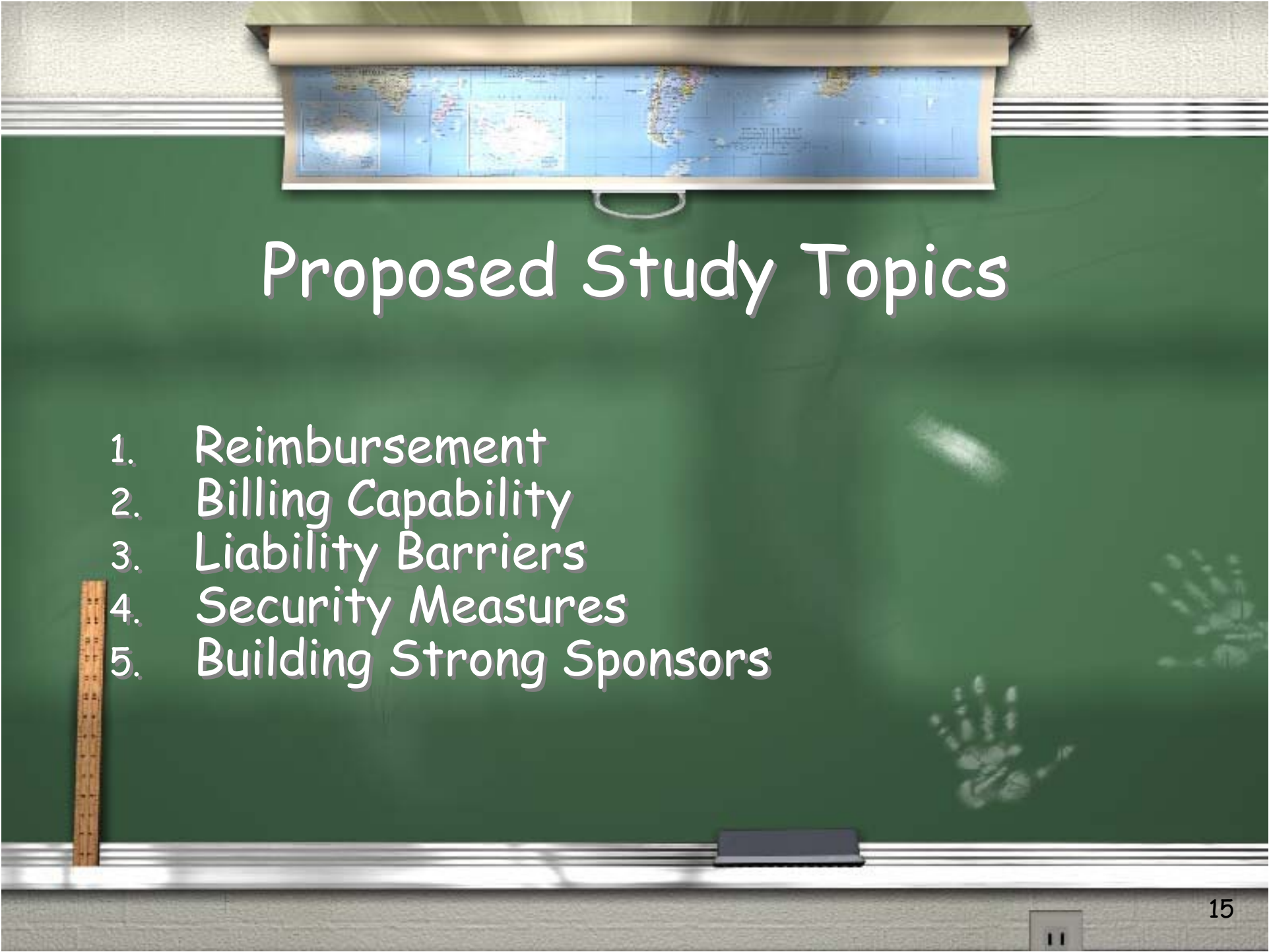
# Study Input

 ... solicit input on the study from SBHCs, local governments, state agencies, providers, and insurers [as per §19-2109(d)(1)]



# Funding for SBHC Study

 Funding is available in the "Consultants" line item of the FY 2007 budget.



# Proposed Study Topics

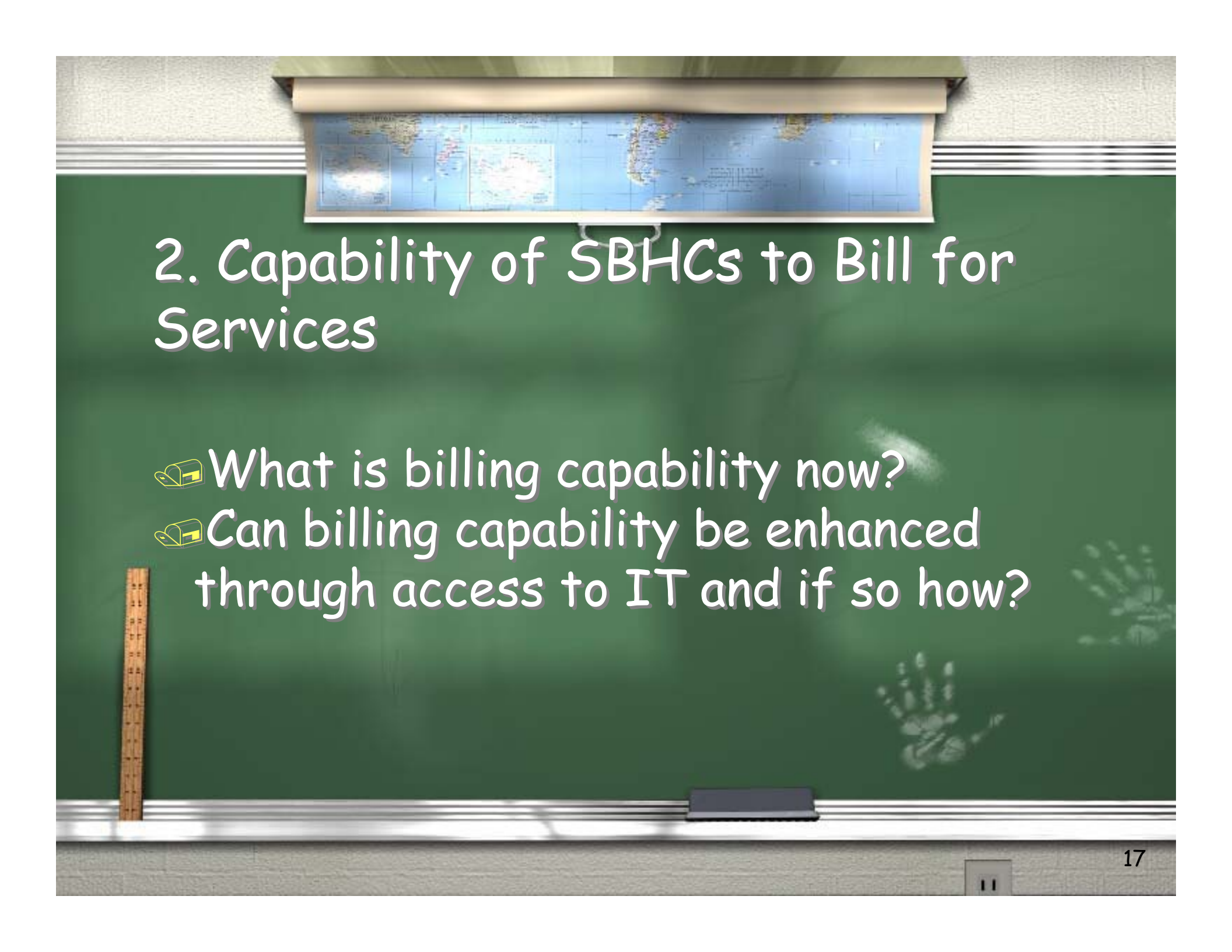
1. Reimbursement
2. Billing Capability
3. Liability Barriers
4. Security Measures
5. Building Strong Sponsors



# 1. Reimbursement

- 📁 MCOs, Insurers, Non-Profit Health Service Plans, HMOs
- 📁 Fee Schedules
- 📁 Reimbursement for NPs (HB 974) and PAs
- 📁 Insurance Payments Owed to SBHCs





## 2. Capability of SBHCs to Bill for Services

- 📁 What is billing capability now?
- 📁 Can billing capability be enhanced through access to IT and if so how?



### 3. Liability Barriers

- 📁 Could liability protection be extended to SBHCs through the Maryland Tort Claims Act?
- 📁 What measures should be in place to ensure continuity of care?



## 4. Security Measures


 Required Criteria


 What are "best practices" for ensuring security at SBHCs?




## 5. Building Strong Sponsors

 What are the options?

 Regulatory approach: Using standards, credentialing, reimbursement policy

 Market approach: Incentives to encourage health systems, hospitals, and FQHCs to sponsor SBHCs


 Combination of both?



# Ways to Build Viable SBHCs



## Organizational strength

-  Strong sponsors
-  Leadership behind the lines
-  Billing capability
-  Effective training
-  Liability protection



## Financing

-  Reimbursement from Medicaid and commercial insurers