

Primary Care Office (PCO) Advisory Council Meeting
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Meeting Participants: Parker Cohen, Dr. Andrea Mathias, Salliann Alborn, Gene Ransom III, Melissa Noyes

Staff: David Long, Christina Shaklee, Amanda Kikola, Elizabeth Vaidya, Dimitar Naydenov, Donna Gugel, Esther Roh

Meeting began at 1:05 PM with a welcome from the Council Chair, Andrea Mathias. A brief welcome and introduction period followed.

Negotiated Rule Making Committee Update

Elizabeth Vaidya reported the results for the Negotiated Rule Making Committee, HPSA-MUA/P methodology. She stated that consensus could not be made for a lot of the indicators and therefore the updated methodology will not happen at this time. Congress requires unanimity on these issues in order for them to be passed. She stated that the updates will now be turned back to HRSA for changes but Parker Cohen stated that the purpose of the negotiated rule making was to bypass the system but this was not achieved and now HRSA is going to have to take into account public comments and pushback from legislators. This could potentially be good for Maryland because we would have lost many designations. Andrea asked if the changes could occur through an election and Salliann stated that HRSA could possibly allocate points in 3 areas- sparsely populated populations, high poverty populations, and high health disparity populations. Maryland could potentially get points for health disparities. Nothing is final though now that it is back in HRSA's hands. Liz found 3 new designations in PG County that were just submitted as MUA/Ps. Salliann stressed that they as the council need to make sure the PCO gets federal funding even when federal funding starts to decrease. There is a lot to lose if a HPSA designation gets lost especially for hospitals and stakeholders. Dr. Mathias and Salliann also agree that it is still important to gather the physician/nurse practitioner/ PA data because we may need it. Dr. Mathias stressed that there is a better need for data from the practitioners. A discussion was had about the PCO needing better data and Gene suggested that members from the PCO council have educational discussions to the licensure boards to emphasize the

importance of the PCO receiving better physician/dental data etc. Gene said we should update any data that we want on the BOP survey before Irving Pinder retires in January. Dr. Mathias is a member of the health delivery subcommittee on the Health Reform coordinating council so that may be a good long term partner. Even if we get the data it will take a while to capture everything the PCO needs. In summary, the advisory council will work on educating the boards on the importance of data for the PCO. We will also wait to see what happens with the methodology.

ARRA funding

Maryland received funding from ARRA to help retain ARRA funded NHSC and LARP providers. A new person will be hired for a two year period to fulfill the obligations of this grant. The grant is to retain providers but Liz stated that Maryland has a very high retention rate, in the 80th percentile. The PCO will also be starting a workforce committee with this grant money to look at workforce activity and to help with provider retention and issues. Dr. Mathias asked what is the benchmark for this grant. Donna replied that it is an exploratory grant and it looks like HRSA wants to learn from this grant. The PCO will take nominees for people to be on the workforce committee. Those on the PCO workforce committee are welcome to be on the new workforce committee.

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment was sent out this summer for review. It will be eventually going up to the deputy secretary for review. Because some people did not get a chance to review it, Liz is resending out with a short time frame to have it re-reviewed. The Needs Assessment is intended to prioritize the work for the PCO and focus on those high need counties first. Salliann thought it was good and there wasn't a lot left to interpret, just factual information.

Other

Please spread the word about National Rural Health day on November 17th. Also, the PCO council discussed nominees to sit on the PCO advisory council- looking for a representative from Southern Maryland to catch the rural areas. Liz will send out notification to the nominees for their consent. If there is more than one nominee, the council will be contacted for a vote.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.