

Maryland Primary Care Office Conference "Collaborating with Data to Set Priorities" *Synopsis*

MAY 25, 2011

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON BWI AIRPORT

Office of Health Policy and Planning
Family Health Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

A Message from Elizabeth Vaidya Primary Care Office and State Office of Rural Health Director

To each of you who attended the Maryland Primary Care Office Conference "Collaborating with Data to Set Priorities" on May 25, 2011, we would like to extend a sincere thank you. To those of you learning about this important event for the first time, we welcome your interest and invite you to join us as partners in improving access to care for all Marylanders. The Conference exceeded our expectations in the positive feedback provided. Speakers were informative, generous and thoughtful in their presentations. Participants noted that they enjoyed our keynote speaker, Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, DHMH Secretary's update on Health Care Reform, and our lunch keynote speaker, Andy Jordan, Director of the Office of Shortage Designation's update on HRSA. Evaluations provided by the attendees revealed the most "favorite" sessions were the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) and the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping database. Comments frequently heard were about how much everyone enjoyed the location (Four Points by Sheraton BWI), and how well organized the event and staff was.

We are fortunate to have a community in Maryland that cares so much about improving access to health care services, especially for vulnerable and underserved populations. It was our hope that this Conference demonstrated how we use data to set priorities for the Primary Care Office and how the possibility of new joint collaborations with data can influence future trends.

Additional details about the Conference are also available at
http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco-conference_resources.cfm



Affordable Care Act & Health Delivery Reform Keynote Address provided by Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The Health Secretary began his address by emphasizing the health care system challenges in Maryland including high health care cost, barriers to performance and fundamental problems of access. He addressed four key elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and how we can improve those challenges.

The Four Key Elements of the ACA are:

1. Strengthens insurance coverage
2. Expands access to health care
3. Makes coverage more affordable
4. Promotes cost control, quality and prevention.

The ACA is anticipated to reduce Maryland uninsured by half and its implementation is projected to save the Maryland General Fund budget \$853 million over 10 years, based on a review by the UMBC Hilltop team of health policy experts and economists. Dr. Sharfstein stated, "Health Care Reform is only half of the story,

the other half is how we transform this to make it happen."

The goal is "triple aim"- improving individual experience of care, reducing per capita health care costs and improving the health of the population. Maryland efforts to reach the "triple aim" include quality of care initiatives, hospital payment reform, and patient centered medical home and health information technology.

The last part of the address emphasized opportunities and workforce challenges in the primary care system. A stronger Loan Assistance Repayment Program for physicians is needed. He stressed that there are two areas of focus; primary care and hospitals. He concluded his address by acknowledging people who have worked hard for better healthcare in Maryland and mentioned that "this is a very exciting time for American medicine and given the challenges of cost and performance we must embrace the 'triple aim' to succeed."

Workforce Panel Discussion

Randy Angell, M.D. (LARP), Chase Brexton

Kevin Carr, M.D. (NHSC), Jai Medical Center

Mert Dinc, M.D. (J-1 Visa), People's Community Health Center

The workforce panel answered the following questions:

1. How did you hear about the program?
2. How did you select Maryland and your employment site?
3. What attracted you to the site, and do you plan to stay after your obligation is complete? If you plan to stay, why?
4. What do you like about your site, and what would you like to see changed?
5. What is your overall experience with the Program? (Pros and Cons)
6. Would you recommend the Program to others?

The panel believed that working in medically underserved areas is rewarding and the workforce programs have been a good experience.



Judy Gerahty, Workforce Coordinator, speaks to conference participants with the workforce panel sitting to the left.

GIS Breakout Session

Jennifer English, GIS Analyst, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Jennifer reviewed an interactive GIS web mapping application created for the Primary Care Office. She demonstrated instructions on how to navigate through the mapping application. The maps currently available on this application are: Medically Underserved Areas/Populations, Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations, Dental HPSAs, and Mental Health HPSAs. The maps illustrate the designations along with some demographic information. The capabilities of the GIS tool will be updated on a continual basis.

These maps can be viewed here:

<http://eh.dhmh.md.gov/ohpp/index.html>

"THIS IS A
PHENOMENAL
RESOURCE TO HAVE
ONLINE AND
ACCESSIBLE TO
CLINICIANS"

-COMMENT FROM
CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANT

Primary Care Office and State Office of Rural Health Overview (PCO/SORH)

Elizabeth Vaidya, Director



Elizabeth Vaidya gives her presentation

The following was discussed regarding the PCO:

- Overview of Office Functions
- Shortage Designation Benefits, Updates, and Maps
- Workforce Programs
- Funding, Collaboration and Community Involvement

Please visit the PCO website for further information: http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco_home.cfm

The following was discussed regarding the SORH:

- SORH Mission
- Rural Health Concerns and Rural Health Plan
- Funding, Community Involvement, and Rural Recruitment and Retention

Please visit the SORH website for further information: <http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/ruralhlth/index.cfm>

HRSA's Partnership in Addressing Primary Care Needs and Setting Priorities

Andy Jordan, Director , Office of Shortage Designation

Andy Jordan provided an overview of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Health Professions (BHP).

The BHP FY 2012 major focus areas were reviewed along with a grant and funding update. Maryland shortage designations were also discussed.

The hot topic that participants wanted to know from HRSA at this

years conference were details on the Negotiated Rulemaking Process; which is an effort to update HPSA and MUA designation criteria. The negotiated rulemaking process for developing a new methodology is required by HRSA and Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act. Stakeholders and experts have been meeting monthly since September 2010 to discuss the changes. The target

date for submission for final recommendation is October 2011. The impact of these changes are yet to be determined. The rule making committee has a website where all of the documents from the meetings can be viewed.

Click [here](#) to view this page or copy and paste the link below in your web browser.

<http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/shortage/index.html>

The State Designated Health Information Exchange and Regional Extension Center Chesapeake Regional Information Systems for our Patients (CRISP)

Daniel Wilt, Program Director Regional Extension Center

CRISP is a nonprofit membership organization that was brought together to build a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) for Maryland. CRISP now also serves as Maryland's Regional Extension Center (REC).

The HIE allows information to be shared electronically among health information systems while RECs offer technical, implementation, and educational assistance to help providers adopt and use electronic medical records. Mr. Wilt mentioned that 40% of office-

based physicians report using all or partial electronic health record (EHR) systems. There are incentives available for physicians practices adopting EHRs .

The presentation discussed management service organizations (MSOs), which are Maryland organizations that provide EHRs, designated by the Maryland Health Care Commission. The health information exchange was also reviewed. HIE technology

allows for real-time, electronic transfer of patient information between providers. HIE offers many benefits to patients and providers.

THE HEALTH
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SYSTEMS

For further information please visit:
www.crisphealth.org

HRSA Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant, Governor's Workforce Investment Board

Lynn Reed, Executive Director

"Throughout the State, we met caring individuals who were working hard to increase primary care access for their residents. We heard about the cooperation among healthcare institutions and providers, banding together in order to make the best use of scarce resources."

- Lynn Reed, regarding the GWIB listening tour

The Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) was awarded a \$150,000 dollar planning grant from HRSA to develop a plan to increase primary care providers in Maryland by 10 to 25 percent over the next 10 years. The GWIB partook in regional listening tours to find out what challenges areas were facing in regards to primary care. Some of the challenges heard

were consistent throughout the state, such as reimbursement for primary care physicians, however each region had different needs as Lynn discussed. GWIB is continuing to develop their plan to increase physician workforce. The reality is that more primary care workforces are going to be needed in the future and all areas need to have accessible care.



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Closing

We received excellent feedback from conference participants and feel the conference was a success. Participants received valuable information from the speakers and OHPP was successful in emphasizing the importance of collaborating to improve healthcare access. Based on the presentations from Lynn Reed, the workforce panel, and Dr. Sharfstein, we can agree that physician workforce is a major issue for now and in the future. We can anticipate major reformation with the implementation of the ACA. Although we do not know what changes HRSA will bring to HPSA and MUA/P methodology the PCO will continue to analyze shortage designations in Maryland to gain access for the underserved. Workforce programs will continue to be promoted and we will continue to disseminate information that is valuable and helpful to local health departments, hospitals, FQHC's, state officials and more. Thank you again for your participation and support.

Presentations and information from the conference can be found at

http://fha.maryland.gov/ohpp/pco-conference_resources.cfm



Conference Planning Staff

OHPP Staff would like to congratulate Jeanette Jenkins on her retirement and thank her for all of her hard work!

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