

Maryland Health Disparities Collaborative Meeting

May 7, 2012

Overview

The Maryland Health Disparities Collaborative is continuing its progress in helping to implement the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012 and form partnerships to carry the Affordable Care Act forward.

- Planning phase: May 31, 2012 to Aug. 1, 2012
- Collaborative meeting held May 7, 2012
- DHMH to submit report to Legislature: Aug. 1, 2012
- Next collaborative meeting to be determined
- DHMH to submit HIDR implementation report to Legislature:
Dec. 1, 2013

What is the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act?

The law, signed by Gov. Martin O'Malley on April 10, 2012, is a \$4 million pilot project to reduce health disparities in the state, improve health outcomes such as infant mortality, obesity and cancer and lower health costs and hospital readmissions:

- Create Health Enterprise Zones where health outreach will be targeted, with tax breaks for health care providers who practice there and grants for community nonprofits and government agencies
- Establish a standardized way to collect data on race and ethnicity in health care (both public and private providers) and ensure carriers are working to track and reduce disparities
- Require hospitals to launch community health initiatives and report on their success
- Set criteria for health care providers on cultural competency and health literacy training and continuing education

To read the full law, visit http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/chapters_noln/Ch_3_sb0234T.pdf

Who is in the Maryland Health Disparities Collaborative?

- Coordinated by the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Co-Chaired by Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Donna Jacobs, Donna L. Jacobs, Esq., Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, University of Maryland Medical System
- Comprises more than 200 state health experts, health care organizations, academics and health advocates and nonprofits

What did I miss from the May 7 meeting?

The Collaborative's five workgroups are continuing their work on these goals:

- *Awareness*
Recommend how to promote the Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) application process, and then find ways to promote the zones' services to their communities
- *Leadership and Capacity Building*
Find health leaders and build a virtual network of nonprofit organizations
- *Health and Health Systems Experience*
Develop guidance on the HEZ application process, identify successful models of health care, and recommend how HEZs should report community benefits
- *Cultural and Linguistic Competency*
Standardize how cultural competency is evaluated in health professionals' training and education, and evaluate the cultural and linguistic appropriateness of health plan materials given to enrollees.
- *Research and Evaluation (Data)*
Recommend how to standardize the collection of data on race and ethnicity and educate people on why agencies will collect data on race

Suggestions:

- Work with the State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) to find community leaders and partners
- Use public comment periods to incorporate social determinants of health as well as environmental and occupational health into activities
- Make use of a wide range of organizations to get out the word on HEZ applications
- Work to start health literacy and cultural competency training in middle and high schools
- Focus on educating patients on how to access health care and find and evaluate health information

For more information on the Health Disparities Collaborative:

Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

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