



**MARYLAND  
COMMISSION  
ON PUBLIC HEALTH**

# North Central Listening Session

Baltimore, Maryland

October 28, 2024



# Public Health Partners

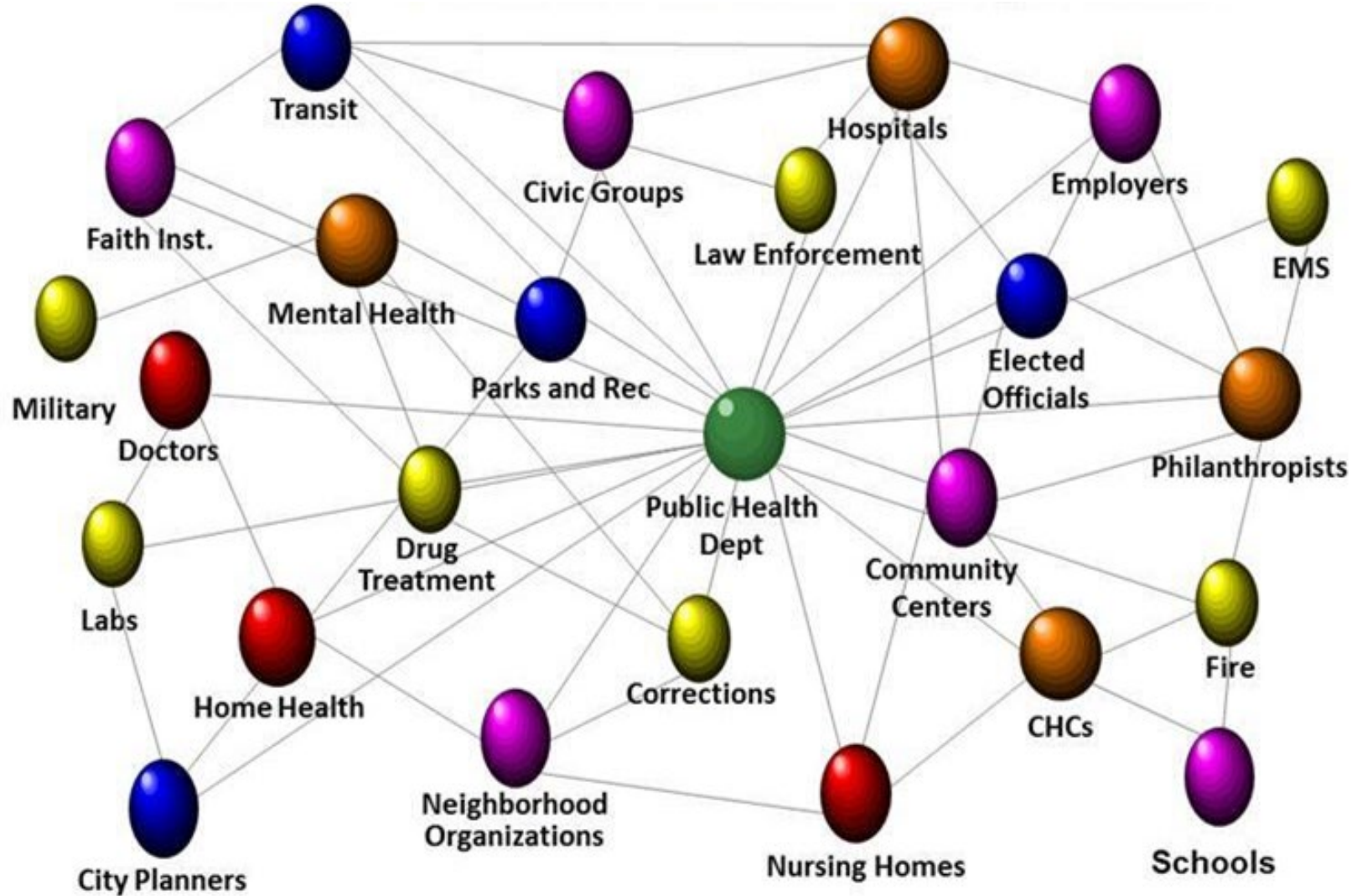


Image source: National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, n.d.



# Public Health Improves Lives



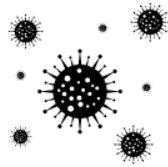
Vaccination



Motor Vehicle Safety



Workplace Safety



Control of Infectious Diseases



Decline in deaths from heart disease and stroke



Safer and Healthier Foods



Healthier Mothers and Babies



Family Planning



Fluoridation of Drinking Water



Tobacco as a Health Hazard

Over the last hundred years, public health interventions have drastically improved health outcomes and overall life expectancy.

Data source: CDC MMWR, 1999.



# State of Health in Maryland

Metric	Value (Rank)
Drug-related deaths (per 100,000) <sup>1</sup>	43.7 (#42)
Adults with obesity (>29.9 BMI) <sup>2</sup>	33.2% (#19)
Adults with high blood pressure <sup>3</sup>	34.5% (#33)
Adults with high cholesterol <sup>4</sup>	37.6% (#39)
Adults with diabetes <sup>5</sup>	11.9% (#30)
Adults experiencing anxiety/depressive disorder with unmet need (2022) <sup>6</sup>	30.3% (#34)

Source: America's Health Rankings, 2023. [1-5]; KFF, 2023. [6].



# Maryland Health Disparities

- Infant mortality rates
  - Black and Hispanic infant mortality rates were 2.6 and 1.4 times higher than for non-Hispanic white babies. (MDH VSA, 2023)
- Maternal mortality
  - Black mothers die from pregnancy-related causes at 2.2 times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers. (MDH MCHB, 2021, p.12)
- Life expectancy
  - Black men are dying younger on average, with 6 fewer years of life expectancy at birth compared to non-Hispanic white men. (MDH VSA, 2021, p.11)
- Healthcare access
  - Rural Marylanders experience limited access to care and can often lead to delayed diagnoses and treatment.



# Purpose of the Commission

Established by Maryland General Assembly in June 2023 and...

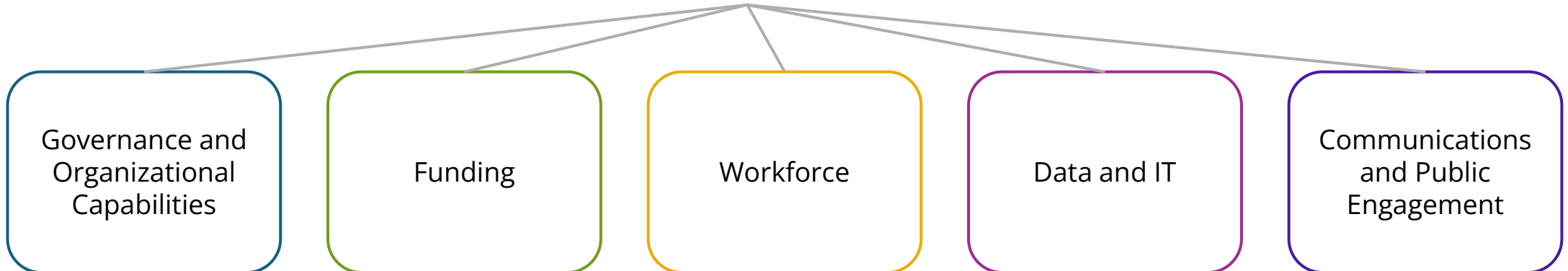
- Will study how to make public health better for all Marylanders
- Incorporates behavioral and environmental health
- Issue final report with recommendations
- Ensure public input throughout process, including on final recommendations



# Structure of Commission



16 members





# Commission Timeline

- Assessment and evaluation of system over next several months
- Interim report due December 2024
- Final recommendations and report due October 2025
  - Public comment will be accepted for 30 days on July 2025 draft
- Commission sunsets June 2026





# Data Collection

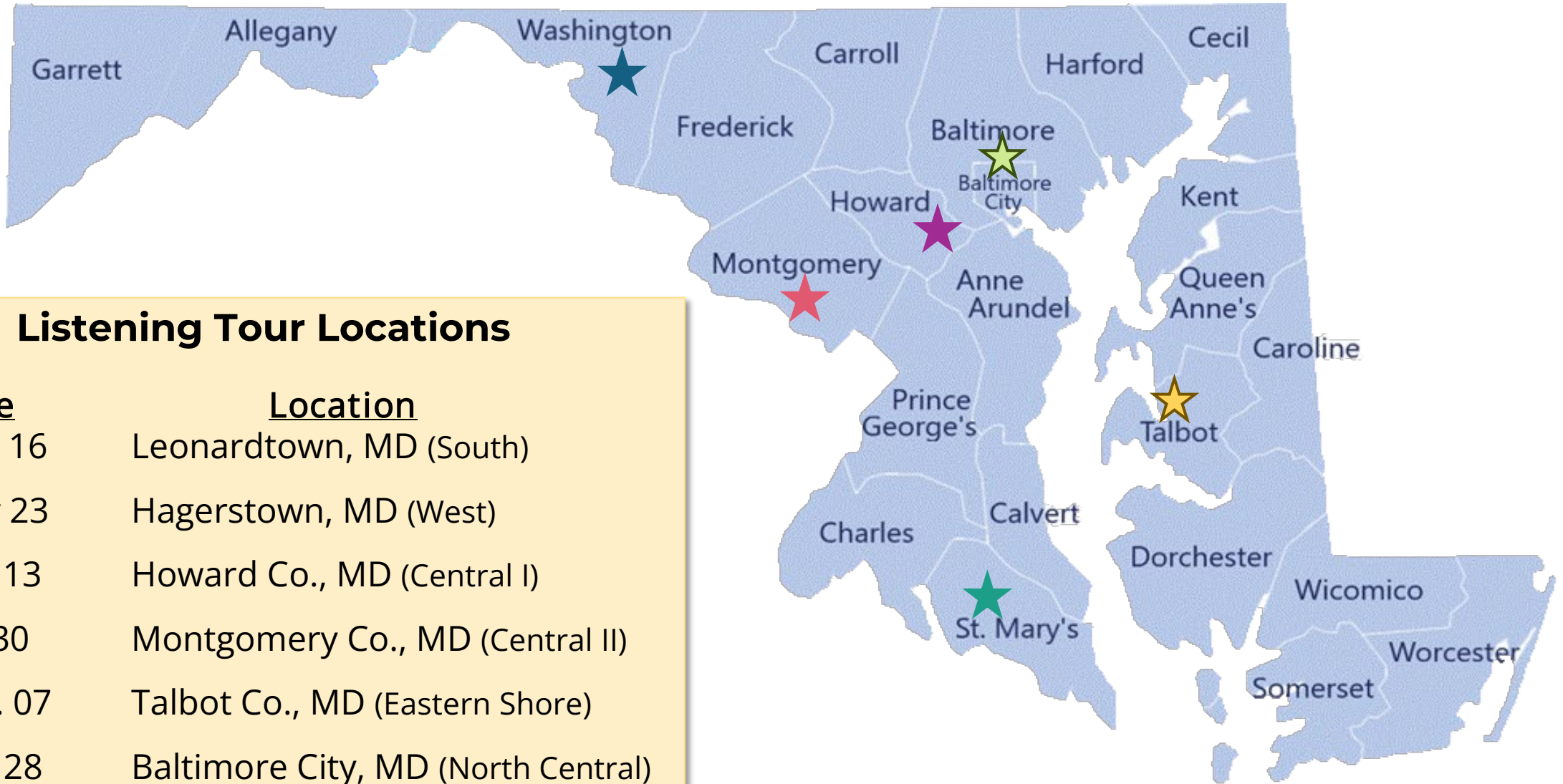
- Assessment Survey
  - Analyzing public health capabilities using surveys and existing data sources
- Local Health Department Site Visits
  - Meeting with various local health officials to understand unique features of local public health
- Key Informant & Stakeholder Interviews
  - In-depth sessions with public health leaders and stakeholders
- Public Listening Sessions & Public Comments



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# Public Listening Sessions

We want to hear from you!



### Listening Tour Locations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
★ Apr. 16	Leonardtwn, MD (South)
★ May 23	Hagerstown, MD (West)
★ Jun. 13	Howard Co., MD (Central I)
★ Jul. 30	Montgomery Co., MD (Central II)
★ Aug. 07	Talbot Co., MD (Eastern Shore)
★ Oct. 28	Baltimore City, MD (North Central)

Current as of 17 Oct. 2024. Check website for updates.



# Purpose of Today's Hearing

We are holding a listening session to find out from community members like you how to improve public health in Maryland.

We will listen and take notes. We might have follow-up questions, but we will not be answering specific questions.

Today's hearing is hybrid in-person and online. It will be recorded.



# Guidelines for Today's Hearing

- Please sign-in with the health department staff
- Testimony should be limited to **2 minutes** and focus on the topics of the Commission
- Written testimony may be given to Commission staff or online (public comment form will be available until Oct. 31)
- The hearing officer will notify the speaker when time is up and provide a 30-second notice



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Listening Session  
Online Form

# For more information

Visit us online for up-to-date information about the Commission's work or to provide written comment.

<http://bit.ly/CoPH>

(240) 654-1301



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# References

America's Health Rankings. (2023). State summaries Maryland | 2023 Annual Report | AHR. [America's 2023 Health Rankings website](#).

CDC MMWR. (1999, Apr.). Ten Great Public Health Achievements – United States, 1900-1999. [MMWR Weekly, 48\(2\), 241-243](#).

KFF. (2023). Mental health and substance use state fact sheets: Maryland. [KFF website for Maryland mental health](#).

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MDH MCHB. (2021, Nov.). 2020 MMR [Maternal Mortality Rate] Report. [MDH MCHB MMR program website](#).

MDH VSA. (2023, Jul.). 2021 Maryland Vital Statistics Infant Mortality, 2021. [MDH VSA Vital Statistics and Reports website](#).

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