

**113th Meeting of the
Maryland Community Health Resources Commission**

**Monday, October 3, 2022
Virtual Meeting**

10:00 AM – 12:08 PM

The meeting (call) was called to order at approximately 10:00 AM.

In addition to Chair Kasemeyer and Vice Chair Howard, Commissioners Gibson, Giusti, Lehr, Lichtenstein, Loker, Muqueeth were present for the virtual meeting. Commissioners Thornton-Davis, Masden and Ramjohn were absent from the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

A review of the September 6, 2022, minutes was held. Commissioner Lichtenstein made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Howard. The minutes were approved unanimously, without edits.

PATHWAYS TO HEALTH EQUITY GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS

Commission Executive Director Mark Luckner provided an overview of the definition of “unduplicated individuals served” adopted by the Health Equity Resource Communities Advisory Committee in order for Pathways grantees to collect the required metrics and upload patient panels into CRISP. The definition was distributed to Pathways grantees after the grant awards were made by the Commissioners in February 2022, following consultation with the individual grantees and advice from the HERC Advisory Committee. . Mr. Luckner noted that the requirements under this definition resulted in the reduction of the targeted number of unduplicated individuals who will be served by several Pathways grantees. Chair Kasemeyer noted that at the meeting on September 6, Commissioners voted to receive presentations from the three Pathways grantees with the greatest reductions – TidalHealth, St. Mary’s County Health Department and La Clinica del Pueblo – to describe the following: 1) How the unduplicated individuals served numbers submitted in February were determined, 2) How their service projections changed as a result of the clarified definition of unduplicated individuals served, and 3) How the program will engage individuals in the community in ways that do not result in a person meeting the definition of an “unduplicated individual served.”

The Commission received presentations from Katherine Rodgers of TidalHealth to brief Commissioners on the reduction of its original projections of serving 7,000 individuals to 700 unduplicated individuals. Ms. Rodgers noted as part of its preparation for the Commission presentation, TidalHealth reviewed its Pathways deliverables, internal processes and resources and offered a revision to the total of unduplicated individuals served from 700 to 3,200, with an additional 100,000 of individuals potentially “encountered.” Commissioner Gibson inquired about the organization’s confidence in achieving the goal of 3,200 unduplicated individuals served. Ms. Rodgers expressed her confidence in the numbers presented and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to reassess and think creatively on implementation of the Pathways grant.

Following the TidalHealth presentation, Chair Kasemeyer invited Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, St. Mary’s County Health Officer, to brief Commissioners on the reduction of its original projections of serving 10, 125 individuals to 300 unduplicated individuals. Dr. Brewster provided an overview of the services provided under the grant, including both grant-funded and in-kind services. Dr. Brewster also noted that the Pathways program was focused on crisis intervention services, and these services may often result in only a single undocumented service for an individual. Following a review of Health Department and partner resources, the St. Mary’s County Health Department is offering a revision to the total unduplicated individuals served from 300/year to

2,210 in total. Dr. Brewster also advised that there will be a number of other individuals engaged in services, but the number at this time is not quantifiable. Commissioner Gibson thanked Dr. Brewster for the presentation and asked what Dr. Brewster considered the greatest threat in achieving the revised number of unduplicated individuals served. Dr. Brewster said it would be maintaining community trust in its partners – Community Health Workers, the Minority Outreach Coalition, and others. The value of the interactions with the examples above and individual members of the community will be paramount in achieving the number of unduplicated individuals served. Commissioner Giusti asked Dr. Brewster to identify how the Health Department and its partners will ensure that the non-English language members of the community will receive the non-medical Social Determinants of Health services. Dr. Brewster replied that the Pathways program seeks to connect community members with treatment and determine the next steps after assessment of the aspects of the individuals' life, including but not limited to: stable housing, employment, transportation and access to primary care.

Chair Kasemeyer thanked Dr. Brewster for the presentation and asked Ms. Catalina Sol, the Executive Director of La Clinica del Pueblo, to detail the reduction of the original projections of 8200 individuals to 180. Ms. Sol reviewed the Pathways program goals of serving 180 unduplicated individuals, 1,000 referrals to their partner and an additional 7,000 individuals reached through social media and in-person events. Ms. Sol explained the process by which the 1,000 individuals engaged in the community would be screened and connected to care. Ms. Sol noted the potential to connect many of the screened individuals to primary care, however, Prince George's County has been designated a Health Professional Shortage Area making additional connections to primary care difficult. Ms. Sol confirmed the estimates of unduplicated individuals to be served as 180 La Clinica patients and is working with Luminis Health to connect (some or a portion?) of the 1,000 screened to primary care with Luminis Health. Commissioner Gibson noted that he was struggling with the information presented and inquired how the 7,000 individuals that would be reached via social media and in-person events were included in the unduplicated count of individuals. Ms. Sol offered that the 7,000 individuals were not intended to be included in the total number of **unduplicated** individuals served. Ms. Sol further advised that the community is typically uninsured, largely isolated and have fewer entry points for care, and thus are going to be targeted through social media and in-person outreach events. Vice Chair Howard asked whether any of the 7,000 would be considered "users of service" under the FQHC UDS system and if there are opportunities for the individuals to be connected to other programs and/or benefit to hospital partners.

Ms. Sol reiterated that linking to care for the uninsured population is challenging and connecting this population to care can be difficult. Luminis Health approximates that 40-70% of their patient population have a need for transition to care. Ms. Sol also offered to establish additional partnerships with providers to potentially increase the number of unduplicated individuals served under the grant.

Vice Chair Howard thanked all of the presenters for the information provided and noted that it would be his preference to receive regular reports from the three grantees on the numbers of individuals served. Chair Kasemeyer agreed and asked if Commissioners had any questions regarding the Commission sustaining its support of the three Pathways programs. Commissioner Gibson again reiterated his concern regarding the 7,000 individuals to be reached via social media or in-person events, noting that if these individuals were not included in the number of individuals to be served, would this program have been funded?

Commissioner Lehr offered a motion to approve the revised unduplicated individuals served projections for TidalHealth as presented. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion, and the Chair opened the motion for discussion. Vice Chair Howard noted that he wasn't clear how the grantee would meet the revised number presented and believed it would be beneficial to have the grantees report quarterly regarding the number of unduplicated individuals served.

With that, Vice Chair Howard amended the original motion to approve the revised unduplicated individuals served numbers presented by TidalHealth and require TidalHealth to submit quarterly reports to the Commission detailing progress toward meeting their service target for the number of unduplicated individuals served.

Commissioner Giusti seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioners next voted on the underlying motion by Commissioner Lehr as amended by the motion by Vice Chair Howard, to approve the revised target for unduplicated individuals served by TidalHealth while requiring the grantee to provide quarterly reports to the Commission, and it was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair Howard offered a motion to approve the revised unduplicated individuals served numbers presented by St. Mary's County Health Department and require the St. Mary's County Health Department to submit quarterly reports to the Commission detailing their efforts and the number of unduplicated individuals served. Commissioner Loker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with Commissioner Giusti abstaining from the vote and no Commissioners opposed.

Commissioner Lichtenstein offered a motion to approve the revised unduplicated individuals served numbers presented by La Clinica del Pueblo and require La Clinica del Pueblo to submit quarterly reports to the Commission detailing their efforts and the number of unduplicated individuals served. Commissioner Lehr seconded the motion and Chair Kasemeyer opened the motion for discussion. Commissioner Gibson reviewed for Commissioners the plain language of page 20 of the Pathways to Health Equity Call for Proposals and questioned the original service goals presented to the Commission for consideration at time of award, inquiring whether it was a staff oversight, a misunderstanding or preferential treatment given to a longstanding grantee. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to table the original motion and seek clarification from staff regarding their review of the original proposal. Commissioner Giusti seconded Commissioner Gibson's motion. Commissioner Gibson's motion to table Commissioner Lichtenstein's motion failed on a vote of 4 to 3 with Chair Kasemeyer abstaining from the vote. Commissioner Lichtenstein agreed that there should be a discussion on the matter, however, Commissioners themselves had a responsibility to review the materials provided and make inquiries in advance.

Chair Kasemeyer called for a vote on the original motion offered by Commissioner Lichtenstein and seconded by Commissioner Lehr to approve the revised unduplicated individuals served by La Clinica del Pueblo and require La Clinica del Pueblo to submit quarterly reports detailing their efforts and the number of unduplicated individuals served. The motion was approved with Commissioners Gibson and Giusti voting unfavorably.

Commissioner Lichtenstein noted that the previous discussion raised important questions and further commented that Commissioners would be looking at information with an eye toward details and in the future will be asking harder questions of staff and applicants. Chair Kasemeyer echoed Commissioner Lichtenstein's comments that the Commission – both staff and Commissioners – will need to be more precise in their questioning as we work on behalf of the State and community. Commissioner Giusti again reiterated her concern about making actual connections to services on behalf of community members – noting that it's not enough to give a phone number of someone in need of food assistance, rather the applicants and grantees should assist the individual in *applying* for food assistance. Merely giving out information is not enough.

Following the discussion, Chair Kasemeyer invited Dr. Ernest Carter, Prince George's County Health Officer to present the Prince George's County Health Department's proposed resolution regarding implementation of the Pathways grant. Dr. Carter shared that following its presentation to the Commission at its September 6 meeting, the Health Department met internally, reviewed available resources, and believes it has made the appropriate adjustments and will be able to fully implement the Pathways program with County resources and outsourcing to outside vendors technology, evaluation, practice transformation aspects of the program. At its last presentation, the Health Department had proposed outsourcing \$1.2 million in grant funding to outside vendors, however under its new revised budget, the Health Department is requesting that just \$671,421 be contracted outside the Health Department. Commissioner Lichtenstein made a motion to approve the revised budget from Prince George's County Health Department and directing the Prince George's County Health Department to report to the Commission on the following four (4) deliverables at 60 and 120 day intervals: 1) the hiring of four (4) Community Health Workers, 2) the locations identified for the telehealth hubs, 3) the status of the

purchasing of equipment for the telehealth hubs and 4) the opening of at least one (1) telehealth hub. Commissioner Loker seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF DEFINITION OF UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS SERVED

Chair Kasemeyer invited Mr. Luckner to review the revision to the definition of unduplicated individuals served approved at the September 6, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Muqueeth asked whether the revisions included Commissioner Giusti's comments regarding connecting to actual services. Mr. Luckner explained that the definition of "unduplicated individuals served" was largely based on the provision of clinical services and "additional individuals engaged" are based on community activities. Commissioner Lehr noted that without documentation and solid data, how would the Commission move the needle on reduction of health care costs? Commissioner Muqueeth stated that community outreach is essential and asked if it would be possible to weight review of proposals based on the ability to collect data and measure outcomes. Commissioner Gibson agreed with the idea of weighted reviews and requested that some measure of deduplication of additional individuals engaged be included as well as inclusion of activities that will not be counted as "engaged."

Commissioner Lehr advised that CRISP is uniquely positioned to collect this information. Commissioner Muqueeth cautioned that the requirement use of CRISP could inhibit participation in grant-funded activities. Commissioner Lichtenstein agreed and noted many non-profit organizations are not connected to CRISP, and the Commission could be limiting the applicant pool. Commissioner Lehr acknowledged these points and noted that it wasn't difficult to access CRISP and as a funder we put various requirements on grantees already. Commissioner Giusti expressed her concern that the Latinx community could face barriers due to concerns about collecting information required by CRISP.

Commissioners discussed a number of questions regarding the activities that would reach the level of unduplicated individuals served and additional individuals engaged and reached consensus on a number of items proposed by Commission staff including: 1) self-reporting of closed referrals is not acceptable to count an individual as an unduplicated individual served, 2) the collection of race and ethnic data to be counted as an unduplicated individual served is not necessary, 3) health screenings that are not documented will not be counted as an unduplicated individual served, but could count as an individual engaged, 4) health education and classes that do not collect limited demographic data and close referral loops will be considered an individual engaged.

Commissioner Giusti noted that demographic information may be difficult to collect from the homeless populations. Chair Kasemeyer advised that it may be difficult to reach a decision on all details and suggested that the Commission table the discussion of unduplicated individuals served and additional individuals engaged, as well as the discussion regarding the release of the FY 2023 Call for Proposals until a future Commission meeting to be held next week.

GRANT MODIFICATION REQUESTS

Mr. Luckner reviewed the grant modification request from Shepherd's Clinic. The grantee requested to move a salaried employee to contractual. Commissioner Lichtenstein made a motion to accept the grant modification request by Shepherd's Clinic. Commissioner Loker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

A second grant modification request from The Coordinating Center was tabled until the Commission's next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kasemeyer requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Giusti made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Loker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.