TO: All Commissioners
FROM: Yvette J. Benjamin, Chair, Committee on School-Based Community Health Clinic Center Expansion
DATE: April 19, 2007
RE: Meeting with MASBHC, MSDE, and UMBC to discuss SBHC Survey

At the last meeting of the MCHRC, we agreed to meet with representatives from the Maryland Assembly on School Based Health Care (MASBHC), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) to discuss objectives, methods and a work plan for a SBHC Study as directed in the MCHRC Legislation.

On March 14, 2007 Grace Zaczek and I meet with Donna Behrens, Executive Director MASBHC, Anne E. Walker, MSDE School-Based Health Center Specialist, and Cynthia Woodcock and her team from UMBC. At this meeting Donna gave a broad overview of how SBHCs were established in Maryland, how they are structured, their financial situation and legislation that has made them possible. She, along with Anne Walker provided us with information on available data that might be used for development of the SBHC study and described the limitations of the data.

The key element of this meeting was a discussion on the underlying need for this survey aside from the legislative mandate. This key element, which we all agreed is critical, is that we want to work together to create a sustainable and financially supportive system of reimbursement for SBHCs that is system-wide. With this in mind, both MSDE and MASBHC agreed to help UMBC with permission of the Commission in gathering the information needed from each the SBHCs. We also agreed on the work plan for the study, recognizing that SBHC input to the study will help to guide the Commission in its deliberations on future granting opportunities that will focus on SBHCs.

As a result of this meeting a proposal was developed and submitted by the UMBC team. A copy of that proposal has been included in the package of “read-ahead” materials you have received. The proposal addresses the elements discussed at the March 14 meeting. Please review this document before the meeting on April 23 so that we can discuss any concerns you might have and we can move forward with the study.