

**Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) for Physicians and  
Physician Assistants Workgroup**

**Virtual Meeting**

November 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Elizabeth Vaidya, Erin Dorrien, Matthew Dudzic, Gene Ransom, Kimberly Hiner, Richard Rohrs, Roy Ziegelstein, Megan Renfrew, Stacey Little

**MDH Staff**

Sara Seitz  
Sadé Diggs  
Alphius Sesay

**Additional Attendees**

Rebecca Wiseman, Maryland Nursing Workforce Center  
Jason Caplan, MDH Office of Governmental Affairs  
Dan O'Donoghue, Frostburg State University  
Jane Krienke, Maryland Hospital Association  
Najee Bailey, Office of Senator Melony Griffith  
Kelly Schutz, MedStar Emergency Physicians  
June Chung, Department of Legislative Services  
Karin Weaver, MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital  
Kelly Kyser - MedStar Emergency Physicians  
Shadae Paul, Maryland Health Care Commission  
Steve Wise, representing Med Chi and MD Academy of Family Physicians  
Susan Lawrence, Government Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

**Notes**

- I. **Meeting Opening and Welcome/ Roll Call:** The virtual meeting was called to order (10:04 a.m.) by Sara Seitz who provided roll call and requested guests sign in to the virtual meeting via the chat function.
  
- II. **Opening Business/ Remarks**
  - **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the most recent meetings, September 10, 2021 (Main Workgroup) were distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed by attendees. Roy Ziegelstein was added as in-attendance as inadvertently not included in the notes. Minutes were approved as corrected.
  
  - **MLARP Operational Updates:** Status update provided regarding the program's

current operations. Details regarding Fiscal Year 2022 awardee payments were shared and updates regarding changes within various federal lenders.

- FY2022 Administration
  - 29 total obligants for FY22 (18 1<sup>st</sup> year, 11 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 11 federal and state funded, 18 MLARP Fund only): 28 of the 29 awardee payments have been submitted for payment.
  - Further documented learning/ potential process improvements with 2nd cycle of payments facilitated by MDH, included unexpected liabilities to the State by lending institutions, and a small percentage of accounts requiring follow-up to ensure lending institutions received/cashed/credited appropriate obligant accounts with payments made)
- Program Development Projects
  - Initial conversations with 3RNet, Provider Recruitment Information System Management (PRISM) host, regarding retention collaborative membership (handout of updated information sheet shared as attachment to General Assembly Report, distributed with these minutes) in place of intern
  - Exploring potential solutions and procurement processes for development of an online application/data system for Office of Workforce Development Programs
  - Exploring healthcare workforce data centers from around the country (VA, IA, NE) and in Maryland (Maryland Nursing Workforce Center at UMD) and potential use of currently available funding to build a Maryland healthcare workforce data center
  - State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) Notice of Funding Opportunity received. The competitive opportunity comes with a project period September 2022 – August 2026. Allowances include no matching requirement (however a \$25,000 cap on awards to individuals remains) and 10% of the up to \$1,000,000 award can be budgeted to administrative costs. A substantial needs assessment is required. Workgroup recommendations for MLARP will be taken under consideration during development of the funding proposal/request.

### **III. Workgroup Process**

- Acknowledged all of the efforts and engagement of Workgroup members throughout the Workgroup process, including organizational representatives/ colleagues of member organizations who shared data and insights from other

- states, etc. Thank you!
- Provided brief review of the mandated activities that were to be completed during the Workgroup's tenure, with a graphic of the overarching Workgroup timeline.
  - Opened the floor to members to discuss successes/strengths and weaknesses/any recommended changes to the Workgroup process:
    - Noted success in purposeful scheduling of 7 full Workgroup meetings and 8 total subgroup meetings. The multiple gathering points allowed an appropriate amount of time for productive and thoughtful conversation.
    - Expressed success in MDH guiding the meeting and work of the Workgroup. The use of a Chairperson would have added an unnecessary barrier to efficiency and engagement.
    - Discussed that more efficient administration of the program will help with visibility and data, making it easier to ask for help from legislators to continue to grow the program.
  - Provided status updates regarding the process related to the General Assembly report's completion and submission:
    - 9/10/2021: Vote of acceptance of the report, with administrative/non-substantive changes to follow
    - 9/30/2021: Final review/comments by members due to MDH
    - Member edits incorporated, along with comments from Public Health Services (office of the Deputy Secretary of Health) and General Assembly Department of Legislative Services
    - 10/21/2021: Office of Workforce Development briefing with Deputy Secretary of Health, Dr. Jinlene Chan
    - 10/21/2021: Submission of report to MDH Office of Governmental Affairs
    - OGA edits incorporated
    - Next steps: Review by the Secretary of Health, Governor's Legislative Office, and the Department of Budget and Management prior to submission to the General Assembly
  - Reviewed report table of contents and its final ten Workgroup recommendations. All recommendations were read during meeting and method to achieve was mentioned for each.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

- Upon Office of Workforce Development receipt, the final submitted General Assembly report with attached submission cover letter will be forwarded to Workgroup members. It will be posted on the MLARP Workgroup website as well.
- The meeting minutes from this meeting will be sent to Workgroup members by email for review with a request for revisions/comments. A second email will

request members' vote to approve/disapprove within a provided deadline. Once approved, the minutes will be posted to the Workgroup website.

- Discussion

- Workgroup members noted an effort amongst hospitals and UMB to make sure that the recommendations from the report are seen and implemented. Letters of support have been developed and shared with the Secretary of Health and legislators. These will be distributed to Workgroup members with meeting minutes.
- In response to Workgroup member questions, the current MLARP Fund balance was discussed. Members discussed that legislators are interested in making sure the program is in good shape financially moving forward. The Office of Workforce Development shared:
  - Upon payment of all FY2022 state-funded awards, the MLARP Fund balance will be \$545,371.22. Second year awards for Calendar Year (CY) 2021 applicants will be paid out in FY2023 with \$520,509.42 currently obligated. The FY2023 State appropriation is not yet known, resulting in a known MLARP Fund current unobligated balance of \$24,861.80.
- Discussed potential payout to all eligible applicants in past application cycle if the program had adequate funding to award all eligible applicants. See details following minutes.
- Workgroup discussed including non-funding metrics in conversations about the report in order to best demonstrate the impact of the Loan Repayment Program on underserved Marylanders.
  - For example, current physicians and physician assistants with Fiscal Year 2022 obligations will provide more than 60,000 hours of service to Maryland's underserved this year, with more than 48,000 guaranteed direct patient care hours.
  - With most obligated providers working in primary care and serving approximately 2,500-4,000 patients per year, Fiscal Year 2022 obligants will serve approximately 94,250 patients in Maryland this year.

**V. Open Discussion with Public Comment:** No guests provided comment during the time dedicated for this purpose.

**VI. Adjournment:** (10:59 a.m.)

**Current MLARP Fund Balance (State Funds for Loan Repayment)**

Current Anticipated End of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Balance: \$545,371.22

Obligated Funds for FY2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Obligations): \$520,509.42

Available funds for FY2023 1<sup>st</sup> Year Obligations with unknown FY2023 Appropriation:  
\$24,861.80

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**FY2022 Applicant Debt/ Request Analysis (inclusive of CY 2020 and 2021 application cycles)**

If the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs had the funding to provide full awards (up to the lesser of the debt balance or \$50,000 per service obligation year to all eligible and complete applicants) for 2020 and 2021, FY2022 awards would equal \$3,699,436.38. Based on funding available, actual expected award expenditures for FY2022 are: \$1,075,153.12 (utilizing federal and state funds).

This calculation takes the following into account:

**2020 applications (Potential 2nd year obligation in FY2022)**

75 complete applications

Total Debt	\$12,889,456.89
Average	\$174,181.85
Min	\$13,730.79
Max	\$586,273.61

Of the 75 applications, 60 applicants were eligible for the program. If funded up to the lesser of their debt balance or \$50,000 per year, the FY2022 payout would be: \$2,486,572.28 for 2nd year obligations.

**2021 applications (Potential 1st year obligation in FY2022)**

37 complete applications

Total Debt	\$6,791,085.59
Average	\$194,031.02
Min	\$14,441.00
Max	\$729,946.00

Of the 37 applications, 28 applicants were eligible for the program. If funded up to the lesser of their debt balance or \$50,000 per year, the FY2022 payout would be: \$1,212,864.10 for 1st year obligations.

**Notes:**

- Currently, due to funding availability, technical scoring guides the dollar amounts awarded to the highest scoring applicants vs. all eligible applicants receiving \$50,000 per

year for a total of \$100,000 for 2-year service obligation.

- The CY2021 application cycle saw a decline in the number of applications as compared to the usual trend. The COVID-19 pandemic could have had an impact.

- These calculations assume that each eligible applicant accepts their obligation award and that their debt is verified and consistent throughout the process.

- FY2022 expected expenditures do not match FY2022 budget appropriations as the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs never know the actual State appropriation until after the application cycle/ award letters. Due to the timing of the approved budget and application cycle and the need to ensure that we will be able to pay 1st and 2nd year obligations for an individual (FY2022 and FY2023, for CY2021 application cycle awardees, for example), the team has tended to be conservative in first year awards in recent years with fluctuating appropriations.