

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

Virtual Meeting

July 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Minutes

Attendees

Matthew Dudzic, Damean Freas, Stacey Little, Donna Parker, Richard Rohrs, Megan Renfrew, Erin Dorrien

MDH Staff

Sara Seitz
Alphius Sesay

Additional Attendees

Jane Krienke, Maryland Hospital Association
Susan Lawrence, Government Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore
Shadae Paul, Maryland Health Care Commission
June Chung, Maryland Department of Legislative Services
Lindsay Rowe, Maryland Department of Legislative Services

Notes

- I. **Meeting Opening and Welcome/ Roll Call:** The virtual meeting was called to order (10:05 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 meeting, May 14, 2021, were distributed prior to the meeting and reviewed by attendees. No corrections were recommended. Minutes were approved as distributed.

 - **MLARP Operational Updates:** Status update provided regarding the program's current operations. Details regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 awarded applicants were shared. The FY 2022 service obligation and applicant details were provided stating that fewer applications were submitted this current year compared to previous years and added that an orientation was hosted to provide an overview of the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs and expectations/requirements for awardees. Information was provided regarding current program projects including a survey on program participant retention, analysis and profile of program applicants/awardees, and a planned data system procurement.

III. Priority Presentations

- A. The work of the Sustainable Funding Structure subgroup was provided and it looked at various funding sources for the MLARP. The subgroup's guiding principles include predictable and sustainable funding, collection of revenues from different sources, and further discussed funding options on a three-tier system as well as providing recommendations for permanent funding sources.
- B. The Data and Its Use subgroup recommendations was provided which included the subgroup's guiding principles such as program data collection and publication, use of mandatory surveys, and data analysis. The subgroup focused on two data categories; the program data covers the administrative section of the program and the workforce and population data looks at areas of need, diversity, equity, and inclusion. The subgroup recommended regular monitoring of program outcomes, participation in the Practice Sights Retention Collaborative and Data Management System, and MDH collaboration with other state agencies.
- C. The Student Incentive subgroup's work stated that incentives should target residents or fellows in medical training, and commitment to practice in a geographic area is normally determined post residency or fellowship. Also it discussed various options the subgroup explored to encourage medical and post medical students to stay and practice in Maryland following the end of their medical training.

IV. Discussion

Major topics areas discussed include:

- A. Review of mandated activities for the workgroup by SB501, which required the workgroup to explore models for physician recruitment and retention, medical students' debt experience, incentives to encourage medical students to commit their future practice in underserved areas, and recommendations for permanent funding sources as well as an Advisory Council.
- B. The formation of a Permanent Advisory Council to replace the current workgroup, and the discussion centered on the requirements for membership to the Council. Many speakers stressed the need to have an individual with financial ties to the philanthropic community, and a representative from provider sites or industry to the Council.

V. Next Steps

The workgroup agreed to reach out to potential partners for their inputs, and will request subgroups to provide final recommendations on their work to be incorporated into the August MLARP draft report. Workgroup staff will also seek ideas from workgroup members on the development of a

Permanent Advisory Council to oversee the work of the program.

The next meeting will be held on 9/10/2021.

- VI. Open Discussion with Public Comment:** No guests provided comment during the time dedicated for this purpose.
- VII. Adjournment:** (11:45 a.m.) Motion: Stacey Little
Second: Matthew Dudzic