



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

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Larry Hogan, Governor; Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor;
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair; Mark Luckner, Executive Director

Maryland Health Equity Resource Advisory Committee Pathways Call for Proposals Design Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting – September 8, 2021 / 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97988665861?pwd=cHpHUTMzbkNudGhtbmpYkdTbXVSZz09>

Meeting ID: 979 8866 5861 / **Passcode:** 441225

Dial-In: 301-715-8592 / **Meeting ID:** 979 8866 5861 / **Passcode:** 441225

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

1. Review public comments submitted
2. Discuss remaining key questions to address as the Pathways RFP is addressed

AGENDA

1.	Call to Order	Chair Jaki Bradley	8:30 AM
2.	Review & Approve August 26 Meeting Minutes	Chair Jaki Bradley	8:35 AM
3.	Overview of Public Comments Submitted	Chair Jaki Bradley	8:40 AM
4.	Opportunity for Public Comment	Chair Jaki Bradley	8:50 AM
5.	Potential remaining key questions for Pathways RFP	Chair Jaki Bradley	10:00 AM
6.	Next Steps & Closing Remarks	Chair Jaki Bradley	10:20 AM
7.	Adjourn	Chair Jaki Bradley	10:30 AM

**Virtual Meeting of the
Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee
Pathways Call for Proposals/Design Subcommittee**

Thursday, August 26, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:25 AM

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:02 AM.

In addition to Subcommittee Chair Jaki Bradley, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission and Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee Chair Edward Kasemeyer, Rebecca Altman, Elizabeth Chung, Maura Dwyer, John Hurson and Michelle Spencer attended the meeting virtually. CHRC CHRC Commissioner Sadiya Muqueeth, Commission AAG Michael Conti, Commission Executive Director Mark Luckner, and Commission staff attended the meeting as well.

WELCOME

Subcommittee Chair Bradley welcomed the group and invited attendees and stakeholders to introduce themselves.

Subcommittee member & public discussion of key questions

Chair Bradley led Subcommittee members in a discussion of the six proposed questions for public comment.

Question 1 - Should Pathways applicants focus on specific chronic disease(s) or be permitted to focus on broader health disparities that exist, as defined in the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act?

Ms. Spencer noted that opportunities beyond chronic disease exist, and that the Committee should not limit applicants. Dr. Dwyer said there is opportunity for community ownership in the process. Ms. Chung recommended that the Committee not focus just on data.

Question 2 – What sources of data do programs/applicants currently access? What data metrics currently reported by programs are most relevant for the future Pathways grantees?

Chair Bradley observed that CRISP has a lot of data available to applicants. Dr. Dwyer noted that CRISP may not have qualitative information, and that stories related to health inequities are important. Upstream factors could lead to solutions and the dismantling of racial inequities.

Question 3 – What forms of Technical Assistance should the CHRC provide to potential applicants and grantees?

Ms. Chung noted that each community is different, and it will be important to link applicants to data appropriate for their unique challenges. Ms. Spencer commented that TA should be provided to help make connections to other community resources. Dr. Dwyer advised that groundwork needs to be laid – components in the application should address coalition building, governance structure, etc.

Chair Bradley then suggested that the conversation around question 3 continue into question 5.

Question 5 - How should applicants be required to demonstrate the genuine engagement of the community in the shared decision-making processes of the grant?

Dr. Dwyer advised that there should be a collaborative structure and that the community must have a say in the proposal/application. Ms. Chung and Dr. Dwyer both stressed that data sharing within the community

must occur. A member of the public (Aaron Bordley) asked “How do you define community?” Chair Bradley advised that the applicant should define a community and Ms. Chung noted that the HERC section of the legislation specified a HERC must have a population of 5,000.

Question 4 - Should Pathways applicants develop strategies to address non-medical Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)? If so, are there specific SDOH to highlight in the Call for Proposals?

Chair Bradley noted that non-medical SDOH affect medical needs. Commission Chair Kasemeyer requested that Mr. Luckner review the priorities for consideration in the Pathways Call for Proposals. Mr. Luckner noted that the legislation states that “the Commission shall provide grant funding to reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, improve access to primary care, promote primary and secondary prevention services, and reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions.” Additionally, Pathways applicants must demonstrate how the proposed program could be self-sustainable as a HERC, and special consideration must be given to prior Health Enterprise Zones.

Ms. Chung reiterated that addressing SDOH comes back to data and technical assistance. Dr. Dwyer advised that the Committee engage with other state agencies to help address SDOH. Mr. Luckner noted there is a Health Equity Commission within the Health Department that is tasked with focusing on health equity across all State agencies, and that the CHRC will work closely with that Commission.

Question 6 - What should be the review/selection criteria for the Pathways Call for Proposals?

Ms. Altman asked whether the Commission is considering publishing the criteria under which the Commission will base their review of proposals/applications. Dr. Dwyer discussed some criteria required by the legislation. Mr. Luckner explained that page 18 of the legislation ([HB 463/CH742 2021](#)) set certain requirements for the HERC applications / review process, and that the Commission must follow the legislative intent of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act. While the legislation requires priority for applicants representing areas previously designated as HEZs, it is not the intent to fund only prior HEZs and prior Commission grantees. Mr. Conti noted that the legislation also requires consideration of geographic diversity in making awards for HERCs, and Ms. Chung said that the Consumer Engagement and Community Engagement Subcommittee, which she chairs, will reach out to communities throughout the state.

Process for public comment period

Mark Luckner explained the process for receiving public comment. CHRC staff will develop a form to enable comment on each of the questions approved by the Subcommittee. Members of the public are encouraged to fill out this form and submit responses by September 6, 2021. Responses should be emailed to mdh.chrc@maryland.gov. Public comments may also be presented orally at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Schedule for next Subcommittee meeting

The Pathways Call for Proposals/Design Subcommittee will next meet on September 8 from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was offered by Chair Jaki Bradley and seconded by Rebecca Altman. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.