

**Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) for Nurses  
and Nursing Support Staff Workgroup**

Virtual Meeting  
December 12, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 pm

**Meeting Minutes - APPROVED**

**Stakeholder Workgroup Attendees Membership Seat Representative**

Representative of the Maryland Nurses Association - Nayna Philipsen  
Representative of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East - Loraine Arikat  
Representative of the Maryland Hospital Association - Jane Krienke  
Representative of the LifeSpan Network - Lesley Flaim  
Representative of Leading Age MD - Allison Roenigk Ciborowski  
Representative of AFSCME Maryland - Denise Gilmore  
Representative of a Community Health Center - Shamonda Brathwaite  
Representative of the Maryland Association of County Health Officers - Holly Trice

**Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Staffing**

Sara Seitz  
Sadé Diggs  
Kimberly Hiner

**Also in Attendance**

Amberly Holcomb (Department of Legislative Services), Iman Farid (Maryland Board of Nursing), June Chung (Department of Legislative Services), Lindsay Rowe (Department of Legislative Services), Jacqueline Patterson (Maryland Nurses Association)

**Notes**

**I. Welcome/Introductions and Roll Call**

- The virtual meeting was called to order (3:03 p.m.) by Sara Seitz who provided a brief welcome.
- Each workgroup member introduced themselves to the group during roll call and guests signed in to the virtual meeting via chat function.

**II. Opening Remarks:**

- Sara Seitz opened the floor for discussion of the November 14, 2022 meeting minutes. No corrections were provided and the minutes were approved as distributed.
- Sara Seitz provided an update on and thanked the members for their support in the Workgroup's Interim Report. The report has been submitted to the Maryland

Department of Health's Office of Governmental Affairs and is on its way to the General Assembly. As soon as signature is provided from the Secretary of Health, the report will be posted to the Workgroup's website.

- Sara Seitz provided a brief review of the statutory mandated activities (SB696, 2022) and purpose of the workgroup. The current work plan was discussed and presented to workgroup members.

### **III. Introduction to the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs**

- Sade Diggs presented background information of the Maryland Loan Repayment Programs (MLRP) and what they each look like currently. Workgroup members were encouraged to take notes during this portion of the presentation to have ideas on how the members would like the NNS loan repayment program to look differently.

- Sara Seitz provided workgroup members with the current Fiscal Year 2023 funding for MLRP. Historically, \$360,000 in federal dollars and \$400,000 from the Board of Physicians for in-state funds. Landscape for funding has changed drastically and in FY 23 SLRP funding has gone up and includes \$772,160 for the next three years. The dedicated purpose funds for general and state funds are \$4.4 million for MLARP for Physicians and Physician Assistants (PPA) and for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff (NNS), the funding amount is \$3 million. Note provided that in our most recent grant application a position request for more staffing includes an administrative assistant for the next three years. FTE breakdown of current office provided which include 0.2 FTE for Director and 0.5 of Coordinator and additional in-kind assistance provided from other staff members.

- Sara Seitz provided background details on the office being a current member of the multi-state Provider Retention & Information System Management program (PRISM) since 2022. The group is run out of 3RNet and provides retention surveying of MLRP participants during their service obligation and after they complete the service obligation.

- Details provided regarding the implementation of the MLRP monitoring and evaluation plan where each year the office completes an applicant and awardee analysis to provide information on who is applying, who is being offered awards, and who continues on to be a participant and signs on for service obligation. Traditionally, it has been a paper based application, but has shifted to an electronic application, but does not have an online portal. The office continues engagement with the MDH Office of Enterprise Technology and Maryland Department of Information Technology about a data system procurement and the lack of funds for operation to create a more secure route to collect information from applicants and give real time feedback and reminders.

- Program expansion based on updated 2022 legislation was discussed, including the allowance of part time providers to apply to MLRP and be funded under the program.
- Opened floor for any questions about current MLRP infrastructure, but no questions at that time.
- Details provided regarding intended launch of the MLARP NNSS Inaugural Application Cycle for upcoming March 1 - April 15, 2023. Website updates pending. Brief review of the eligibility requirements were presented to members. Plan is to operationalize the MLARP NNSS program as closely as to existing MLRP programs as possible, but to make changes as appropriate/necessary, considering workgroup member recommendations, program priorities and legislative mandates.

#### **IV. Discussion**

- Sara Seitz opened the meeting floor to the members for a discussion and presented the final report and recommendations and some starter questions as follows for members to utilize:

##### Final Report and Recommendations:

1. Areas of research: Nursing school debt, other state programs, incentives to practice in underserved areas, other federal grants
2. Incentive program recommendations
3. MLARP funding priorities
4. Permanent funding structure

##### Starter Questions:

1. What data do Workgroup members have to contribute toward areas of research?
2. What information does the Workgroup need in order to continue conversation about funding priorities?

- As data is uncovered by group members to support conversations, it will be sent to [sara.seitz@maryland.gov](mailto:sara.seitz@maryland.gov).

- The group discussed a variety of considerations to take into account between nurses and

nursing support staff, such as potential for limited educational loans for nursing support staff education programs, part-time vs. full-time work, etc. Moving forward, conversations regarding funding priorities will be discussed separately for nurses and nursing support staff due to the wide variety of differences between the two groups.

## **V. Next Steps**

-The workgroup structure was discussed as follows:

- Meeting Schedule/Frequency/Length: Discussed shifting meeting time and now will generally meet the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00 pm., to be scheduled until 4:30 p.m

- Group discussion:

- Moving forward, it makes sense to discuss nurses and nursing support staff separately as the two groups are different enough to warrant separate considerations
- Next meeting: Focus on funding priorities conversation for nurses and nursing support staff.

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

**VII. Adjournment:** (4:13 p.m.)

Presentation posted to and accessible on the MLARP Stakeholder Workgroup for Nurses and Nursing Support Staff webpage:

<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/MLARP-Stakeholder-Workgroup-for-Nurses-and-Nursing-Support-Staff.aspx>