



STATE OF MARYLAND

## Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Room 336 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Allan Anderson, M.D., Chair – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
House of Delegates  
312 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Cullison,

Thank you for sharing with the Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers (the Council) your legislation, HB 0409, regarding expanded sponsorship models for school-based health centers (SBHCs).

As you know, the Council has been interested in this topic and supportive of expanding SBHC sponsorship models. Last year's Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation required the Council to consult with the Maryland Department of Health and the State Department of Education on a plan to build a sustainable sponsorship model by expanding the types of organizations that can sponsor SBHCs. The Council formed an ad-hoc workgroup to study the issue more closely.

In its letter to the Maryland Department of Health and State Department of Education pursuant to the legislative requirement of last year's Blueprint legislation, the Council advised:

...the Council recommends considerations for modifying Maryland State Medicaid regulations to include hospitals, and additional Sponsoring entities beyond LHD, FQHC, and general clinic, endorsed by the Council ...

The recommendations of the ad-hoc workgroup outlined above are based in part on the findings of an independent consultant commissioned by the Council, and are aligned with the Council's 2019 recommendations to the General Assembly.

The independent report commissioned by the Council included the following:

We recommend that the Council further analyze opportunities for improving the SBHC model in Maryland, which differs from other states ... Currently, hospitals are not permitted to receive Medicaid reimbursement for SBHC services, but this is something that should be reviewed, leveraging experiences from other states.

The Council's 2019 Annual Report included the following recommendation:

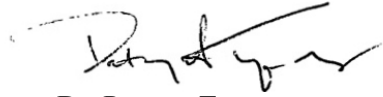
The Council recommends expanded sponsorship models to promote the advancement of school-based health center sustainability. The sponsoring agency types should not be restrictive if the standards of being a safety net provider are met.

By way of background, the Council was charged by the Maryland General Assembly in 2015 to issue policy recommendations to promote the advancement of SBHCs in Maryland, and to offer recommendations that would help improve the health and educational outcomes of students who receive services from SBHCs. As a rule, the Council does not take positions on legislation. The Council does, however, respond to requests for information and is poised to share with policymakers its views on whether policy proposals align with the Council's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Dr. Katherine Connor  
Chair, Council



Dr. Patryce Toy  
Vice Chair, Council

cc: Webster Ye, Deputy Chief of Staff, Maryland Department of Health  
Mark Luckner, Executive Director, Community Health Resources Commission  
Lorianne Moss, Staff Consultant, Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers