

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON PUBLIC HEALTH



INTERIM REPORT DECEMBER 1, 2023 REVISED VERSION

Adopted by the full Commission on December 14, 2023
Submitted by the Co-Chairs on behalf of the Commission

Submitted to:

Governor - gov.appointments@maryland.gov

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee - AA_BAT@mlis.state.md.us

Senate Finance Committee - AA_FIN@mlis.state.md.us

House Appropriations Committee - AA_APP@mlis.state.md.us

House Health and Government Operations Committee - AA_HGO@mlis.state.md.us

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ABBREVIATIONS

CoPH	Commission on Public Health
CSU	Coppin State University
LHD	Local Health Department
LHO	Local Health Officer
MACHO	Maryland Association of County Health Officials
MDH	Maryland Department of Health
SPH	School of Public Health
UMD	University of Maryland

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Summary of legislation

The Commission is tasked with assessing and recommending improvements to the delivery of foundational public health services in Maryland. Workgroups will explore five key subjects relevant to this mission: Funding; Governance and Organizational Capabilities; Workforce; Data and Information Technology; and Communications and Public Engagement.

Reporting

On or before December 1, 2023, the Commission shall submit an interim report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, The Senate Finance Committee, The House Appropriations Committee, and The House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Membership

Membership of the Commission is described in the Appendix.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION

1. Co-chairs have held three meetings and have begun work on setting meeting dates for December 2023 and for calendar year 2024, establishing mechanisms of communications within CoPH, assigning CoPH members to the workgroups, and preparing the interim report.
2. Support staff from UMD SPH have been named (Minda Polser, Project Manager, with support from Erin McClure, Chief of Staff, and Michelle Kong, Assistant to the Dean). Support staff from CSU has also been named (Joshua Veale, Administrative Assistant).
3. A press release was issued on November 14, 2023, seeking subject matter experts for five workgroups that will inform the work and recommendations of the CoPH. The five workgroups include: Funding; Governance and Organizational Capabilities; Workforce; Data and Information Technology; and Communications and Public Engagement. To date 44 applications have been received.

MEETINGS

Co-Chairs	
11/4/23	<p>Introduction of co-chairs</p> <p>Overview of legislated duties and deadlines</p> <p>Discuss staff support</p> <p>CoPH communications needs and member intake process</p> <p>CoPH meetings plan</p> <p>CoPH workgroups - call for members</p>
11/15/23	<p>Updates on communications, staff support, workgroups, meeting plan</p> <p>Agenda for Commission kick-off meeting</p> <p>Draft interim report</p>
11/29/23	<p>Updates on workgroups, funding, meeting schedules, agendas</p>
12/1/23	<p>Review and submission of interim report</p>
Commission	
<p>Inaugural meeting planned for 12/14/23</p>	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CoPH requests an extension for the final report to June 30, 2025, which coincides with the termination of the Act. Per the legislation, the current final report due date is December 1, 2024. Although the Act took effect on June 1, 2023, appointments to the Commission were not completed until the end of October 2023.
2. CoPH requests the ability to seek financial support mechanisms. Although there is no dedicated state funding to support the analysis conducted by the Commission, the Commission believes that there may be opportunities, including public health foundational-level support through grant mechanisms.
3. CoPH requests technology support from the State for the Commission, including the establishment of maryland.gov emails for members and the establishment of a website for the Commission to be used as a communication tool. The website will also help foster the greatest level of transparency and engagement with the public. The emails allow for the most efficient level of collaborative work for the Commission as maryland.gov emails enable the sharing of google business suite documents.
4. CoPH recognizes the contributions of staff providing subject matter expertise from both the Local Health Department represented by the Health Officer Co-Chair and the Maryland Department of Health. Government-involved staffing helps facilitate the logistics and work of this commission, particularly as the major focus of the Commission is the governmental public health infrastructure in the state.

CITATIONS

St. Mary's County Health Department. (2023, Nov 14). *Commission on Public Health Seeks Workgroup Members*. [Press Release]. <https://smchd.org/2023/11/commission-on-public-health-seeks-workgroup-members/>

Legislation:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/HB0214>

APPENDIX

Member Biographies:



Heather Bagnall, BS

State Delegate District 33C

Maryland General Assembly

Anne Arundel County

Central Maryland

Workforce Workgroup

Tenure

First elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2018. Member of the House since January 9, 2019.

Current Assignments

2019 Health and Government Operations Committee

2023 Chair, Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee (Member, 2019)

2019 Health Occupations and Long-Term Care Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee

2023 Chair, Anne Arundel County House Delegation (Vice-Chair, 2022)

2019 Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, Associate Member

2019 Women Legislators of Maryland (2nd Vice President, 2022-2023)

Memberships

Maryland Legislative Transit Caucus, 2019; Toast of Severna Park, Vice President Public Relations, 2018-; Dramatists Guild, 2016-; Advisory Board Member, Prince George's Summer Teen Theatre,

2013, 2013-; Founder, Women of the Fringe, Edinburgh, UK, 2013; Advisory Board, Story Tapestries, 2012-; Entertainment Department Advocate for FEAST and MAST, Disney Cruise Line, 2011; Crofton Chamber of Commerce.

Awards

Selke Award for Best Show, Pittsburgh Fringe, 2018; Best of Fest, Orlando Fringe, 2017; Wanderlust Award, Pittsburgh Fringe, 2014.

Biographical Information

Born in Washington, D.C.; Broadneck Senior High School, 1992; Towson University, B.S., Theatre Performance, 1996; Wagner College and the Second City in Chicago (additional studies), 1992-1994; Arts Educator and Administrator, 1998-present; Assistant Director, Holton-Arms Creative Summer, 2000-present; Playwright, 2009-present; Entertainment Cruise staff, Disney Cruise Line, 2010-2011; Co-founding Artistic Director, Tasty Monster Productions, 2011-present; Co-founder, Encores TheARTricals; Editor, Fringe Review US; Married.



Camille Blake Fall, JD

*Director, Office of Minority Health and Health
Disparities*

Maryland Department of Health

Central Maryland

Communication & Public Engagement Workgroup

Camille Blake Fall is the Director of the MDH, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Camille brings to the role more than 20 years of government service leading policy, programmatic, and legislative advocacy efforts in healthcare and an unwavering commitment to improving communities, advancing equity and driving transformational change.

In a prior role, Camille spent 17 years as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Division. In addition to providing legal, legislative, regulatory and communication services for several grant and public benefits programs, Camille served as lead legal counsel advising CMS' Division of Tribal Affairs and the CMS Tribal Technical Advisory Group on policies affecting American Indian and Alaskan Native communities to ensure access to culturally competent healthcare in Indian Country. Camille also functioned as lead attorney and subject matter expert on Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) implementation and the related obligations on Medicare-participating acute care hospitals. As one of the department's chief EMTALA experts, Camille represented the agency at various healthcare conferences and trainings nationwide.



Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch is the Director of Health and Human Services and Health Officer for Baltimore County. A native of New York City, Dr. Branch is a Magna Cum Laude graduate from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He completed his training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in the William Osler Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Gregory Branch, MD, MBA, CPE, FACP

Health Officer

Baltimore County

Baltimore County

Central Maryland

Funding Workgroup

Nationally recognized as a Certified Physician Executive, Dr. Branch earned the Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business. He is currently on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and School of Public Health and is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Having practiced medicine for over 30 years, Dr. Branch is an internationally recognized Fellow of the American College of Physicians.



Christopher Brandt, MBA, AB

Managing Director

Audacious Capital

Baltimore County

Central Maryland

Data & Information Technology Workgroup

Christopher (Chris) Brandt currently serves as Managing Director of Audacious Capital, a socially conscious portfolio manager based in Baltimore, MD. The closely held company, created in 2016, has grown to manage well over \$100M of assets. The company seeks alpha by way of difficult to access investments in high growth companies and top-performing funds, with significant concentration in healthcare and technology.

Chris previously served as the CEO of Audacious Inquiry, a leading health information technology company. Audacious Inquiry was among the fastest growing companies in the United States for ten consecutive years. At the time of the company's March 2022 acquisition by PointClickCare, they were enabling care coordination for more than seventy-five million patients across the country.

Chris currently serves on the boards of: ShiftMed / Homecare.com, the nation's leading marketplace for credentialed clinical shift workers; The Aspen Institute's Health Innovators Fellowship; and the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical System.

Chris holds an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and an AB in computer science from Duke University. Chris is an Eagle Scout and a private pilot. He lives with his wife and three young sons in Baltimore, Maryland, where he continues to dream up ways to create substantial social impact and leave a lasting legacy.



Meenakshi Brewster, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Health Officer

St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County

Southern Maryland

Commission Co-Chair

*Governance & Organizational Capabilities
Workgroup*

Dr. Brewster has served as St. Mary's County Health Officer since 2012, directing the local health department and providing health guidance for the county.

Prior to her current role, she served as the Medical Director for the Health and Human Services Commission at the Indiana State Department of Health and as the Chronic Disease Director for the state. Her previous work experience also includes appointment as Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she taught medical students, primary care residents, and sports medicine fellows while providing clinical care to patients of all ages and backgrounds.

She is a primary care physician with clinical training in the specialties of Family Medicine and Sports Medicine. Dr. Brewster earned a Bachelor of Science in biology, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Miami (FL).



Jean Drummond, MPA

President and CEO

HealthCare Dynamics International

Prince George's County

Central Maryland

Communication & Public Engagement Workgroup

As President and Chief Executive Officer of HCD International, Jean is a dynamic and knowledgeable healthcare professional with vast experience providing executive oversight on extensive quality services across the Federal, state, county, community and private health sectors. Specifically, Jean's strength lies in her ability to bridge the gaps between health policy, program implementation, and access to care for our most vulnerable populations. She began HCD International in 1991 after a successful career as a practicing clinician. Her focus on placing only the best candidates for positions based on skills, experience, work ethic and drive ensures that clients receive excellent value on each contract. Jean received her undergraduate degree as a Physician's Assistant from Howard University and earned her Master's in Public Administration in Healthcare Management from Bowie State University. She is also a devout mother of three and wife to Dr. Jimmie Drummond, a Veteran of the US Air Force. Recognizing her divine purpose in life, Jean realizes her success rests in giving the greatest gift of all – love and service to mankind.



Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP

Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services

Maryland Department of Health

Baltimore

Central Maryland

Funding Workgroup

Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP, serves as the Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services, at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Dr. Niles Kalyanaraman is a leader in improving health outcomes by developing innovative collaborations across health care, public health, and communities. Most recently, he served as the Health Officer in Anne Arundel County from 2019 to 2023 and led the county through its Covid response, the establishment of a gun violence intervention team, and the development of community-led health outreach to advance health equity. For over a decade prior, he has held leadership positions at Federally Qualified Health Centers, including Health Care for the Homeless in Baltimore and Unity Health Care in Washington, DC. He has led care transformation to integrate social determinants of health into clinical care, implement innovative reimbursement models, and increase access to underserved populations. He received a Doctor of Medicine from SUNY Downstate Health Science University in Brooklyn, NY and was a AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellow at the National Institutes of Health.



Ariana Kelly

State Senator District 16

Maryland General Assembly

Montgomery County

Central Maryland

Funding Workgroup

Senator Ariana Kelly is a champion for affordable, quality healthcare access. During her time as Chair of the House Subcommittee on *Public Health and Minority Health Disparities* she sponsored with Senator Clarence Lam the legislation establishing the *Commission on Public Health*. Representing Maryland's 16th District since 2011 (Bethesda, North Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Potomac), Senator Kelly is Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation. She is also a member of the *Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families*, which she chaired from 2016 - 2022, and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Senator Kelly was elected to the House of Delegates in 2010 and joined the Maryland Senate in February 2023. Senator Kelly has also served as Vice Chair of the *House's Health and Government Operations Committee*, Chair of the *Health Occupations and Long-Term Care Subcommittee*, and as a member of Maryland's *Medicaid Advisory Board*.

Senator Kelly has successfully sponsored more than 100 pieces of legislation expanding access to healthcare and increasing economic security for families. She envisioned Maryland's landmark Contraceptive Equity Act, the Abortion Care Access Act, and Time to Care Act. She also authored legislation establishing Maryland's health insurance network adequacy standards, strengthening Maryland Immunet, requiring insurance coverage for autism treatment, and studying access to healthcare for Maryland's immigrant community. Senator Kelly's background in public health is extensive, including serving as Family Environmental Health Campaign Director at MomsRising and Executive Director at NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland. She has also served as Executive Producer for the

national PBS news program *To The Contrary*.

Senator Kelly has received dozens of awards for her work in healthcare including Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington's 2023 Champion of Reproductive Health, Maryland Hospital Association's 2022 Legislator of the Year, Time to Care Coalition's 2022 Legislative Champion, and the Maryland Chain Pharmacy Association's 2021 Legislator of the Year. In 2019, Sen. Kelly has been named Legislator of the Year by numerous healthcare and consumer groups including the Maryland Nurses Association, Healthy Teen Network, Maryland Psychological Association, and Mental Health Association of Maryland.



Alyssa Lord, MA, MSc

Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health

Maryland Department of Health

Baltimore City

Central Maryland

Data & Information Technology Workgroup

Alyssa Lord is the Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). She brings more than 20 years of experience in community and population health. Ms. Lord has focused her efforts on working collaboratively across local, city, state, and federal entities to improve the health outcomes across the lifespan.

Prior to joining MDH, Ms. Lord served in a number of leadership positions that combined direct service, advocacy, policy, and strategy in New York and New Jersey. Most recently she was Vice President, Healthcare Strategy at a large (\$120 million+) housing, healthcare, and workforce development nonprofit where she was responsible for setting the vision for healthcare, behavioral health, and substance use services for homeless and unstably housed New Yorkers. In previous positions she led the implementation of care coordination services for clinically, behaviorally and socially complex Medicaid, dually enrolled, and special needs plans beneficiaries. She was also responsible for establishing a university-community partnership in West Philadelphia that led to the implementation of a school-based health center/federally qualified health center and the development of an innovative health careers curriculum for middle and high school students.

Ms. Lord earned Master's degrees from New York University and the London School of Economics.



Boris D Lushniak, MD, MPH

Dean and Professor

University of Maryland School of Public Health

Montgomery County

Central Maryland

Commission Co-Chair

Workforce Workgroup

Rear Admiral (retired) Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, has been Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland since January 2017 after serving as Department Chair of Preventive Medicine and Professor of Dermatology at the Uniformed Services University. He attended Northwestern (BS 1981, MD 1983) and Harvard (MPH 1984) and completed residencies in family medicine and dermatology and is certified in dermatology and preventive medicine (occupational). He was the US Deputy Surgeon General (SG) from 2010-15, Acting SG from 2013-14 and was responsible for the 50th Anniversary SG's Report on Smoking and Health and the SG Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer. During the Ebola response in 2015 he commanded the US Public Health Service (USPHS) Monrovia Medical Unit in Liberia. He began his USPHS career in 1988 in the Epidemic Intelligence Service and served with CDC/NIOSH until 2004 and was part of the team at Ground Zero and the CDC anthrax team. In 2004 he transitioned to the FDA in the Office of Counterterrorism and was appointed FDA Assistant Commissioner in 2005. He retired from the US Public Health Service in 2015 as a two-star Rear Admiral after 27 years in the uniformed services.



Oluwatosin Olateju, DrPH, MSN, BSN

Assist. Professor of Nursing

Coppin State University

Baltimore City

Central Maryland

Commission Co-Chair

Communication & Public Engagement Workgroup

Oluwatosin H. Olateju, DrPH, MSN, BSN serves as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Coppin State University. Dr. Olateju is a grassroots community/public/global health nurse leader who has worked in Maryland local health departments implementing, managing, and evaluating several health programs focusing on infectious disease prevention and control, family health, and sexual and reproductive health for diverse populations. She spent the first five years of her career as a clinical nurse specializing in neurology/neurosurgery and psychiatry before finding her calling in public health.

Dr. Olateju is also the founder of Food and Care for All Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes food security and equitable health services for underserved populations in Maryland, U.S., and Sub-Saharan Africa. She is passionate about research and health policy. Between 2018 and 2019, Dr. Olateju led a team to advocate for a Maryland legislation that allows minors to give consent for HIV prevention treatments. The law was successfully passed in 2019. She continues to advocate for equitable healthcare policies and is currently the Co-chair of the Advocacy Committee at the Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA).

Dr. Olateju obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Community & Public Health Nursing from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Dr. Olateju also received a Doctor of Public Health degree from Morgan State University, School of Community Health and Policy, specializing in Health Policy and Management.



Frances Phillips, RN, MHA

Retired

Central Maryland

*Governance & Organizational Capabilities
Workgroup*

Fran Phillips has led public health initiatives in Maryland for over 30 years. After holding senior clinical nursing positions in pediatric and emergency care in Washington, D.C., she joined the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, where she served as Health Officer for 17 years. Fran was later appointed Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, Maryland Department of Health, where she served for over 7 years in the O'Malley and Hogan administrations. Throughout her career, Fran has built successful collaboratives to address public health challenges and to advance social justice and health equity.

Since retiring from public service in 2020, Fran actively consults on multiple public health and advocacy projects. She serves on the Board of the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center and is an adjunct faculty member with the Anne Arundel Community College, where she teaches English to speakers of other languages.

Fran holds a bachelor of science in nursing degree from the Catholic University of America, a master's degree in health care administration from the George Washington University, and a certificate in teaching ESOL.

Fran and her husband live in Annapolis and enjoy spending lots of time with their children and grandchildren in Baltimore City.



Nicole Rochester, MD

Founder & CEO

Your GPS Doc, LLC

Prince George's County

Central Maryland

Communication & Public Engagement Workgroup

Dr. Nicole Rochester is the founder and CEO of Your GPS Doc, LLC, an innovative company that elevates the voices of patients and family caregivers through private health advocacy services and provides health equity and patient/family engagement consulting services to dynamic healthcare organizations seeking to transform the way they provide medical care to their communities. Dr. Rochester is a Board-Certified pediatrician with over 20 years of experience practicing and teaching medicine, a former family caregiver, an independent health advocate, healthcare navigation expert, speaker, consultant and author.

Dr. Rochester was inspired to launch her company after caring for her late father and witnessing the healthcare system from the other side of the stethoscope. She realized that her medical knowledge, expertise, and influence allowed her to be a powerful advocate for her dad and that many family caregivers don't (and shouldn't need to) have that advantage. She is committed to using her personal and professional experiences to positively transform the healthcare system.



Maura Rossman, MD

Health Officer

Howard County

Howard County

Central Maryland

*Governance & Organizational Capabilities
Workgroup*

Dr. Maura Rossman is the Health Officer for the Howard County Health Department. She has 35 years' experience in the medical profession, and 25 years+ experience in Public Health. She was appointed Health Officer in 2012 and has worked for the Howard County Health Department since 2007, serving as Medical Director and Deputy Health Officer of Clinical Services.

Dr. Rossman is a versatile and strategic public health professional possessing exceptional leadership and management skills. She has designed and implemented innovative and sustainable population health-based program initiatives with an emphasis on data driven, outcome oriented, evidenced based practices. She and her team are customer focused to ensure health equity and optimal wellness are achievable for all who live, work, play and pray in Howard County.

Prior to joining Howard County Health Department, she served as the Medical Director of School Health for 10 years in the Baltimore City Health Department. The first ten years of her medical career were spent in academic pediatrics and as a neurodevelopmental specialist. She and her family are happy to call Ellicott City home since 1993.



Michelle Spencer, MS

Practice Professor

Deputy Director, Bloomberg American Health Initiative

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Baltimore County

Central Maryland

Governance & Organizational Capabilities Workgroup

Ms. Spencer is a public health practitioner with an expertise in public health place-based program implementation, development, and management with a focus on health equity, racial disparities, and health outcomes. Her experience in public health practice spans over 20 years, having overseen the programmatic, fiscal, and operational divisions of a local health department and led the Maryland Department of Health's Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, where core public health programs and policies are formed and implemented.

Ms. Spencer's interests are in community-level initiatives and partnerships, particularly in disinvested and underserved communities. At the Maryland Department of Health, she oversaw the development and execution of the Maryland Health Enterprise Zone Initiative, a place-based effort focused on reducing disparities and improving health outcomes. In 2021, she advised on the drafting of Senate Bill 172 which established the Health Equity Resources Communities (HERC). She served as the expert witness, providing testimony towards its passage and its funding of \$59 million dollars. This new state statute, modeled after the Health Enterprise Zone Initiative, seeks to further transform the health care delivery system by achieving the Triple Aim of improved population health, better health care access, and lower costs.

Ms. Spencer focuses on impact, sustainability, replicability, and impacts of the Zone initiative and the effect of using data to advance health equity. She further has experience in community approaches to reduce violence and collaborate with experts on prevention strategies that focuses on justice-involved persons. Her work identifies innovative approaches to address and reduce recidivism of those involved in the justice system.



Allen Twigg, LCPC, MBA, FACHE

Executive Director, Behavioral and Community Health

Meritus Health

Washington County

Western Maryland

Funding Workgroup

Allen L. Twigg, LCPC, MBA is the Executive Director of Behavioral & Community Health Services for Meritus Health in Hagerstown, Maryland. Twigg provides administrative oversight of the Behavioral Health and Psychiatry service line, and the Community Health and Wellness services. He developed a mobile health program that increased access to primary care and preventive health in underserved communities across the county. Most recently, he established a walk-in mental health service to provide immediate access to psychiatry evaluation and counseling for persons ages six and up.

Twigg co-chairs Healthy Washington County, the local health improvement coalition, and is the community advisor for the George W. Comstock Center for Public Health Research and Prevention. He helped found the Leadership in Equity and Diversity (LEAD) Council at Meritus Health which was the recipient of the AHA 2023 Carolyn D. Boone Award for health equity transformation, recognized for their work in eliminating health disparities.

Twigg is a graduate of Hood College and Frostburg State University with Master's degrees in counseling psychology and business administration. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has more than 20 years of experience as a counselor and manager of community health services in Washington County.