

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board Meeting Minutes

December 22, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Members Present¹

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.

Georges Benjamin, M.D.

Jennifer Goldberg, J.D., LL.M.

Enrique Martinez-Vidal, M.P.P.

Ben Steffen, M.A.

Kenneth Apfel, M.P.A

Therese Goldsmith, J.D., M.S.

Darrell Gaskin, Ph.D.

Rebecca Pearce, M.B.A

Thomas Saquella, M.A.

Members Absent

None

Opening and General Updates

Secretary Sharfstein announced that the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Report due to the Governor and General Assembly will be placed in the mail on December 23, 2011. The report, along with a press release, will be publically issued on December 27, 2011.

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Report

The Exchange Board members discussed final changes to the report. The Board decided not to address association plans in the final report due to their complexity and the need for more information before issuing a recommendation. The Board also agreed to recommend in the final report that funds from the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP) follow members as they merge into the Exchange. In addition, the Board concluded that insurance carriers offering catastrophic plans outside the Exchange must participate in the Exchange.

Regarding the financing section of the report, the Board agreed to change the current wording and state that transaction fees will be uncertain in the first few years of the Exchange's operations. Therefore, transaction fees may need to be phased in.

Next Steps

Secretary Sharfstein said that the reports from the study vendors and the advisory committees will be attached to the final report electronically.

Ms. Pearce said that the next Exchange Board meeting will take place on January 9, 2012. She thanked the Board members and staff for all of their work on the report.

¹ All board members were present through teleconference.