

FINAL



**Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board of Trustees
Open Board Conference Call
August 21, 2015
10:30AM – 11:00AM
Baltimore, MD 21215**

Present for vote and Open Session: Van Mitchell; Ken Apfel; Linda S. (Susie) Comer; Michelle Gourdine; and Anthony (Tony) McCann.

Also present: Carolyn Quattrocki; Juliana Bell; Carolyn Ellison; Jonathan Kromm; and Robbyn Lewis.

The purpose of this Open Board Conference Call was to clarify that MHBE has sufficient funding from savings elsewhere in its budget to cover the cost of the CRISP MOU, even if it is not cost allocated. This MOU describes how CRISP will implement MHBE's Provider Search Tool. CRISP has proposed three budget options, which were presented in detail during the most recent monthly Board meeting, held on Tuesday August 18, 2015. At that time, the Board elected to defer a decision on this topic, pending additional clarification from MHBE staff.

The MHBE Provider Search Tool can be used by all consumers, both QHP and Medicaid, because it contains provider data from both carriers and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. As a result, the cost of the tool has the potential to be cost allocated.

Jonathan Kromm described CRISP's three proposed options and their respective costs. Option 1, totaling \$261,423, includes website development. Option 2, totaling \$239,422, does not include website development. Both of these options are lower than the amount that was budgeted for 2016. Option 3 totals \$341,423, and differs from the others in that it includes website design as well as the use of Optum files to conduct additional data correction.

In previous years, MHBE has not cost allocated the Provider Search Tool. Although the tool can theoretically be used by Medicaid clients, it is not yet clear that they are doing so. If Medicaid clients are not using the tool, then the justification for cost allocation is undermined.

MHBE staff recommended consultation with CMS and DHMH staff regarding whether the search tool should be cost allocated. Staff requested additional time to undertake this consultation. After this consultation, staff will present a recommendation to the Board regarding the cost allocation issue.

Ken Apfel moved that the Board approve Option 2, Susie Comer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve this motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.