



Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Board of Trustees/Leadership Planning Meeting

June 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Anne Arundel Community College | Cade Center for Fine Arts
101 College Parkway | Arnold, MD*

Board Members Present:

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Chair

Aika Aluc, Vice Chair

Ken Brannan

Marie Grant

Katherine Rodgers, Ed.D, MPH

JoAnn Volk, M.A.

Douglas Jacobs, M.D.

Dr. Yvette Oquendo-Berruz

David Lehr

Also in Attendance:

Michele Eberle, Executive Director, MHBE

Johanna Fabian-Marks, Deputy Executive Director, MHBE

Ken Buerger, Director of Policy and Plan Management, MHBE

Tisha Payne, Director, Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness, MHBE

Christopher Randolph, Principal Counsel, MHBE

Amelia Marcus, Health Policy Analyst, MHBE

Saiqa Atta, Director of Compliance & Privacy, MHBE

Tony Armiger, Chief Financial Officer, MHBE

Venkat Koshanam, Ph.D., Chief Information Officer, MHBE

Alex Byrne, Manager of Innovation, Research, & Development, MHBE

Stephanie Klapper, SAC co-chair

Amber Hyde, SBPAC co-chair

Justin Giovannelli, Value Plan Workgroup co-chair

Herbert Baumgarten, Broker Advisory Committee co-chair

Ellen Montz, Managing Director, Manatt Health

Welcome & Introductions

Aika Aluc, Vice Chair

Tisha Payne, Director, Human Resources

Ms. Payne led the group in an icebreaker activity and Ms. Aluc welcomed the group.

Year in Review: Accomplishments and Updates

Michele Eberle, Executive Director

Alex Byrne, Manager IRD

Tony Armiger, CFO

Mrs. Eberle presented on the accomplishments of MHBE in the last year, and Mrs. Byrne presented on the ongoing work toward the goals of the 2026-2028 strategic plan. Mr. Armiger reviewed the budget process and provided an update on MHBE's FY26 and FY27 budget.

Stakeholder Perspectives, Emerging Issues, and Opportunities for Partnership

Johanna Fabian-Marks, Deputy Executive Director

Amelia Marcus, Health Policy Analyst

Stephanie Klapper, SAC co-chair

Amber Hyde, SBPAC co-chair

Justin Giovannelli, Value Plan Workgroup co-chair

Herbert Baumgarten, Broker Advisory Committee co-chair

A panel composed of co-chairs of MHBE stakeholder committees and workgroups introduced themselves, described the topics discussed by their group, and shared their hopes for MHBE's future, moderated by Health Policy Analyst, Ms. Amelia Marcus.

Guest Speaker: National Perspective on Federal Policy Landscape and Impact to State Marketplaces

Ellen Montz, Managing Director, Manatt Health

Ms. Montz shared a national perspective on the federal policy landscape and its impact on state marketplaces, with a focus on reviewing APTC eligibility changes going into effect for coverage starting January 1, 2028.

Board Governance

Johanna Fabian-Marks, Deputy Executive Director, MHBE

Ms. Fabian-Marks facilitated a Board conversation regarding appointments to fill vacancies on the Board Policy & Governance committee and the Audit & Compliance

committee. The Board agreed with reappointing Ms. Katherine Rodgers as chair of the Policy & Governance committee, appointing Mr. Kenneth Brannan as chair of the Audit & Compliance committee, and appointing Mr. David Lehr to the Audit & Compliance committee.

Maryland's State Marketplace 2026-2028 Outlook and Opportunities, and Upcoming Key Board Decisions / Considerations

Johanna Fabian-Marks, Deputy Executive Director

Ms. Fabian-Marks presented to the Board on challenges facing the individual and small group markets and the Medicaid program, a review of federal policy changes impacting state marketplaces, data on enrollment through April, and opportunities to collaborate in other statewide efforts related to health care costs and coverage. Ms. Fabian-Marks then facilitated a discussion with the Board on strategic priorities, considerations, and opportunities, as well as upcoming key board decisions. Board members discussed potential 2027 legislation to extend the state reinsurance fee and the state subsidy program, opportunities to leverage AI in MHBE operations, and how MHBE can make use of operational investments due to federal policy changes to build lasting improvements to MHBE systems.