

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-082-2023

Proposed by Council Member Blegay

Introduced by Council Members Blegay, Dernoga, Ivey, Olson, Oriadha, Burroughs,
Watson, Hawkins and Franklin

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction September 26, 2023

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Establishing a Task Force to Address Hospital Emergency Room Wait Times

3 For the purpose of establishing the task force on reducing hospital emergency room wait times to
4 study best practices and make recommendations for reducing emergency room wait times; and
5 generally relating to the task force on reducing emergency room wait times.

6 WHEREAS, there is a concern that wait times before patients receive treatment in hospital
7 emergency rooms are untenable and are leading to dangerous consequences; and

8 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify the root causes of these wait times, how said wait
9 times can be diminished and, if possible eliminated.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
11 County, Maryland, that this task force must (1) identify root causes of wait times in emergency
12 departments in the County, as specified; (2) study the regulatory environment, access and
13 availability of health care services, and inpatient bed availability in other counties and states, as
14 specified; (3) coordinate with other commissions and entities within the state examining issues
15 related to workforce shortage and behavioral health capacity; (4) review studies and
16 recommendations addressing workforce capacity issues; (5) conduct an analysis of
17 reimbursement policies and the effect of those policies on hospital reimbursement; and (6) make
18 recommendations, including legislative, regulatory, or other policy initiatives, regarding best
19 practices for reducing emergency department wait times that should be implemented in the
20 County.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,

1 Maryland, that the Hospital Emergency Room Wait Times Task Force shall be composed of
2 seventeen members:

- 3 1. The Chair of the Board of Health, or their designee, who will serve as the Chair;
4 and
- 5 2. Two representatives of a hospital located in Prince George's County, Maryland;
6 and
- 7 3. A representative from Non-Profit organization located in Prince George's County;
8 and
- 9 4. A representative from the Prince George's Fire/EMS Department; and
- 10 5. A representative from the Prince George's County Department of Health's
11 Healthcare Action Coalition; and
- 12 6. A State Delegate or State Senator representing Prince George's County,
13 Maryland; and
- 14 7. An emergency room physician practicing in Prince George's County, Maryland;
15 and
- 16 8. An emergency room nurse practicing in Prince George's County, Maryland; and
- 17 9. Three (3) residents of Prince George's County, Maryland or three (3)
18 representatives of organizations representing communities in Prince George's
19 County, Maryland; and
- 20 10. A representative from SEIU Local 1199; and
- 21 11. A staff member of the Legislative Branch as directed by the County Chair of the
22 Board of Health; and
- 23 12. One Registered Nurse employed in an Emergency Department who is a member
24 of an employee organization that is the exclusive bargaining representative of
25 health care workers; and
- 26 13. One Service Employee employed in an Emergency Department who is a member
27 of an employee organization that is the exclusive bargaining representative of
28 health care workers.
- 29 14. One representative of a healthcare clinic in Prince George's County, Maryland.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the Hospital Emergency Room Wait
31 Times Task Force shall receive compensation in exchange for their services rendered to this Task

1 Force; but they are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel
2 Regulations as provided by the County Budget.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hospital Emergency Room Wait Times Task Force
4 shall begin within six (6) months of this resolution’s adoption and end with the presentation of a
5 final written report and a summary of its findings to the County Council within one (1) year of
6 this resolution’s adoption.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council