

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Board of Health Meeting
Ernest Carter MD PhD
July 6, 2021

Brief Overview of the Mission of Agency

In 1920, Dr. Charles Winslow defined public health as “the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals

The broader current definition of the public health system offered by the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century*, calls for significant movement in “building a new generation of intersectoral partnerships that draw on the perspectives and resources of diverse communities and actively engage them in health action” (Institute of Medicine. (2002). *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century*. Washington, DC, The National Academies Press).

The **mission of Prince George's County Health Department** is to:

Protect the public's **health**. Assure availability of and access to quality **health** care services. Promote individual and community responsibility for the prevention of disease, injury and disability.

Accomplishments in the Midst of the Pandemic

Office of the Health Officer

COVID Care Program won award from HQI

Established PGCHD on PopHealth WG of SIHIS

Established partnerships for expansion of public health student support

Grew the HealthAssures program from \$250k in FY20 to almost \$3 million in FY21

NASA breathalyzer Project

Applied for HRSA Literacy grant and CDC CHW grant

Established Public Health Information Network (PHIN)

Family Services

"End the HIV Epidemic Campaign" including series with Channel 9

Opened the first mass testing site in the state at FedEx field in partnership with the National Guard

Opened 5 mass vaccination sites throughout the County

Continued back-to-school vaccinations

Expanded VFC program by adding Laurel site, with 3 new RNs

Continued Reproductive Health, WIC, TB HIV services

Health and Wellness

Implemented population health program innovations like medication therapy management, cardiac rehab, etc.

CDC full recognition status for DPP for another two years

Trained all county dialysis centers and nursing homes in infection control for COVID-19

PreventionLink Program progress recognized by CDC

Implemented ACIS program to provide housing for populations at risk of institutionalization

Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) expansion

Behavioral Health

Stabilized Leadership in Behavioral Health and LBHA

Addressed behavioral health impacts of COVID-19 for responders and the public

Crisis Response in collaboration with TLC-MD and the police department

Overdose Fatality Review process and aligned interventions that continued throughout the pandemic to address an increase on OD deaths.

Luminus/Behavioral Health Expansion Project

Environmental Health

Ambassador Program

Contact tracing for COVID and the 89 other reportable communicable and vector-borne diseases

Visited/inspected homes for lead/asthma triggers

Continuity of environmental health services (pool inspections, perc testing, etc.)

Established partnership with DPIE, DOE, etc. for integrated permitting and inspection system

Established clinic for low-cost rabies vaccinations for animals

Served on the Climate Action Coalition

Administration

Started Epic implementation & built out IT department

Employed 25 SYEP youth for pandemic response

Added two epidemiologists – one for HIV and one for PreventionLink

Food Priority Area Mapping

Established provider network for PPE distribution

Built a coalition of hospital emergency managers

Developed inventory management system



Major Areas of Focus and Objectives

2021 Q1 (07 - 09)

Recovery

Administrative Areas

- Get workforce back on track after COVID exhaustion
- Hire and stabilize leadership positions
- Implement management controls and improve communications
- Preparing to return to HD strategic planning process

Programmatic Areas (population health model)

Diabetes: TLC-MD planning and boost Prevention Link

Maternal & Child Health: begin Planning

- School immunization & COVID vaccination integration
- Collaborate with TLC-MD for Maternal Morbidity and Childhood Asthma funding from HSCRC

Behavioral Health:

- Crisis Response, Opioids
- Seek opportunities to establish a full continuum of behavioral health services within the county
- Continuing work with Luminis and TLC-MD

Infectious Disease: Continue efforts in HIV elimination, continue contact tracing for reportable conditions, scheduling rabies vaccine

Environmental Health: Normalizing operations, returning to routine food safety inspections and outdoor pool inspections

2021 Q2 (10 – 12)

Stabilization

Administrative Areas:

- Reduction of Work force vacancies
- Boost Emergency Preparedness and response
- Re-launch HD strategic planning process
- Begin Community Health Assessment process
- EPIC and PHIN fully implemented

Programmatic Areas(population health model)

- Expansion of Health Equity, Literacy and Policy

Diabetes: expand DPPs and community outreach

Maternal Child: Introduce expanded areas

- Continue collaboration with TLC-MD and State in Maternal Morbidity and Childhood Asthma – extend partnerships/contracts
- Continue School immunizations and expand COVID/FLU vaccination

Behavioral Health:

- Continue planning with TLC
- Increase efforts to ensure first responders can adequately respond to and save a life of someone experiencing an opioid overdose

Infectious Disease: Expand Contact Tracing - partnership

Major Areas of Focus and Objectives

2022 Q3 (01 – 03)

Expansion

Administrative Areas

- Continue to reduce workforce vacancies
- Continue to improve performance management
- Continue major planning efforts, including strategic planning and the community health assessment

Programmatic Areas (population health model): expansion of Health Equity, Literacy and Policy

Diabetes: TLC-MD Diabetes implementation and PreventionLink sustainability plan

Maternal Child:

- Outreach and implementation
- COVID vaccination expansion
- Collaborate with TLC-MD for Maternal Morbidity and Childhood Asthma funding from HSCRC: continue county wide implementation

Behavioral Health:

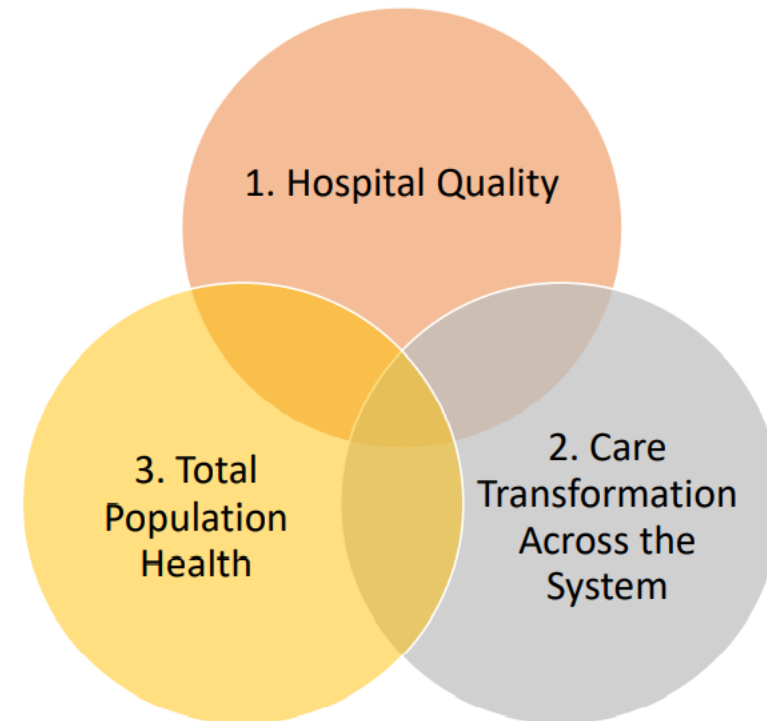
- Crisis Response
- Continue to seek opportunities to establish a full continuum of behavioral health services within the county

Infectious Disease: Continue efforts in HIV elimination, contact tracing

MD's SIHIS Strategy, TCOC and Role of PHIN, PreventionLink Relevant to Addressing Healthcare in Prince George's County?

Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy (SIHIS)

- In December 2019, Maryland & CMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to establish a **Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy**.
- This initiative is designed to engage State agencies and private-sector partners to collaborate and invest in improving health, addressing disparities, and reducing costs for Marylanders.
- The State submitted its proposal outlining goals, measures, milestones, and targets to CMMI on December 14, 2020. The full proposal can be read on the [HSCRC website](#).



Statewide Goals Across Three Domains

Hospital Quality

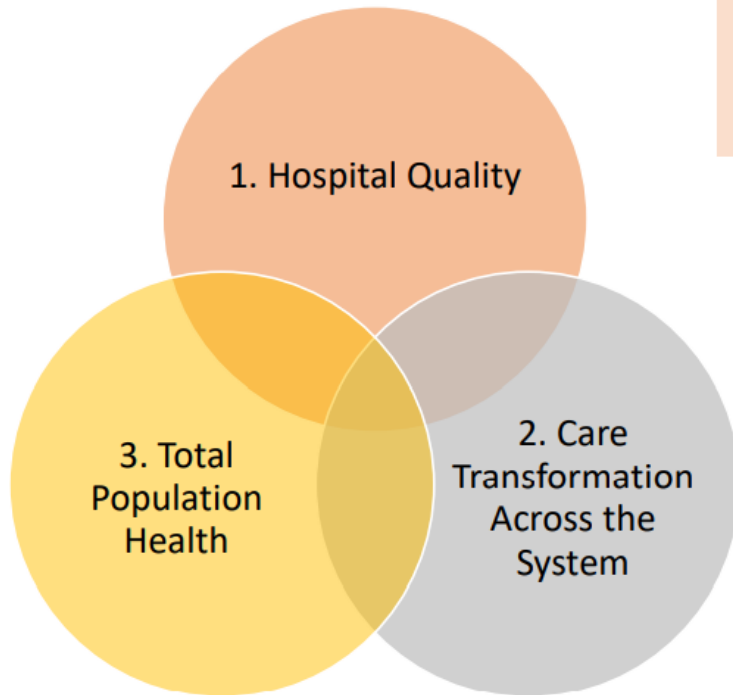
- Reduce avoidable admissions
- Improve Readmission Rates by Reducing Within-Hospital Disparities

Care Transformation Goals

- Increase the amount of Medicare TCOC or number of Medicare beneficiaries under value-based care models*
- Improve care coordination for patients with chronic conditions

Total Population Health Goals

- Priority Area 1 (Diabetes): Reduce the mean BMI for adult Maryland residents
- Priority Area 2 (Opioids): Improve overdose mortality
- Priority Area 3 (Maternal and Child Health Priority Area):
 - Reduce severe maternal morbidity rate
 - Decrease asthma-related emergency department visit rates for ages 2-17



New Grant

- \$4M, 2-yrs. - HHS, Office of Minority Health Grant for Health Literacy
 - A 2-yr. Advancing Health Literacy (AHL) to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 initiative, and is part of the Biden/Harris Administration's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness.
 - Will address health disparities surrounding COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment;
 - Partners: Bowie State University, Morgan University, The Maryland Center at Bowie State University, The Healthcare Alliance, CASA de Maryland, SRB, Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition

Opportunities for New or Ongoing Collaborations

New collaborations

- NASA/Johns Hopkins/Telophase – technology innovation to improve COVID rapid testing
- Bowie State, Morgan State, and Howard Universities – Public health evaluation
- CareQuality – Health Information interoperability
- GW for Maternal and Child Health

On going collaborations

- Totally Linking Care in Maryland – population health management and expansion
- FQHCs – Care for underserved
- Healthcare Alliance – Care Coordination and Health Assures
- Interagency cooperation for County-wide inspection process (DPIE, DOE, Soil Conservation)
- University of Maryland, George Washington University – boost research and evaluation
- Medstar Research
- Prime Time Sister Circles – Community organization and chronic disease improvement
- Access to Wholistic and Productive Living Institute CHW training services
- HCDI – public/private partner

For the Uninsured: Access to Care Health Assures Fund

- The Health Assures fund was established by the **Prince George's County Health Department in 2018** to serve as a safety net program for uninsured county residents not eligible for other programs, to expand access to care and to support the county's Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- *Approx. 90,000 uninsured residents in Prince George's County. Consumers not eligible for insurance are estimated at 50-60,000.
- The Health Department in collaboration with Health Center Leaders, the Regional Primary Care Coalition and the Prince George's Healthcare Alliance established the fund protocols and program eligibility requirements.
- FY2021 Funding:
 - **\$250,000 for the general Health Assures Fund**
 - **\$2.28M Expanded Health Assures Fund for COVID Care Relief**

**Prince George's County Health Connect, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange data: pre-pandemic data, no recent uninsured information is reportedly available*

Health Assures Fund Protocols and Eligibility

Health Assures Fund

- Uninsured
- Not eligible for Medicaid or other subsidized health programs
- Income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level
- Prince George's County Resident seen in Prince George's County Health Centers
- Funding for primary care and behavioral health visits

Health Assures COVID Relief Fund

- Uninsured
- Not eligible for Medicaid or other subsidized health programs
- Income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level
- Prince George's County Residents treated for COVID-19 related visits and care management
- Funding for office visits, telehealth visits, behavioral health visits, care management, labs, radiology, medications, prenatal care for COVID-19 positive patients and co-pays

Annual Visits Provided to Uninsured Residents

Fiscal Year	Health Center Visits for Uninsured that Met Criteria	Cost at \$90 per Visit	Unique Patients that Met Criteria	Health Assures Funds Allocation	Visits Funded with Allocation	Funding Gap Actual Cost minus Funds Allocated
FY 2018	16,726	\$1,505,340	5,913	\$117,500	1,306	-\$1,387,840
FY 2019	31,752	\$2,857,680	11,156	\$250,000	2,778	-\$2,607,680
FY 2020	24,140	\$2,172,600	9,853	\$250,000	2,778	-\$1,922,600
FY 20-21 COVID Care Fund	In progress		In progress	\$2,280,000	*est. 19,000	

Health Assures Eligibility Criteria:

A. Uninsured

B. Not eligible for Medicaid or other subsidized health programs

C. Income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level

D. Prince George's County Residents seen in Prince George's County Health Center or telehealth for COVID related visits

* COVID Visits vary based on type of visit.

Funds Administration

The Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, Inc. receives funding from the Prince George's County Health Department to administer the Health Assures Funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers in Prince George's County by:

- Executing contracts and agreements
- Receiving and reviewing patient level reports to verify eligibility
- Disbursing funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers in Prince George's County.