



**HEALTH FUNDERS AFFINTY GROUP & PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MAY 13, 2021 3:00 to 4:30 PM EST**

LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP SESSION

Contact: LieChelle Robinson Hernandez, Lhernandez@marylandphilanthropy.org
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Location: RingCentral Meetings

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

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Meeting ID: 851 750 5239

Agenda

3:00 to 3:10 p.m. Welcome and Introductions from Terry, Hosanna, Liz, and LieChelle

Featured Presentations:

3:10 – 3:35 p.m. Vinny DeMarco, President, Health Care for All! Coalition

Three new health care measures passed in the 2021 Session. The Health Equity Resource Act will allocate \$59 million over the next five years to create Health Equity Resource Communities across the state to reduce health disparities and improve health equity. This builds on the successful Health Enterprise Zones that were in place from 2012-2016. A second measure allocates up to \$20 million dollars over the next two years to provide additional health care subsidies for lower income young adults. The third measure builds on the successful 2019 Easy Enrollment program which allows people to sign up for health care at tax time by creating a checkbox when people file for unemployment insurance connecting them to how they can apply for health care coverage.

3:35 – 4:00 p.m. Ashley Black, Esq. Access to Health & Public Benefits Project, Public Justice Center, Inc.

Ashley is the lead attorney for the Access to Health & Benefits (Health Rights) Project. The Health Rights Project advocated for bills aimed at strengthening debt collection protections for low-income patients, expanding access to care for patients and disrupting racial disparities in

health outcomes. Ashley will be highlighting the Medical Debt Protection Act, the maternal health legislative package and the repeal of the ban on the sale of over-the-counter medications in vending machines.

4:00 – 4:25 p.m. Linda Raines, CEO, and Dan Martin, Senior Director, Public Policy, Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD)

MHAMD and the Maryland Behavioral Health Coalition rallied this year around a successful campaign to expand access to mental health and substance use services amid increasing demand. The effort secured additional investments in community services, greater accountability in the management of Maryland's public behavioral health system, new policies to improve health equity, greater flexibility in the delivery of telehealth, enhanced school behavioral health supports, and more resources for individuals in crisis.

Links to recent articles:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/readers-respond/bs-ed-rr-health-care-maryland-legislation-letter-20210409-hpjj3wmtojaefahqelrpadqua-story.html>

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/04/15/new-grant-program-will-reduce-health-care-inequality-advocates-say/>

<https://www.localdvm.com/news/maryland/health-care-legislation-to-benefit-marylanders-access-and-affordability/>

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-health-legislation-2021-maryland-20210416-5lvx7iocibhctjqwz3n7fuvi2e-story.html>

<https://marylandreporter.com/2021/04/29/demarco-bidens-proposal-to-make-enhanced-aca-premium-subsidies-permanent-is-a-game-changer/>

MHAMD's Legislative summary is attached.