

Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition Access to Care Work Group



Meets once each month at 1701 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland.
Co-Chairs are Tracy Curry (Community Development Specialist, United Healthcare Community Plan) and Dr. Jagdeep Singh, MD (President, Maryland State Medical Society/ MedChi; Associate Program Director, Prince George's Hospital Center/ Dimensions Care).

The Access to Care Work Group operates under Priority 1 of the Local Health Action Plan for 2011-2014 in Prince George's County, to *“ensure that Prince George's County residents receive the healthcare they need- particularly low-income, uninsured/underinsured adults and children.”* As such, the Work Group has selected the following County Outcome Objective to work towards achieving each year:

- (1) Reduce the proportion of individuals who are unable to obtain, or delay obtaining, necessary medical care, dental care or prescription medication by five percent (5%).

The work group's primary strategies for 2014 from the Local Health Action Plan, 2011-2014 are to

- *“work with the Medical Society.. and other medical associations to identify ways to increase access to dental, vision and medical care (including specialty care), and to low cost prescription medication”* and
- *“expand the use of modern technology.. to communicate health information to the public and clients, particularly to individuals without internet access”* and
- *“work with partner agencies serving individuals with disabilities to educate the public about the challenges they face in receiving healthcare..”*

The Access to Care Work Group's 2014 goals are:

- (1) By June 1, 2014, administer county-wide survey for physician's readiness to adopt telemedicine and current telemedicine usage (in collaboration with the HIV and STIs Work Group).
- (2) By June 1, 2014, establish partnership with CHWs in PGCHEZ and prepare written plan to host an enrollment fair in November 2014 (in collaboration with all work groups).
- (3) By September 2014, produce a report on data collected from provider telemedicine readiness assessment.

In order to expand access to care, especially between patients, primary care providers and behavioral health providers, the Access to Care Work Group is preparing an electronic survey for doctors serving Prince George's County that will assess physicians' readiness to adopt telemedicine to link more patients to care, especially specialized medicine or care. The survey will also inquire about doctors' current HIV testing and linkage to care practices. The Access to Care Work Group and the HIV and STIs Work Group will present at the next meeting of the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) in May 2014. And MedChi has agreed to send the readiness assessment electronically to its distribution list in May. The Group will report on the result of the readiness assessment and is working with County Epidemiologist Donna Perkins to determine measurable indicators and outcomes for the readiness assessment.

Also, the Group is planning a healthcare enrollment fair in November 2014, at the beginning of the 2015 Enrollment Period, to encourage health literacy and access to enrollment resources in the County. The Group plans to collaborate with the other five Coalition work groups in order to pull together resources to maximize outreach efforts and outcomes.