

**State of Maryland
Department of Health**



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Chairman**

**Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman**

Victoria W. Bayless

Stacia Cohen

John M. Colmers

James N. Elliott, M.D.

**Katie Wunderlich
Executive Director**

**Allan Pack, Director
Population Based
Methodologies**

**Chris Peterson, Director
Payment Reform &
Provider Alignment**

**Gerard J. Schmith, Director
Revenue & Regulation
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Health Services Cost Review Commission

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Minutes of Public and Closed Sessions, March 27, 2020

Chairman Kane called the public meeting to order at 12:30 pm. In attendance via conference call in addition to Commissioner Kane were Commissioners Antos, Bayless, Cohen, Colmers, and Elliott. Staff was also present via conference call.

Staff presented its recommendation on expanding the availability of telehealth services to patients outside of the hospital and to protect patients against duplicative billing. This is to be accomplished by amending the Commission's Accounting and Budget Manual. Following the opportunity for public comment, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Staff Recommendation. Commissioner Colmers indicated the Commission would revisit this issue as hospital volumes rebound.

By motion from Vice-Chairman Antos, seconded by Commissioner Colmers, the Commission voted to move into closed session to address Commission response to the pandemic emergency. The motion carried unanimously. Executive Director Katie Wunderlich advised the Commission of the Secretary's appreciation for the swift action taken already by the Commission to help protect the financial stability of hospitals and to protect patients in accessing needed services.

Mrs. Wunderlich updated the Commission on activities of a State Emergency team and surge expansion options. Allan Pack, Principal Deputy Director, Methodology, reviewed a draft document to be circulated at the end of the next week detailing Commission guidance to the industry on a variety of topics including Commission policies, methodologies, and reporting requirements. By Motion from Commissioner Colmers, seconded by Commissioner Elliott, the Commission voted unanimously (Commissioner Bayless was not present for this vote) to approve the posting of this guidance sometime next week. The Commission made clear that changes during the State of Emergency will be reviewed periodically by the Commission as circumstances warrant.

Tequila Terry, Deputy Director, Center for Payment Reform and Provider Alignment, discussed a summary of HSCRC staff action including actions to stabilize hospitals, align efforts with federal partners, support state planning, and communicate broadly.

The Closed Session adjourned at 2pm.