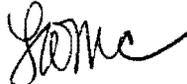


HHS COMMITTEE #3
March 8, 2012

MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2012

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Discussion with Secretary Sharfstein, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** (this item is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m.)

HHS Committee Chair Leventhal has invited Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, M.D., of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to open a dialogue with the Committee about how Montgomery County and the State can partner to find ways to improve the health and well being of residents and to better understand both County and State programs and initiatives. As background, Secretary Sharfstein's bio is attached at © 1, his welcome message at © 2, and an organization chart for DHMH at © 3. Council staff has asked that, as a part of his comments to the Committee, the Secretary share the overall vision for DHMH, how the State is moving forward with the implementation of Health Care Reform, and how the Governor's proposed budget might impact Montgomery County. Staff will be able to share with the Secretary information on Montgomery Cares and efforts to improve employee wellness. The Committee and Secretary may want to discuss the County's and State's Health Improvement Process (Healthy Montgomery). The State and County have an ongoing partnership with regards to these initiatives.

Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein was appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in January 2011. The Department includes Medicaid, public health, behavioral health, and services for the developmentally disabled, with an annual budget of approximately \$10 billion.

In March 2009, President Obama appointed Dr. Sharfstein to serve as the Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the agency's second highest-ranking position. He served as the Acting Commissioner from March 2009 through May 2009 and as Principal Deputy Commissioner through January 2011.

From December 2005 through March 2009, Dr. Sharfstein served as the Commissioner of Health for the City of Baltimore, Maryland.

From July 2001 to December 2005, Dr. Sharfstein served as minority professional staff of the Government Reform Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Henry A. Waxman.

Dr. Sharfstein is a 1991 graduate of Harvard College, a 1996 graduate of Harvard Medical School, a 1999 graduate of the combined residency program in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, and a 2001 graduate of the fellowship in general pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine.

In 2008, Dr. Sharfstein was named a Public Official of the Year by *Governing Magazine*. Dr. Sharfstein now serves on the Health Information Technology Policy Committee, an advisory committee of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal for the American Medical Association*.

[About Secretary Sharfstein](#) | [Welcome Message from Secretary Sharfstein](#)

Selected Testimony, Speeches and Articles

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201 West Preston Street - Baltimore, MD 2

Secretary Sharfstein's Welcome Message

Welcome!



Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown join me in welcoming you to the official Web site for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

Maryland's health care delivery system consists of public and private hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, home health care services, hospices, providers, and health educators, among others. As a public health department, our goal is to improve the health status of every Maryland resident and to ensure access to quality health care. We are responsible for helping each person live a life free from the threat of communicable diseases, tainted foods, and dangerous products. To assist in our mission, we regulate health care providers, facilities, and organizations, and manage direct services to patients where appropriate.

Although public health activities such as registration of births, deaths and marriages began in Maryland in the mid-1600s, the formal public health effort did not begin until 1797 when Baltimore Town was incorporated into Baltimore City. At that time health ordinances were passed and by the early 1800s smallpox vaccinations were available to the poor, free of charge.

Numerous changes have occurred in Maryland since that time, and all have helped public health evolve into a system that today provides an impressive array of services. The system includes DHMH and 24 local health departments – one each in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties.

DHMH has three major divisions - Public Health Services, Behavioral Health and Disabilities, and Health Care Financing. In addition, the department has 20 boards that license and regulate health care professionals; and seven commissions that issue grants, and research and make recommendations on issues that affect Maryland's health care delivery system. We depend on a staff of more than 8,000 and a budget of more than \$7 billion to provide needed services to Maryland communities.

Our Public Health Services Division oversees vital public services to Maryland residents including infectious disease and environmental health concerns, family health services and emergency preparedness and response activities. The Behavioral Health and Disabilities Division focuses on assisting Maryland residents who have developmental disabilities, mental illnesses and dependency on alcohol and drugs. The Health Care Financing Division implements the Medicaid program, which features the department's HealthChoice and Children's Health Program along with other initiatives, including those that help people with the cost of prescription medications. Information about our organization, programs and many other services can be found on this Web site.

I hope you will take the time to familiarize yourself with the numerous activities and accomplishments of the Department. If you need further assistance, please contact Keith Tobias in the Constituent Services Unit at ConstituentServices@dnhm.state.md.us or by calling 410-767-5763.

Again, thank you for visiting our Web site. It is a pleasure to serve you!

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Follow me on Twitter @drjoshs

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Governor
Martin O'Malley

Secretary
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.

Patrick Dooley
Chief of Staff/
Asst. Sec. For Regulatory Affairs

Office of Diversity & Inclusion
Rodney Taylor

Chief Administrative Officer
Lisa Ellis

Office of Health Care Quality
Nancy Grimm

Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities
Carlessia Hussein, Dr. P. H.

Office of the Attorney General
Joshua Auerbach

Office of the Inspector General
Thomas Russell

Deputy Secretary
Health Care Financing
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Thomas H. Kim

Regulatory
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Behavioral Health & Disabilities
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Frances B. Phillips

Office of Eligibility
Office of Finance
Office of Health Services
Office of Systems, Operations & Pharmacy
Office of Planning

Budget Revenue Administration
Fiscal Services Administration
Office of Information Technology
Office of Capital Planning, Budgeting & Engineering Services
Office of Human Resources
Office of Procurement & Support Services
Regulations & Policy Coordination
Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations

Health Services
Cost Review Comm.
Maryland Community Health Resources Comm.
Maryland Health Care Commission
Health Workforce
Health Professionals Boards & Commissions (19)
Maryland Board of Nursing
Maryland Board of Physicians

Forensic Services
Resident Grievance System
Co-Occurring Disorders
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Administration
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Mental Hygiene Administration

Local Public Health

Anatomy Board
Family Health Administration
Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration
Laboratories Administration
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Office of Preparedness & Response
Vital Statistics Administration

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