

faculty and researchers at historically black colleges and universities, and other existing alliances or plans, to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the State:

(17) Seek to establish a statewide alliance with community-based agencies and organizations, historically black colleges and universities, health care facilities, health care provider organizations, managed care organizations, and pharmaceutical manufacturers to promote the objectives of the Office:

(18) Evaluate multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health programs in other states to assess their efficacy and potential for replication in this State and make recommendations regarding the adoption of such programs, as appropriate:

(19) Apply for and accept any grant of money from the federal government, private foundations, or other sources which may be available for programs related to minority health and health disparities:

(20) Serve as the designated State agency for receipt of federal funds specifically designated for minority health and health disparities programs: [and]

(21) Work collaboratively with the Office of Minority Affairs as the Office determines necessary: AND

(22) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, PUBLISH ANNUALLY ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE AND PROVIDE IN WRITING ON REQUEST A "HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES POLICY REPORT CARD" THAT INCLUDES:

(I) AN ANALYSIS OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC VARIATIONS IN INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LOW-INCOME, NONELDERLY INDIVIDUALS:

(II) THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE PHYSICIAN POPULATION COMPARED TO THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE STATE'S POPULATION: AND

(III) THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, CANCER, DIABETES, HIV/AIDS, INFANT MORTALITY, ASTHMA, AND OTHER DISEASES IDENTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Health Care Commission shall perform its duties as specified in this Act in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Center for Health Disparities at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparities and Solutions, Morgan State University, and interested parties including community organizations and hospitals.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.

Approved May 16, 2006.