



**News: For Immediate Release**

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### RURAL HEALTH CARE WORKGROUP

BALTIMORE, August 24, 2016 — MedChi would like to congratulate long time member Joseph Ciotola, M.D., for being selected as co-chair of the Rural Health Care Workgroup. During the 2016 Legislative Session a workgroup on rural health care delivery was developed by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). This group is meant to oversee a study of healthcare delivery in the Middle Shore region and to develop a plan for meeting the health care needs of the five counties -- Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot. MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, and MedChi member, Richard Colgan, M.D., University of Maryland School of Medicine, were also selected as members of the Rural Health Care Workgroup.

Joseph Ciotola is the Health Officer for Queen Anne's County Health Department and Medical Director of the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services. Under Dr. Ciotola's leadership, in August of 2014, Queen Anne's County began operating a pilot program called the Mobile Integrated Community Health Program (MICH). The MICH program creates a team composed of a public health nurse and a paramedic who can jointly visit individuals in their home and link patients to community resources to improve health outcomes and reduce trips to hospital emergency departments.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO and a former Queen Anne's County Commissioner, expressed excitement for the opportunity stating "this task force allows the Eastern shore to determine and request its healthcare needs for generations to come."

Now that the new board has been selected, the Maryland Health Care Commission is planning to host a Rural Health Summit on Rural Health Care Delivery at Chesapeake College (100 College Circle, Wye Mills, MD) on Tuesday, August 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information about the meeting, including any meeting materials, will be posted to the MHCC website:

[http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/workgroups\\_rural\\_health.aspx](http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/workgroups_rural_health.aspx)

#### About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org).