



Maryland Food System Resiliency

Council

Communication and Coordination Subcommittee

June 13, 2022, 1:00am-2:00pm

1. Welcome

- A. Per the work plan introduced during the previous meeting, the C&C subcommittee will develop recommendations to present to the full FSRC during the August/September workshop (3 hours scheduled for the robust conversation).

2. Discussion: Future Council Structure Options— below is a brief summary of each structural option introduced for future consideration. Note: The subcommittee determinations are summarized, for options not being considered after the discussion was concluded during the initial C&C meeting.

- A. Remain an Independent Executive Branch Council
- 1) **Summary** - While the Council is staffed by MDEM and Co-Chaired by the Secretary, the Council is considered an independent Executive Branch entity, as the current statute does not identify the Council as a body within the Department. [Interagency committees, councils, boards, and task forces](#) often are formed to coordinate the work of government agencies in a particular field.
- B. Become a formal, established body within MDEM
- 1) **Summary** - While MDEM currently staffs the Council by Statute, the Council is not technically considered an MDEM body. The 9-1-1 Board is a great example of this option within MDEM. The Board has an Executive Director and its own staff, and the Maryland 9-1-1 Board directs the strategic management of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund and development/implementation of Statewide 9-1-1 policy. The 9-1-1 Board is governed by the Public Safety Article, [§1-301-315](#).
- C. ~~Move to another State Agency~~

Maryland Department of Emergency Management, 5401 Rue Saint Lo Drive, Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 517-3600 | Fax: (410) 517-3610 | Toll Free: 1 (877) 636-2872

- 1) **Summary** - The Council could recommend moving to another



State agency/department. Current State agency members of the Council are MDA, DHS, and Commerce. A spreadsheet was provided to the C&C subcommittee members outlining other State Councils.

- 2) **Subcommittee Determination**- This option is not recommended due to several agencies (i.e., DHS (SNAP), MDA (Ag Programs), MDH (WIC), MSDE (School Meal Programs)) that run siloed programs, and do not work in conjunction with each other. The goal of the council is to connect resources, share information, and facilitate a broad-based effort, which could be hindered if moved to a siloed agency. Lastly, the subcommittee is uncertain regarding staffing support capacity at another agency, members are satisfied with MDEM staffing support thus far, and other agencies may not be able to replicate current standards.

D. Transition to Independent Agency or Commission

- 2) **Summary** - A number of independent agencies and commissions exist in the State Government. While the missions, staffing, and authorities vary, *generally* these agencies have independent staffing and some level of authority to direct policy or regulation in a particular area. Some examples of Independent Agencies are:

- ✓ Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (Board led and Executive Director with significant staffing, regulatory power)
- ✓ Commission on Civil Rights, Board led with Executive Director and staffing support

E. ~~Transition to a Non-governmental Entity~~ _____

1. **Summary:** There is no requirement for The FSRC to remain in State government. The Council, like its local counterparts, could establish a non-governmental entity like a 01(c)3 or become a part of an existing NGO like a university system or existing non-profit organization. Some non-governmental entities began with the governmental entity because of changes in administration or sunset provisions. There are other entities that re non-governmental but still have some level of governmental participation.
2. **Subcommittee Determination:** This is not a suggested option at the State level, not only will it compete with existing charters, but the council becomes a non-profit that must sustain itself (i.e. fund raise, provide direction, staffing). Non-profits do not always succeed, for example the Howard County Food Security Taskforce was subject to changes in administrative priorities which led to its nonexistence. This council should remain as part of the government, with the ability to continue council advocacy activities (reflecting the views of the council, not a particular organization or governmental agency). At this time the council is not ready for this model.



- F. The C&C subcommittee was given the task to provide a recommendation or ranked recommendation to streamline decision making for the full council.
- G. The council should determine the mission, in order to appropriately evaluate the pros and cons of each organizational structure.
- H. Once the full council determines the future organizational structure, the council decision is written into the report which goes to legislation, during the next legislative session. The earliest that changes could take effect is July 1, 2023 (most likely October of 2023). Statute provides guidance that the council is to make recommendations for structural changes or sunset provision by 2022 but are not required to take action. However, if no changes are taken the council will continue in perpetuity, completing an annual report until the council sunsets.
- I. **Note:** *While the language in the laws require the council to make recommendations, the proposed recommendations do not need to suggest changing the council's current organizational structure. The council can reserve the right for future considerations for structural changes.*
- J. The C&C subcommittee will complete an initial ranking survey, prior to next month's meeting, to determine members' current preferences. After the July 11 th panel discussion, subcommittee members will be asked for a final ranking.

3. Next steps and adjourn

- A. Next meeting scheduled July 11 th – Panel Discussion
- B. Future Structural Options Ranking (Due Date: July 1st)



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