



PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS ON HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General (“AGO”) will be holding three public listening sessions across the Commonwealth to receive input on the AGO’s Community Benefits Guidelines for Non-Profit Hospitals and HMOs (“Guidelines”). “Community Benefits” include charity care and community programs provided by hospitals and HMOs that address documented community health needs. The Guidelines contain voluntary principles to direct hospitals and HMOs to collaborate with their communities to develop programs that address unmet needs and issue annual reports on their efforts.

The AGO is in the process of updating these Guidelines and seeks public input.

The current Guidelines and copies of past hospital and HMO Community Benefits reports are available at: <http://www.mass.gov/ago/doing-business-in-massachusetts/health-care/community-benefits.html>.

The Listening Sessions will be held at the following dates and locations:

Thursday Aug. 3, 2017
4-6pm
The Cube
Albert Sherman Building
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655

Monday Sept. 11, 2017
3-5pm
1350 Main Street, 3rd floor
Community Room
Springfield, MA 01103

Thursday Nov. 2, 2017
10am-noon
1 Ashburton Place, 21st floor
Conference Rooms 1 & 2
Boston, MA 02108

Plan for Listening Sessions:

- Each session will start with a brief presentation by AGO staff on Community Benefits and principal issues currently under consideration.
- Members of the public are invited to share feedback and ideas about Community Benefits to guide the AGO in updating its Guidelines. Updated Guidelines are anticipated to be published on the AGO’s website in early 2018.
- Sample questions for public feedback: How can community input best be included when hospitals and HMOs assess the health needs of a region and decide what programs to develop to address those needs? How should hospitals and HMOs define the community they target with their Community Benefits programs? What information would you want to know about Community Benefits programs by hospitals and HMOs in your community? Comments are welcome on any topic relating to Community Benefits and need not be limited to these questions.

*If you have questions or require accommodations, please contact
Elana Brochin at Elana.Brochin@State.MA.US or (617) 963-2387.*