

Action

MEMORANDUM

April 1, 2011

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Analyst *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Action:** Bill 6-11, Advisory Board for Montgomery Cares Program - Membership

Bill 6-11, Advisory Board for Montgomery Cares Program - Membership, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive, was introduced on March 8, 2011. A public hearing was held on March 29 at which a representative from the Advisory Board testified in support of Bill 6-11 (©5).

Bill 6-11 would alter the membership on the Advisory Board for the Montgomery Cares Program. Current law directs the Executive to appoint, among others, 3 public members who may be, but are not required to be, current or former recipients of services under the Program. Bill 6-11 would retain the 3 public members and add 2 additional members to the Board that are current or former recipients of services under the Montgomery Cares Program.

All members of the Health and Human Services Committee support Bill 6-11 and agreed that the bill did not need a Committee worksession.

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Bill No. 6-11
Concerning: Advisory Board for the
Montgomery Cares Program –
Membership
Revised: 3/4/2011 Draft No. 1
Introduced: March 8, 2011
Expires: September 8, 2012
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) alter the membership on the Advisory Board for the Montgomery Cares Program;
and
- (2) generally amend County law concerning the Advisory Board for the Montgomery Cares Program.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 24, Health and Sanitation
Section 24-50

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 6-11

Advisory Board for Montgomery Cares Program - Membership

DESCRIPTION: This legislation expands the membership of the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board by adding two Montgomery Cares program consumers to serve as voting members.

PROBLEM: The Advisory Board would benefit from consumer representation. The current composition of the Board does not include the first-hand experience offered by patients of the Program. The presence of these individuals on the Board would also signal the Board's commitment to remain responsive to the community's health care needs.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To assist the Board in its goal of providing quality health care to a diverse population of uninsured adult residents.

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: N/A

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Becky Smith, Program Manager, Montgomery Cares Program (240-777-1278)

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: N/A

PENALTIES: N/A



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 24, 2011

TO: Valerie Ervin, President, County Council
FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive 
SUBJECT: Legislation Regarding Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

I am attaching for the Council's consideration a bill to expand membership on the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board to include two past or present Montgomery Cares patients as voting members. The bill will increase the total membership of the Advisory Board from fifteen to seventeen members.

The Board strives to be responsive to the health care needs of the community it serves. The expansion of the Board to include two individuals who have first-hand experience as patients of the program will deepen the Board's perspective and improve its decision-making process. The presence of these individuals on the Board would also signal the Board's commitment to remain responsive to the community's health care needs and will reinforce the message that Montgomery Cares is truly a community-based organization.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed bill.

Attachment

cc: Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, DHHS
Connie Latham, Special Assistant to County Executive



MONTGOMERY CARES ADVISORY BOARD

Bill 6-11, Human Services—Montgomery Cares—Advisory Board
Testimony of Cesar Palacios, Chair, Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

Montgomery County Council
Public Hearing
March 29, 2011

Good afternoon, Council President Ervin and members of the County Council. I am Cesar Palacios, Chair of the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board. I am here today to express the Board's support for Bill 6-11 which would add two program consumers of the Montgomery Cares clinics to the Board, bringing total membership on the Board to seventeen.

The Advisory Board feels that adding two past or current patients to the Board would provide the patient's perspective, giving the Board first-hand insight into the experience of receiving care in a Montgomery Cares Clinic. Additionally, the MCAB believes that including consumers on the Board will support the goal of ensuring that the Montgomery Cares program is community-based and responsive to the community's health care needs.

The Board recommends that in order to ensure consumer representation, without otherwise disrupting the composition of the Board, it is important to increase the membership instead of replacing current members with consumer members. The current Board make-up has proven to be very effective in fulfilling its tasks as legislated by this body, the Montgomery County Council. Changing the current membership may disrupt the current successes, whereby adding membership will enhance it.

The Board strongly believes that including clinic patients on the Board would reinforce our message that the Montgomery Cares program is supportive of the population we serve. The Board values the Council's continued commitment to our mission, even in this challenging budget environment. Thank you for allowing me to testify today and we ask you vote in favor of this measure.

Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services

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