

Montgomery County Commission on Health

FISCAL YEAR 2015
ANNUAL REPORT



July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair	3
Mission, Purpose and Meeting Information	4
Membership	5
Priorities & Correspondence FY15	6
Testimonies & Guest Speakers FY15	7
Liaisons, Committees and Work Groups	8



Commission on Health FY2015 Annual Report

Dear County Executive Leggett and County Council President Floreen:

The Commission on Health (COH) appreciates the opportunity to improve and sustain the excellent public health and social services of Montgomery County through its activities to monitor and examine important public health issues and services and then offer our best collective advice and recommendations to County officials. During FY15, the COH focused on several public health issues including: gaps in affordable oral health services for low income adult residents; accreditation efforts for Public Health Services; supporting County regulation of e-cigarettes; supporting improvements in access to clinic facilities and services for people with disabilities; and maintaining funding for our safety net health programs such as Montgomery Cares and Care for Kids. The COH was very pleased to see the actions taken by the County Executive, the County Council, and the Department of Health and Human Services that resulted in passage of important e-cigarette legislation and funding for safety net programs, particularly increased funding for the Oral Health Program.

During FY15, the COH supported the formation of three workgroups to address opportunities and challenges presented by the Affordable Care Act: Oral Health, Accreditation and Data Needs. Understanding the role of the social determinants of health (such as wages, education, housing, etc.) as they impact health, serves as a foundation for the COH as it examines the health services and health status of the community. As a result, for the past five years the COH has collaborated with other Montgomery County committees and commissions to create a unified voice that is supportive of issues relevant to improving the health and social status of our residents. Through the commitment of many members to serve as liaisons between various other commissions, I am pleased to report that we are actively and successfully engaged with several Montgomery County boards, committees and commissions, the minority health initiatives, and the Montgomery County Medical Society. We also continued to support Healthy Montgomery to improve access to public health data to help inform and determine the community's public health priorities, programs and policies.

It was an honor to be able to serve as chair of the COH for a second term during FY15. Every year a team of 19 very accomplished and dedicated commissioners serve our County by sharing their knowledge and expertise in partnership with County government to improve our residents' health and vitality. Several other ex-officio members and liaisons from other commissions also contribute invaluable expertise. In FY16, the Commission's new chair, Daniel Russ, and its dedicated members are continuing these efforts and will explore new opportunities to enhance public health and social services throughout the County.

The Montgomery County Commission on Health respectfully submits the attached FY15 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Ron Bialek, MPP, CQIA
Chair, FY2015 Commission on Health

Mission and Purpose

The primary mission of the Montgomery County Commission on Health (COH) is to advise the County Executive and the County Council on public health issues, programs, services and the allocation of funds devoted to public health needs and to monitor and assess the priorities of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) in its efforts to address the health needs of residents in this County. The purpose of this report is to comply with the annual requirement that the COH provide the County Executive and the County Council with an update on the activities of the COH from July 2014 through June 2015.

CHAPTER 24-24 OF
THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY CODE
PROVIDES
AUTHORITY FOR THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH. THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH (COH) WAS
ESTABLISHED ON
JULY 1, 1988.

Structure

The Commission is comprised of 19 voting members with representation from consumers and providers of health services in the County. The majority of the members must be from sectors of the County's health care and public health consumer population. As dictated by County Code, the COH also has a representative from the County Medical Society.

In FY 2015, there were 13 consumers, and 6 providers including the Medical Society representative. The ex-officio (non-voting) members of the COH include: the County Health Officer; the Montgomery County Public Schools liaison; and the County Council liaison. The COH continues to represent a diverse cross-section of Montgomery County residents. Membership consisted of 7 men and 12 women who were racially and ethnically diverse and vary in age, geography and experience in health policy, public health, and the health care system.

The COH has an elected Chair and Vice Chair whose terms are one year. During FY15 Ron Bialek was the Chair of the Commission and Daniel Russ was the Vice Chair. The entire COH met monthly with the exception of August 2014. The Chair and the Vice Chair create the agenda for the monthly meetings.

Meetings

The Commission on Health meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the large, first floor conference room at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 except in August. All meetings are open to the general public.

At a minimum, every member of the Commission is expected to either serve on one workgroup and, if requested, as a liaison to other health-related County boards, commissions, committees or minority health initiatives.

With its broad perspective of public health, the COH recognizes the value of collaboration and communication with other health-related boards, commissions and committees. Many commissioners have an area of specialization or interest in a particular area or constituency of public health and are therefore encouraged to serve as liaisons with other relevant health-related boards, commissions and committees. Integral to this area of special interest is the constraint that all actions are in voice of the entire COH and not self-serving in any manner. Finally, members of the COH also served on committees that allowed the COH to conduct its business such as the membership, nominating and retreat planning committees. These committees require significant time and are in addition to the monthly scheduled meetings.

FY15 Membership

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Mitchell Berger, MPH, J.D.

Ronald Bialek, MPP (Chair)

Brenda Brooks, MA

Ilana Cohen, J.D.

Kathy Ghiladi, J.D.

Graciela Jaschek, Ph.D., MPH

Pierre-Marie Longkeng, MHS-A

Rose Marie Martinez, Sc.D.

Marcia Pruzan

Daniel Russ Ph.D., (Vice Chair)

Tonya Saffer, MPH

Wayne L. Swann, SPHR, FACHE

Bridget Ware, MCP

PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Michelle Hawkins, DNP, MSN, MBA

Alan Kaplan, M.D.

Joneigh Khaldun, M.D., MPH, FAAEM (through Dec., 2015)

Ashraf Sufi, M.D.

Shari Targum, M.D.

Sheela Modin, M.D. (Montgomery County Medical Society Representative)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Marla Caplon, R.D., L.D., Director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, MCPS

Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., MPH, Montgomery County Health Officer

STAFF

Jeanine Gould-Kostka, Program Specialist II, Commission on Health, Public Health Services, MCDDHS

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services, MCDHHS

Commission on Health Priorities 2014-2015

The Commission on Health set the following fiscal year 2015 areas of focus during the October 16, 2014 annual retreat held at Ingleside at King Farm.

- Oral health needs of County residents - gaps in access to affordable oral health services for low income insured and uninsured residents
- Affordable Care Act implementation challenges and other access to health care issues for all County residents, including continued support for Montgomery Cares Program, Care for Kids, Maternity Partnership and similar programs for the uninsured
- Public Health Services accreditation preparations
- Improving access to public health data
- E-cigarettes regulations, food security and other timely public health issues
- Working with the Commission on People with Disabilities and the County's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Manager to gather information and raise awareness about the need for improvements in DHHS clinics and Montgomery Cares clinic facilities to make essential improvements



got public health?

Commission Correspondence 2014-2015

The Commission on Health sent the following letters during Fiscal Year 2015:

- Fact-finding letter on Montgomery Cares Clinics' ADA Accessibility sent jointly by COH and Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD): October 13, 2014
- Fact-finding letter on DHHS Public Health Services Clinics' ADA Accessibility sent jointly by COH and Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD): October 13, 2014
- Letter to the County Council in support of legislation to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces where tobacco smoking is prohibited, and prohibit use of e-cigarettes by minors: January 2015.
- Letter to the County Council to recommend approval of additional funds for the FY16 Budget to address the substantial gaps in oral health care services for low income residents. The COH recommended approval of \$423,000 additional funds for the Montgomery Cares oral health services and \$150,000 additional for the County Dental Program, which is not restricted to Montgomery Cares patients: April 2015
- Letter of appreciation to the County Council for its approval of additional funding for oral health services for the FY16 Budget: June 2015

**"IMPROVING
QUALITY,
DEMONSTRATING
EFFECTIVENESS
AND ENSURING
ACCOUNTABILITY
ARE PARAMOUNT
TO OPTIMIZING
PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICES"**

Commission on Health Testimonies

The Commission on Health (COH) testified at the following forums:

- The COH FY 2014 Annual Report and the COH recommendations, including that the DHHS pursue public health accreditation was presented in a statement by Chair Ron Bialek to the County Council seated as the Board of Health on October 14, 2014.
- County Council HHS Committee Work Session for HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions Breakfast—COH statement on its priorities was presented on October 16, 2014.
- County Executive’s Annual Meeting with HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions—the COH statement was presented February 3, 2015 by Chair Ron Bialek.

Commission Guest Speakers FY15

The Commission on Health received guest speakers during COH meetings:

- September 18, 2014 Healthy Montgomery Behavioral Health Action Plan and Implementation: Presentation by Thomas Harr, Executive Director, Family Services, Inc., and Kevin Young, President, Adventist Behavioral Health.
- October 16, 2014 - “Healthy People 2020: Oral Health as a Critical Focus” was presented by Allison Roper, Public Health Advisor Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the annual COH retreat.
- October 16, 2014 - “Public Health Services Dental Programs” was presented by Jean Hochron, Senior Administrator, Healthcare for the Uninsured, DHHS at the COH annual retreat.
- November 20, 2014 – Nancy G. Greene, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Montgomery County Department of General Services gave an overview at the COH meeting on “Project Civic Access” and her role as ADA Compliance Manager for the County.
- February 19, 2015 — Dr. Harold Goodman, Director of Oral Health, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, presented the state perspective on gaps in oral health services..
- March 19, 2015 — Dr. Charles Doring, President, Maryland Academy of General Dentistry and Chair, Maryland State Dental Association Foundation, presented the local perspective on oral health care needs of adults in the County, including mentally and physically challenged patients and the elderly.

**“BOTH MEDICARE
AND MEDICAID DO
NOT COVER
PREVENTIVE DENTAL
SERVICES FOR
ADULTS, LEAVING
LOW INCOME
ADULTS WITHOUT
SUFFICIENT ACCESS
TO CARE”**

Commission on Health Liaisons

Liaisons

Michelle Hawkins – African American Health Program Executive Committee

Ashraf Sufi – Asian American Health Initiative Steering Committee

Rose Marie Martinez, Latino Health Initiative Steering Committee

Alan S. Kaplan – Obesity Prevention Strategy Group

Dan Russ – School Health Council

Marcia Pruzan – Commission on Aging and CoA Data Task Force

Ilana Cohen – Montgomery County Coalition on Care at End-of-Life

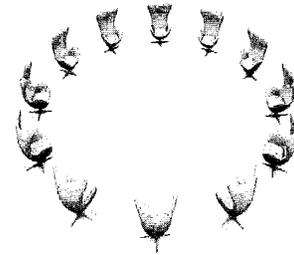
Ron Bialek – Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee

Mitchell Berger – Board of Social Services

Wayne Swann—Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

Brenda Brooks – Commission on Children and Youth

Sheela Modin—Montgomery County Medical Society



Commission on Health FY15 Committees

Retreat Planning Committee

Ron Bialek

Daniel Russ

Mitchell Berger

Michelle Hawkins

Membership Committee

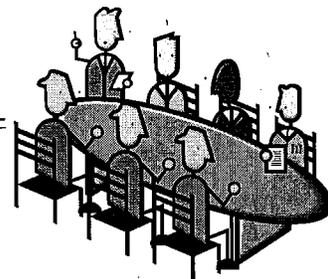
Daniel Russ

Bridget Ware

Nominating Committee

Wayne Swann

Mitchell Berger



Commission on FY15 Health Work Groups

Accreditation

– Mitchell Berger (chair), Bridget Ware (vice chair), Brenda Brooks, Linda McMillan and Wayne Swann

Data Needs

– Graciela Jaschek (chair), Joneigh Khaldun (vice chair), Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ and Ulder Tillman

Oral Health

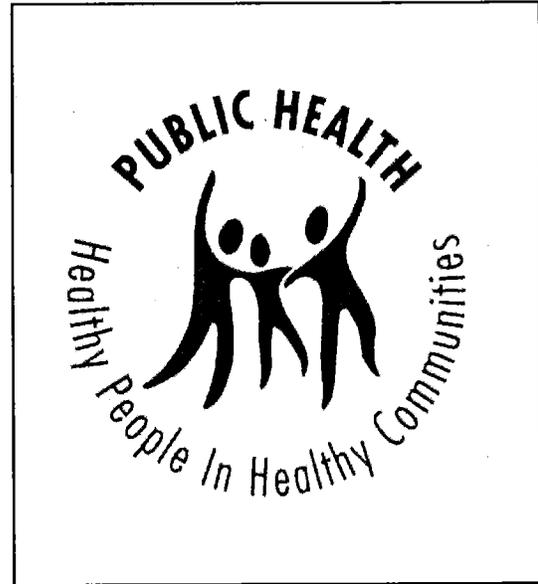
– Tonya Saffer (chair), Rose Marie Martinez (vice chair), Ron Bialek, Ilana Cohen, Kathy Ghiladi, Michelle Hawkins, Alan Kaplan, Sheela Modin, Ashraf Sufi, Shari Targum

Montgomery County Commission on Health

Commission on Health
401 Hungerford Drive
2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTY
MD.GOV/HHS-PROGRAM/
PHS/COMMONHEALTH/
COHINDEX.HTML



Commission on Health



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

The Commission on
Health was established on
July 1, 1988.
See Chapter 24-23 of the
Montgomery County Code
for a description of the
mission of the
Commission on Health.

The County Executive and
County Council encourage peo-
ple who live or work in Mont-
gomery County to become ac-
tively involved in matters af-
fecting the quality of life in
Montgomery County. Appoint-
ments are made to over 75
Boards, Committees, and Com-
missions by the County Execu-
tive, with confirmation by the
County Council.

http://
www.montgomerycountymd.go
v/boards/index.html