



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
March 16, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Marcela Campoli, Donna Cawley, Yingxi Chen, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Susan Emery, Laurel Fain, Kendra Harris, Gabriela Lemus, Adam Lustig, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Dr. Davis

Members Absent: Jonathan Arias, Brent Berger, Elliott Brown

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

DHHS Staff: Dr. Bridgers, Dr. Rogers, Felicia Hugee, Meghan Sontag

Guests: Stephanie Iszard, Krystal Holland

Topic/Presenter	Key Points	Action Item/ Responsible Person
Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Susan Emery, Vice Chair</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm. The COH Vice Chair welcomed Commissioners and guests • The next two COH meetings are April 20th and May 18th 	Meghan to ask Magda to send out new COH meeting series (<i>complete</i>)
MCDHHS Health Officer's Report <i>Dr. Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County is in LOW levels of community transmission which is determined by what is in the hospital and PCR tests. • RSV and influenza are also in low levels. • Public Health Emergency is ending May 11. County has funds to continue testing and vaccination through end of FY (June). County is also putting some funds in the budget to continue these efforts. • Continuing with wastewater surveillance to monitor COVID levels Encouraging bivalent booster especially while it's still free, it is recommended for those who have not yet gotten one. • Youth Behavioral Risk Survey (YBRS) was released. New data shows youth drug use overall is down and overdoses in the County are down. However, youth overdose deaths from Opioids have increased in the County. MCPS continues to hold Fentanyl Forums and they have been well attended. Stephanie Iszard thanked DHHS partners. • Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer that we have seen added to some drugs in the region, it is not an opioid and therefore does not respond to Narcan. 	
Public Health Services (PHS) Priorities	See Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis thanked COH for their advocacy for the FY24 budget and presented the PHS Priorities for FY25. 	Provide Commissioners with slide decks presented- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i>

<p><i>Dr. Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis also shared PHS FY24 recommended budget. • Q: What is the status of County oversight and nursing homes? Dr. Bridgers shared there is ongoing discussions with Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and MDH. County services are being used to supplement their oversight. Dr. Bridgers has requested County resumes responsibility and regulatory oversight for all our congregate living spaces. • Q: Is there anyone keeping data in the county to look for correlations good or bad between current legalization of medical marijuana and pending legalization of marijuana for individuals 21+? Dr. Davis shared YBRS showed cannabis use is down. National studies show legalization has increased rates of use in <18yrs old and decreased alcohol and cigarette use. Impact on opioid use is unclear. No specific Montgomery County studies/data. • Q: How are we going to monitor this? Dr. Bridgers and Dr. Davis are on the Cannabis Legalization Task Force and part of their role is to bring the focus back to health and bringing up the health implications and data. 	
<p>Approval of February Minutes <i>Susan Emery, Vice Chair</i></p>	<p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Marcela Campoli to approve the February 16th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Gabriela Lemus. The minutes were unanimously approved</p>	<p>Post the approved February minutes to COH website- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<p>Approval of 4 Advocacy Letters to share with County Council <i>Susan Emery, Vice Chair</i></p>	<p>Dr. DeVance-Wilson noted the addition of the 4 positions requested by PHS at the February COH meeting to the Workforce letter</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Gabriela Lemus to approve the 4 advocacy letters: Environmental Health and Education, Access to Care, Public Health Administration and Workforce. The motion was seconded by Desiree de la Torre. The advocacy letters were unanimously approved</p>	<p>Send the 4 advocacy letters to County Council- <i>COH staff (complete)</i></p>
<p>Black Physicians and Healthcare Network <i>Krystal Holland Administrator, Training Management and Program Fidelity Black Physicians and Healthcare Network (BPHN) Program Director NCCF</i></p>	<p>See Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krystal Holland provided an overview of the Black Physicians and Healthcare Network, shared a performance overview of the BPHN Health Services, launched in January 2022 and FY24 service targets. • Q: Are there similar networks across the state? Not aware of any other network that works like BPHN at the state level. • Q: Is yours a standing facility and is there obstetric care? All of our providers have their own private practices/offices, we are not a clinic. Have primary care providers, OB/GYN and cardiologist but goal is also to have more specialty care providers in the network. When we receive a referral, we identify the need of the individual and match them with a provider in our network. • Q: Are there alternate languages available? Community partners have been able to provide alternate languages: French and Amharic. • Q: How can COH support BPHN? By advocating for continued funding for this model. • Q: What is happening with the subsidy? Dr. Rogers shared the Executive Branch remains committed to ensuring BPHN program is 	<p>For more information, please contact Krystal at kholland@nccf-cares.org or visit www.bphnetwork.org</p>

	<p>funded and continuing to address health disparities and systemic racial inequities that have led to poorer health outcomes in the Black community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What are different funding streams for this program? Krystal shared plans to apply for additional funding like Robert Wood Johnson and SAMHSA grants. • Krystal shared providers can be invited and asked to be a part of Montgomery Cares. The majority of clients served by BPHN Health Services do not qualify for Montgomery Cares. • Dr. Rogers shared DHHS is thinking about a comprehensive strategy, and engaging the community and COH, in preparing some recommendations for the CE on how the County can support residents who have insurance but are unable to afford a qualified health plan/premiums. • Dr. Bridgers added DHHS will continue to work with NCCF and BPHN and need to continue to use forums like COH to ensure there is equitable access for all County residents. 	
<p>Discuss Next Year Priorities <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i></p>	<p>The Chair shared that COH has had guest presenters to discuss County programs, potential needs and received a comprehensive report of health in the County. Asked Commissioners to reflect on all the information to inform some priorities going forward.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed whether they want to select new priorities or continue with existing ones if there are still some areas of opportunities or room for follow-up.</p> <p>Commissioners also discussed determining metrics when establishing priorities- this will allow Commissioners to monitor progress and provide report outs during COH meetings.</p> <p>Chair commented it is ok if COH continues with current priorities, may have to keep at something until see change. Encouraged Commissioners, when advocating, to be specific about the need. Also reiterated the importance of aligning priorities with PHS strategic goals and looking at data to guide the direction taken.</p>	<p>Commissioners to reflect on guest presentations and data available and be ready to discuss potential priorities and metrics at the April COH meeting.</p>
<p>BCC Liaison Updates</p>	<p>Betty Smith: Learning about Community Action Board. Requested permission to share the Access to Care advocacy letter with the Community Action Board.</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Marcela Campoli to allow Betty Smith to share the Access to Care advocacy letter with Community Action Board. The motion was seconded by Adam Lustig. Sharing the Access to Care advocacy letter with the Community Action Board was unanimously approved.</p> <p>Marcela Campoli: Latino Health Initiative has three advocacy priorities: bullying/harassment at MCPS schools, drug abuse at MCPS schools and health for all. Discussed 3 priorities with council members and how county budget will be allocated this FY.</p>	<p>Meghan to send Access to Care Advocacy Letter to Community Action Board staff person on behalf of the Commission (<i>complete</i>)</p> <p>Meghan to find out if letters are public record (<i>complete</i>)</p>

	<p>Alana Aronin: The School Health Council met this Monday. COH heard from Stephanie regarding the fentanyl symposiums for parents and students, most of the meeting's agenda. This school health work in this field to support schools is extensive.</p> <p>Donna Cawley: Attended the Mental Health Advisory Board meeting. They are focused on mental health services and support for families. They are also planning their Spring Forum.</p>	
<p>Announcements <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i></p>	<p>Chair announced the need for governance/nomination committee and membership committee members.</p> <p>Marcela and Kendra have volunteered to continue serving on the membership committee.</p> <p>Desiree is willing to participate on the governance/nomination committee with another Commissioner due to her experience in this role.</p>	<p>Please let Crystal know if you are interested in joining the governance/nomination committee or the membership committee.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Betty Smith to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Donna Cawley. Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.</p>	