



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland
December 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Brenda Brooks, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Jessica Chung, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Travis Gayles, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Jelani Murrain, and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Marla Caplon, Sarah Emami, Michelle Hawkins, Brittne Jackson, Linda McMillan, and Fabienne Santel.

Staff Present: Ellen Segal and Karen Thompkins.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m., after the new member orientation.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- A motion to approve the November 21, 2019 minutes was introduced by Alana Aronin and seconded by Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.
- The next COH meeting will take place January 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The following meeting will take place February 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

3.0 Public Health Updates-Dr. Travis Gayles

- The last few weeks have been spent working on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget. The feeling is the budget will be level for FY21. The budget supports the County Executive's seven priority areas.
- An area for advocacy is tuberculosis as the federal government cut core funding a few years back. The funding cuts make it difficult to give patients the necessary care. A letter advocating for TB funding was sent last year to the Maryland Department of Health.

- The Health Equity in report was released and is available on the Healthy Montgomery website. The report looks at health equity and how numbers have changed since 2008.
- The Tobacco Control Program and Healthy Montgomery has launched an anti-vaping campaign and will be doing a PSA anti-vaping contest for Montgomery County youth.
- National Public Health Week is coming up April 6-12, 2020.
- Pedestrian safety has been taken on as a priority in the County. There were two traffic fatalities last week.
- The HIV/STD program is doing work on End the HIV Epidemic.
- The Department is continuing to work on increasing the number of school health nurses. There are 208 schools and only 98 community health nurses. The nurses cover two to three schools each. A forum is being hosted by County Council January 14th to discuss the issue of nurses in the schools.

4.0 Workgroup Updates

School Health Services-Alana Aronin

Alana Aronin attended the County Council session on school health nurses. School health and wellness centers are in 13 schools. School health clinics are at every school and are understaffed. The school health room technicians are stretched. The presentation in October to the COH showed the many interactions at the school level, from stomach aches to diabetes. COH sent a letter of support for school health nurse funding. The County Council has increased the budget to include hiring six more community health nurses.

Communicable Disease-Dr. Brent Berger

Dr. Berger reviewed the report on communicable diseases within Montgomery County. There was discussion about working on tuberculosis.

Tobacco Prevention and Vaping-Karen Thompkins

Karen Thompkins and Cristina Ruiz-McCalla are working on anti-vaping with Andrew Sauer. They are having focus groups in the middle and high schools. There is an anti-vaping video contest being held in the high schools. The last day to submit is being extended to February 14th. Teachers plan on inserting this into their curriculum.

Governance-Jessica Kronstadt

Governance is a newly created committee committed to helping with the overall needs of COH. The first thing the committee was involved in was the orientation of new members.

5.0 Liaison Updates

Commission on Aging-Brenda Brooks

The Commission is working on a disparities report. They are also working on hearing issues and hearing aids.

6.0 COH New Business & Announcements

- National Public Health Week is April 6-12th. DHHS will start announcing the event in January. A proclamation at the County Council session is planned for April 7th.
- The applicant for the Program Manager position that will support the COH has withdrawn and a second offer is being made to another candidate that was interviewed.
- Brittney Foushee will be with HSS as part of a 2-year CDC training program. She will be working with Karen on Health in All Policies.
- Desiree de la Torre feels it is necessary that everyone be counted in the 2020 Census so we can obtain more funding for children.
- Women's Commission on Health is having an annual event and there may be an opportunity for COH members to have a table at the event.

~Adjourn