



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland
February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brandie Armijo, Brent Berger, Brenda Brooks, Christopher Burt, Marla Caplon, Maya Das, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Travis Gayles, Michelle Hawkins, Jessica Kronstadt, Kathy Mann Koepke, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, Tonya Saffer, Fabienne Santel, Kelley Timpa, and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Jessica Chung, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, and Ashim Subedee.

Staff Present: Ellen Segal and Karen Thompkins.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- There was an orientation for new members from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. after which Vice Chair Fabienne Santel called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- A motion to approve the October 2018 minutes was introduced by Michelle Hawkins and seconded by Brandi Armijo. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.
- The next COH meeting will take place March 21, 2019 at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.
- The following meeting is April 18, 2019 at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

3.0 Health Officer Updates – Dr. Travis Gayles, Chief, Public Health Services

- Public Health Services is taking a more data driven approach to how we do business; using college students, interns, and staff to contribute to the research.
- The Department will be using tighter measures as indicators of accomplishments. Our measure of success will be measured against our performance in past years.
- Data reports are being sent out relating to various areas within our County health system. There is the Annual Status of Health Report, the Maternal Infant Health Report, and the Zip Code Report.
- The Zip Code Report was used to map out comparisons of health within various zip codes. Data came from hospitals, CRISP, State epidemiologists, Maryland Department of Health, etc.
- Karen is currently working on National Public Health Week, happening April 1st through 7th.
 - Public Health Services is hoping to convene the worlds largest health fair. It will be a collective community wide health fair.
 - There will be a proclamation ceremony on April 2nd as part of National Public Health Week.
- The Department of Health and Human Services is still seeking a new director.

- There is an Opioid Task Force consisting of police, courts, behavioral health staff, etc. They meet once a month.
 - There is Naloxone training and access.
 - Hospitals will link patients who have come in with an overdose to other services before they leave.
 - The State is helping with funding.
- There is a big increase in the number of students partaking in vaping. We now have a Vaping Workgroup that met for the first time in January.
 - Concerns are about what is being vaped and where it is coming from. Students have passed out from vaping and required Naloxone treatment.

4.0 New Business

- Motion introduced by Brandie Armijo: The letter of support for the BHCS Strategic Alignment be sent to County Council after changes in language have been made. There was a second by Jessica Kronstadt. The motion was approved by voiced consent.
- There is a Senate and House Bill to raise the age to purchase cigarettes to 21. February 27th the House Bill will be reviewed. The bill is more heavily supported than in prior years.
- Motion was introduced, seconded and approved to suspend the 72-hour rule for this meeting in order for the COH to write a letter of support to support tobacco legislation that will be discussed at the state legislature on February 27th. Dr. Gayles will also be providing testimony at that time.
- Members will discuss the application of the 72-hour rule in more detail at the next COH meeting.
- There was discussion on mentoring new members. Concern was the time commitment of mentoring.
- COH members are concerned with time limitations and getting support to County Council in a timely manner. Linda McMillan has agreed to go over the presentation of the County Council budget cycle timelines with COH again.
- County Council is now looking at race equity, health in all policies, and going to a two-year budget.
- Members are encouraged to look into their passions and come up with how it relates to and is of importance to the County. This will bring new ideas for items to be worked on.
- Karen will send out updated bio's and a contact list of COH members.

5.0 Workgroups and Priorities

Sexual Health Workgroup

- The Sexual Health Workgroup has started looking for data, information, and deciding on where to go with the information. CAPT. Jason Woo will be meeting with Dr. Gayles.
- Access to contraceptives is about health equity.

Data

- The data workgroup's recommendation letter from last year went to Uma Ahluwalia and the transition team at County Council.
- The group is undecided as to whether they would like to continue. There are only a few members left in the group. Dr. Gayles suggested the group figure out exactly what direction they want to go and contact Dr. Liu for help.
- Councilmember Gabe Albornoz is interested in the data approach and would be a good person to send a letter in support of another County epidemiologist to.

Flu Vaccine Workgroup

- Wants a more proactive support on Flu vaccines.

- Flu shots should be given in schools.
- 80K people died last year of the Flu.

Behavioral Health

- The group is considering next steps and how they may want to work after the recommendation letter has been submitted.

Michelle would like to see follow-up on the Smart Choice training that the Health Literacy workgroup recommended.

~Adjourn

Draft Introduced:

Approved: