



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

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brandie Armijo, Brent Berger, Brenda Brooks, Christopher Burt, Maya Das, Desiree de la Torre, Sarah Emami, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Jessica Kronstadt, Kathy Mann Koepke, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, Tonya Saffer, and Kelley Timpa.

Members Absent: Marla Caplon, Jessica Chung, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Travis Gayles, Fabienne Santel, Ashim Subedee, and Jason Woo.

Staff Present: Ellen Segal and Karen Thompkins.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- A motion to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes was introduced by Christopher Burt and seconded by Jessica Kronstadt. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.
- The next COH meeting will take place April 18, 2019 at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.
- The following meeting is May 16, 2019 at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

3.0 Old Business

- The 72-hour rule:
 - Discussion at the February meeting resulted in lifting the 72-hour rule to create and send a letter in support of tobacco legislation.
 - The 72-hour rule was created to give time for all COH members to view and have access to support letters being created to send to County Council.
 - Discussion included reference to have enough time to make informed decisions, making the process timelier by doing away with the 72-hour rule, and removing the 72-hour rule but keep it unstated that letters, etc., should be brought to the group 72 hours in advance.
 - **Motion: Keep the 72-hour rule and be able to waive the rule if the committee agrees.** The motion was introduced by Michelle Hawkins and seconded by Dr. Berger. The motion passed.

4.0 New Business

- Jessica Kronstadt met with Dr. Liu to discuss data. The data workgroup is writing a letter to expand the Public Health Services budget to include funding to hire another epidemiologist.

➤ **Motion: To write a letter to support expanding the budget to hire another two epidemiologists.** The motion was introduced by Jessica Kronstadt and seconded by Sara Emami. The motion passed.

- Dr. Liu is willing to present some of the data (Healthy Montgomery, STIs, TB) he has researched at a future meeting.
- National Public Health Week begins April 1st. There will be activities taking place throughout the County April 1-7. Go to the Healthy Montgomery website for more information.
- Desiree, Sarah, Michelle and Chris would like to meet with a Health and Human Services Committee Councilmember to find out what their priorities are. Let Karen know if you intend to meet with any Councilmembers.
- Sarah is interested in working on jooling, perhaps general service announcements and health education.
- Dr. Berger has reached out on how to educate on influenza and has hit a brick wall. Linda McMillan noted that if COH is still interested in influenza now is the time to act.
- Tonya would like all members to come to the next meeting with a health topic and the reason this topic is being chosen. Please send your chosen topic to Karen prior to the next meeting.
- The Chair of the Veteran's Affairs Committee would like more education on marijuana in the County, including information on the dispensaries.
- Dr. Berger would like COH to take a position on medical marijuana education, using it and prescribing it correctly.
- The Chair of Veteran's Affairs or a representative will be invited to give a presentation to the COH.

5.0 County Government Structure Presentation – Linda McMillan

- The budget is worked on from August through December, at which time the County Executive is deciding what to recommend for the capital and operating budget.
- January 15th the County Executive transmits his recommended capital budget. County Council hearings are held early to mid-February.
- March 15th the County Executive transmits his recommended operating budget.
- Council hearings on the operating budget take place in early April. This years hearings will be April 8-10, 2019.
- The Department budgets are reviewed by the County Council committee from mid-April to early May.
- Testimony and correspondence from the boards, commissions, and committees are included in the Committee and Council packets.
- The final County Council approved budget comes out in late May.

Announcements

Commission on Children Youth and Families

- Four students are interested in presenting on health issues in the schools. The students were told that COH had submitted a letter of support for the tobacco bill raising the age on sales.

African American Health Program

- April 27th from 9 – 2:00 p.m. is Community Day in Silver Spring at the Silver Spring Civic Building. There will be health screenings and fun for the kids.

~Adjourn

Draft Introduced:

Approved: