



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland
January 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brenda Brooks, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, Jelani Murrain, Fabienne Santel and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Brent Berger, Marla Caplon, Jessica Chung, Sarah Emami, and Travis Gayles.

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 December 19, 2019 minutes was introduced by Jessica Kronstadt and seconded by Christopher Burt. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.
- The next COH meeting will take place February 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The following meeting will take place March 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

3.0 Workgroup Updates

School Health Services – Alana Aronin

- County Council met yesterday and voted to add six new community health nurses to School Health Services staff. It was noted that this will not be enough of a nursing staff increase.
- The County Executive budget is still in process and the recommended County Executive budget will come out March 16th.
- The Commission on Health would like to write a follow-up letter to the County Council and County Executive stating full funding should be given to School Health Services to support hiring more nurses.

Tobacco Prevention and Vaping – Karen Thompkins

- There is no news on the new law that would limit the sale of vaping products within a mile of middle or high schools. County Council just returned from break.
- The vaping contest being held in schools for kids ages 13 to 18 has been extended until February 14th. There have been 19 entries.

Governance Workgroup – Jessica Kronstadt

- The group discussed strategies to support the COH.
- The group would like to see COH produce an annual report as was done in the past.
- There was discussion on the use of a calendar to show what is being worked on and due dates. The calendar could be used to measure progress and could be implemented using Google Docs.

- The group would like to develop definitions and expectations of roles within the Commission.
- New members should be more proactive about meeting Councilmembers. Let the Councilmembers know our interest and intent. Begin with the HHS Committee.

4.0 Liaison Updates

Commission on Aging - Brenda Brooks

- There was a 22-page paper written on the senior gap. The paper was sent to County Council.
- The Commission on Aging is getting out information on hearing aids. Hearing aids can be cost prohibitive and carry a stigma.

Mental Health Advisory Board – Jessica Kronstadt

- National Alliance on Mental Health gave a presentation on mental health disparities.
- They are interested in the Kirwin Commission and the money being given to schools.
- Mental health services are being funded through the schools. There is a push to increase the mental health support services provided to schools.
- In the past there has been discussion on putting mental health first aid counselors in the schools.
- There are national standards of counselor to student. The Mental Health Advisory Board would like to see more staffing.

Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee – Crystal DeVance-Wilson

- There was discussion on the National Public Health Week event. The first event takes place at the Silver Spring Civic Building on April 6th. The speaker topic will be around trauma and violence.
- Dr. Raymond Crowel attended the meeting and discussed his priorities for DHHS and current initiatives. Dr. Crowel is in the process of filling the Chief vacancies.

African American Health Program – Michelle Hawkins

- The African American Health Program has moved to 1401 Rockville Pike in Rockville.
- They may be moving the location of their steering committee meetings.

5.0 New Business

- It is important our vulnerable population be counted by the Census, as this will get needed funding from the government. The COH is considering outreach to encourage people to fill out the Census forms.
- Office of Community Partnership is responsible for leading Census efforts in Montgomery County.
- COH should align with DHHS during National Public Health Week.
- COH is interested in having someone present on TB.
- Christopher Burt is interested in holding a town hall on health. Christopher will send out a draft proposal. The town hall meeting could be a part of National Public Health Week.

6.0 Adjournment

- Crystal DeVance-Wilson made a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:03 p.m. Alana Aronin seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by voice consent.