



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**  
**Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**  
**October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Marla Caplon, Desiree de la Torre, Sarah Emami, Kendra Harris, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Brenda Brooks, Jessica Chung, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Jelani Murrain, Nadia Hashimi, Michelle Hawkins, and Fabienne Santel.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Brittany Foushee, Joan Glick, and Chris Rogers.

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p><b>Meeting call to Order and Welcome - <i>Desiree de la Torre</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings are on November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Brent Berger to approve the October 15, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jason Woo. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize October meeting minutes on COH webpage- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Health Officer's Report – <i>Dr. Chris Rogers presented in lieu of Dr. Travis Gayles</i></b></p> <p>The COVID-19 test positivity rate in the County is at 2%, lower than the State rates. There are currently 8.5 cases per 100,000 residents.</p> <p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The testing capacity rate is at 11.4% and has increased significantly since August. The County is looking to increase testing in high impact zip codes. Lakeforest is the highest volume testing site.</li> <li>• There is also an opportunity to bring all Montgomery Cares Clinics back to facilitate testing and the County will be partnering with MCPS to encourage testing for staff.</li> <li>• Due to cold weather, testing efforts will likely shift to parking garages. The County is looking to purchase heaters to facilitate testing during colder weather. Contact tracing continues.</li> </ul> <p>The County is referring to the framework from the National Academies of Medicine to develop a distribution plan for the vaccine. The vaccine will be a 2-shot dose and will be distributed to the public in 4 phases.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Residents are being encouraged to sign up for flu shots. Free flu shot clinics are available on three dates in October. There is also partnership with food security task source to offer food services for those who attend flu clinics and COVID testing sites.</p>	
<p><b>School Health Update</b> – <i>Joan Glick, Senior Administrator, School Health Services</i></p> <p>Joan Glick provided an overview on the School Health Services within the County and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is lower enrollment in schools compared to last year due to COVID-19 (approximately 4,000 fewer students enrolled).</li> <li>• The County has 100 school health nurses for 190 schools. The goal is to have 126 school health nurses moving into FY20/21 to allow for coverage in every high school and all middle and elementary schools with more than 850 students. They are currently interviewing for these additional positions.</li> <li>• Due to school closures, school nurses are currently assigned to other COVID-19 related functions within Public Health Services.</li> <li>• There are 2,700 students currently with no immunization records, and the County continues to encourage parents with K-12 students to maintain their standard recommended immunizations.</li> </ul> <p>Presentation slides will be shared on the Teams workspace for member reference.</p>	<p>Post School Health slides to Teams workspace- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>COH FY 2021 Priorities-Setting-</b> <i>Desiree de la Torre</i></p> <p>There were four priorities identified from the retreat as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Health</li> <li>• Communicable Diseases</li> <li>• Public Health Data Needs</li> <li>• Racial Equity</li> </ul> <p>Governance plays a huge role in healthcare delivery and policy. Governance will remain a focus in FY21 as a fifth workgroup.</p> <p>Considering a lot of the focus will be on communicable disease due to the pandemic, members also suggested focusing on other potential gaps in healthcare where possible within the existing priorities. For example, a racial equity workgroup could also address chronic disease/mental health issues since the certain minority groups are disproportionately impacted.</p> <p>The Chair shared a scorecard to track activities of the COH for FY21. The scorecard will be shared on the Teams workspace for member reference and for commissioners to select a workgroup.</p> <p><b>A MOTION</b> was made by Elliott Brown to approve the FY21 priorities and workgroups. The motion was seconded by Jessica Kronstadt. The priorities were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Add Scorecard to Teams workspace- <i>COH Staff</i></p> <p>Sign-up for workgroup and liaison role- <i>All COH Members</i></p>
<p><b>Racial Equity Letter and Statement-</b> <i>Chair/Co-Chair</i></p> <p>The COH members discussed the updates to the Racial Equity letter. Following the October COH meeting, the statement will be shared for review and approval by the PIO, Office of</p>	<p>Send Racial Equity Statement for review and approval within the County- <i>COH Staff</i></p>

<p>Intergovernmental Relations and legal counsel. Once approved, the Racial Equity Statement will be circulated amongst other BCCs within DHHS to sign off on.</p> <p><b>A MOTION</b> was made by Alana Aronin to approve the Racial Equity letter following the review and approval from the County. The motion was seconded by Jessica Kronstadt. The letter was unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	
<p><b>Membership Update- Membership Committee</b></p> <p>The Membership Committee, consisting of Elliott Brown, Brittne Jackson and Vanessa Kachipande, provided an update on the FY21 membership process.</p> <p>There were 24 applicants this year and a total of 7 vacancies. Three incumbents have reapplied with four members ending their terms.</p> <p>The committee conducted 20 interviews over a two-week period. One applicant withdrew due to personal reasons. Four new members will be appointed to the commission in mid-November.</p> <p>The Membership Committee noted that the interview process was informative, and many candidates brought forward concerns of Food and Housing security as important issues within the county.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Emani, liaison to the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB), discussed an opportunity which the COH could consider signing onto or otherwise supporting. MCAB is drafting a letter that presents the recommendations of the Montgomery Cares Committee for consideration by MCAB to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services. The draft letter will be circulated letter with all the members for reference.</li> <li>• Healthy Montgomery has begun their CHNA process. Terri McGuire and Crystal DeVance-Wilson will be representing the COH on the CHNA Committee. Kendra Harris expressed interest in joining the CHNA Committee.</li> <li>• Brent Berger reminded members to get Flu shots.</li> </ul>	<p>Share MCAB letter with COH staff- <i>Sarah Emani</i></p> <p>Circulate MCAB letter amongst COH members- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><b>A MOTION</b> was made by Brent Berger to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Chris Burt. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	N/A