



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Marla Caplon, Jessica Chung, Desiree de la Torre, Sarah Emami, Travis Gayles, Amy Gyau-Moyer, Nadia Hashimi, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, Jelani Murrain, Rosemary Payne, Fabienne Santel, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Brenda Brooks, Elliott Brown, and Kendra Harris.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Susan Emery, and Brittany Foushee.

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 6:08 p.m.</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings are on December 17<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>. These meetings will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams.</li> </ul> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jessica Kronstadt to approve the October 15, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Crystal DeVance-Wilson. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize November meeting minutes on COH webpage- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Health Officer’s Report – <i>Dr. Travis Gayles</i></b></p> <p>COVID Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New cases are trending upwards. We have seen three of the highest days of new cases. There were 2,900 cases reported in one day on November 19<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• County officials are encouraging people to stay home and not gather for Thanksgiving. The County is working to develop strategies that will help curb the spread.</li> <li>• Most of the new cases are across the state with smaller counties being harder hit.</li> <li>• The County continues to test large amounts of people. 30,000 tests were conducted statewide today (November 19<sup>th</sup>) and 9,000 of those tests were administered in Montgomery County.</li> <li>• The County is also finalizing their dissemination strategies for vaccine distribution. Vaccines could be available starting late December and will be distributed according to priority group set by the National Academies of Medicine framework.</li> <li>• The state is piloting rapid test sites in the county at nursing homes and other select jurisdictions.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

<p><b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) Letter – Sarah Emani</b></p> <p>Ms. Emani brought the MCAB letter to the attention of the COH. The letter highlights the importance of telehealth and presents the recommendations of the Montgomery Cares Committee for consideration by MCAB to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services. If adopted, MCAB believes that this will further support the clinics in delivering high quality care to the people they serve.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>HHS Committee Meeting Update- Chris Burt</b></p> <p>Mr. Burt provided an update on the HHS committee meeting he attended on November 19. Mr. Burt attended the meeting in order to present the COH’s FY21 priorities to the HHS Committees.</p> <p>The COH’s priorities were well received and Council Member Rice will continue to champion for school health and vaccinations. Public health data was also highlighted as an item the council members intend to have more discussion on.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Workgroups/Liaisons Update and Breakout Session</b></p> <p>Dr. DeVance Wilson provided an update from the African American Health Program (AAHP). Over the past few weeks the AAHP has been focused on COVID-19 testing efforts and outreach.</p> <p>COH staff will resend the liaison list to members and will also inform members on how to connect to teams to access the list and other documents.</p> <p>Members joined breakout sessions in order to set workgroup goals and principles. Each workgroup provided the following updates:</p> <p><i>School Health-</i> The workgroup would like to focus on three priorities 1) Connecting school health and mental health services, 2) access to care and 3) vaccinations.</p> <p><i>Communicable Diseases-</i> This workgroup would like to turn their attention to vaccine acceptance and how to help vaccination distribution efforts.</p> <p><i>Public Health Data and Modernization-</i> This workgroup would like to understand the linkages between data and communications and how to best convey it.</p> <p><i>Racial Equity-</i> Their goal is to support vaccine education and access in high risk and marginalized communities. This will be guided by a respectful approach that is focused on engaging stakeholders, using laymen’s terms and cultural competency.</p> <p>Full discussion summaries will be sent to the COH Chair and Staff by workgroup leads.</p>	<p>Resend the liaison list to members - <i>COH Staff</i></p> <p>Provide instructions to members on how to connect to the Teams workspace - <i>COH Staff</i></p> <p>Send breakout session summaries to COH Chairs and Staff - <i>Workgroup Leads</i></p>
<p><b>Racial Equity Letter and Statement- Chair/Co-Chair</b></p> <p>The COH members discussed the status of the Racial Equity Letter which is tentatively approved by the County’s PIO, Office of Intergovernmental Relations and legal counsel. The COH is awaiting final approval of the statement.</p> <p>A brief Racial Equity Statement has also been posted on the COH website.</p>	<p>Follow up on Racial Equity Statement questions from the County - <i>COH Staff</i></p>

<p><b>Membership/Orientation Update- Chair/Vanessa Kachipande</b></p> <p>New members and outgoing members were announced.</p> <p>Orientation for new members will be scheduled in early December. All members are welcome to attend orientation for a refresher.</p>	<p>Share orientation details with members- COH Staff</p>
<p><b>Annual Reports</b></p> <p>The Annual Reports for FY18 and FY20 have been finalized and members were invited to provide comments on the reports. Any final comments will be emailed to COH staff by November 25<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Alana Aronin to approve and publish the FY18 and FY20 reports pending any final edits from members. The motion was seconded by Michelle Hawkins. The motion was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p>Provide final comments on the Annual Reports- <i>All Members</i></p> <p>Finalize and Publish FY18 and FY20 Annual Reports – <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Michelle Hawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Crystal DeVance-Wilson. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>