



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland
February 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Brenda Brooks, Elliott Brown, Marla Caplon, Jessica Chung, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Travis Gayles, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Jelani Murrain, Fabienne Santel and Jason Woo.

Members Absent: Christopher Burt, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, and Linda McMillan.

Staff Present: Ellen Segal and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Gabe Albornoz, Brittney Foushee, and Beth Shuman.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- A motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes was introduced by Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian and seconded by Michelle Hawkins. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.
- The next COH meeting will take place March 19, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The following meeting will take place April 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and 1B, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

3.0 Health Officer Updates – Dr. Gayles

- There is no Coronavirus in Maryland, DC, or Virginia. The Department is working closely with the State.
- The flu is bad this season. Flu vaccines are determined by the prior year's most prevalent strain of the flu. Residents are encouraged to wash their hands and clean surfaces.
- Communicable Disease and Epidemiology is moving forward with End the HIV Epidemic. The funding will go to support for those with HIV and identifying areas of need.
- The anti-vaping PSA video contest is taking place in the schools and lead by DHHS.
- The County Executive recommended budget will be released in a couple of weeks. This gives a chance for more advocacy. It seems PHS will be level funded. The County is using Budget Outcome Leadership Teams (BOLT) teams for the budget based on the County Executive's seven priorities.
- National Public Health Week is April 6-12, 2020. The theme of the Tillman Lecture is trauma informed care and violence.
- There are no updates on State TB funding. A TB workgroup is being formed.
- PHS is forming a partnership with University of Maryland Baltimore Campus.

- Representative David Trone has shown interest in maternal health and is looking at other Montgomery County programs.

4.0 Council Presentation – Councilmember Gabe Alborno and Beth Schuman

- Montgomery County is urban, suburban, and rural and it shows in our health care.
- Issues in the County we are working on include:
 - School Health nurse shortages. The Council recently voted to add six more nurses. We are still 21 short of where we would like to be.
 - Council is hopeful the County Executive’s budget will include funds to hire 21 more school health nurses.
 - The current school health room nurses are covering more than one school. Eighteen quit last year.
 - Three pieces of legislation were drafted to address vaping. Legislation included preventing sales within half a mile of middle or high schools; another bill preventing sales of flavored vapes; and a bill crafted to clarify language. There has been pushback from small businesses/vape shops who feel vaping is safer than cigarettes and helps people quit. The State is enacting legislation as well.
 - Councilmember Alborno feels we need a robust educational campaign and more federal laws enacted. We need to approach the vaping problem through the underlying cause. There are new federal laws being enacted that will ban all flavors of vaping. The County ban goes further. The County has joined a lawsuit against Juul.
- County Council priorities include:
 - Access to transportation. Barwood received money from a Federal grant to give transportation to low income residents.
 - Minority Health Initiatives and concerns that immigrants are not coming for services due to apprehension from the political climate.
 - Aging issues including pedestrian deaths.
- Councilmember Alborno feels it should be mandatory for schoolteachers to get vaccinated against the flu.
- The Latino Health Initiative is interested in hosting a town hall for outreach purposes to let residents know the programs available.
- Councilmember Alborno would like to see a County health report that goes beyond health to underlying causes.

5.0 National Public Health Week – Dr. Travis Gayles and Karen Thompkins

- April 6th is the first day of National Public Health Week and we will be having the Dr. Ulder Tillman lecture with a focus on trauma and violence. There will also be a panel discussion.
- Lunch will be served at noon.
- The press release has gone out.
- Community partners are encouraged to register and promote their events. COH is invited to host an event.

6.0 Workgroup Updates

Governance – Jessica Kronstadt

- Governance has drafted a document on roles and expectations of COH.
- Also being drafted is a yearly calendar listing important dates.
- A Survey Monkey survey will be sent out.

School Health Services – Alana Aronin

- The group would like to send out one more follow up letter requesting full funding for the needed school nurses.

Communicable Disease – Dr. Brent Berger

- Next month we have invited Carmen Clarke, DHHS Epidemiologist to present to COH.

Tobacco Prevention/Vaping – Sarah Emami

- The anti-vaping video contest from middle and high school students will be ready for judging in March.
- There were 263 students who participated in the anti-vaping video contest, with 92 video entries.

7.0 Liaison Reports**Commission on Aging - Brenda Brooks**

- The Commission on Aging put together a report. There is a problem with residents having the ability to afford adequate housing.

Montgomery County Advisory Board – Sarah Emami

- There is concern over the lower number of people utilizing Montgomery Cares. There are less enrollments in the programs.

African American Health Program – Crystal DeVance-Wilson

- Programs being planned by the African American Health Program include a men's walking program; a teen program on STD's and HIV; there has been nurse training on maternal mortality; and African American Health Program Community Day at the Upcounty community center on April 18th.

8.0 New Business

There was no new business to note.

9.0 Adjournment

- Alana Aronin made a motion to adjourn at approximately 8:01 p.m. Dr. Brent Berger seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by voice consent.