



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
May 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

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

Staff Present: Dr. Chris Rogers (on behalf of Dr. Gayles), Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Brittany Foushee

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order and Welcome - <i>Desiree De la Torre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. • Announcement of new county staff members Vanessa Kachipande and Dr. Chris Rogers <p><u>MOTION</u> by Michelle Hawkins to approve the February 20, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Brent Berger. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.</p> <p>Upcoming meetings are on June 18th and July 16th will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Health Officer's Report - <i>Dr. Chris Rogers</i> (Dr. Chris Rogers provided update in lieu of Dr. Travis Gayles)</p> <p>Montgomery County COVID data dashboard metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9260 total cases, 491 total deaths countywide • 3-day average of new cases at 281 • Majority of 3-day average metrics are trending on a decline. Continued decrease in numbers will lead to plans to reopen gradually over the next few weeks. <p>Update on testing efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montgomery County has a testing plan in partnership with a local organization in Rockville, MD. This partnership will extend testing to front line workers and general public for results to be available within 48 hours. • The goal is to have the capacity to test 5% of population per week, approximately 20,000 individuals per week. • Increase in testing will anticipate a spike in cases but death rate and ICU capacity will be monitored to understand if there is also a spike in prevalence. <p>A county plan is being developed to increase contact tracing</p> <p>Frequent coordination is occurring with Prince George's County, DC, and other neighboring locations to collaborate on COVID response plan. Health officers and other officials from various counties are working in partnership to align opening strategies based on data from all neighboring areas.</p> <p>Member questions:</p>	<p>Dr. Rogers to follow up with Dr Gayles to provide responses on member questions</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any plans to conduct sero-prevalence testing in the county to get a general idea of overall COVID prevalence in the county? • From the data presented from the county data dashboard, do all benchmarks need to be met in order to begin reopening? • What are the criteria for reopening? 	
<p>Post COVID-19 Response and COH Opportunities</p> <p>COVID Community Conversations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission on Health to co-sponsor educational COVID community webinars with Healthy Montgomery. Community conversations will be a series of virtual webinars and virtual townhalls • A series of identified topics are available, and commissioners have been asked to respond to the survey requesting input on topics and potential SMEs. Commissioners asked to share survey with those in their various networks. <p>Letter of support- Request made by Jessica Kronstadt to proactively draft statement voicing support for the health department and the County Health Officer’s data focused approach in response to COVID.</p> <p>Opportunity to focus on communicable disease at the faith-based level</p> <p>Alana Aronin requested meeting recording capabilities for virtual sessions. Karen/Vanessa to review technology capability for recording</p>	
<p>Data Support Letter Update- Jessica Kronstadt</p> <p>Original data support letter was drafted in 2019 to request additional funding for epidemiologists</p> <p>Letter to be updated and resubmitted for consideration by County Council. Commission voting on the letter will occur during next meeting.</p> <p>Prior to letter redraft, commissioners would like to understand the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we get an understanding if the county is currently considering additional resources to be allocated to epidemiologists given the current climate? • What temporary and permanent epidemiological resources will be made available due to COVID? 	<p>Update data support letter- <i>Jessica Kronstadt</i></p> <p>Dr. Rogers to follow up with Dr. Liu on member questions</p>
<p>Workgroup Updates</p> <p>Governance – Jessica Kronstadt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly calendar is drafted and will be updated by Vanessa Kachipande and Karen Thompkins. • Suggestion on website updates related to posting of calendar and other items <p>School Health Services – Alana Aronin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions for 10 new nurses have been funded by county • Thank you Letter to County Council and County Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>MOTION</u> by Alana Aronin to draft a letter thanking the County Council and County Executives for the addition of 10 school nurses. Crystal DeVance-Wilson seconded the motion. • Letter to be drafted and emailed to commission prior to next meeting. Letter to be sent to vote at next meeting. <p>Communicable Disease – Dr. Brent Berger</p>	<p>Draft thank you Letter to County Council and County Executive- <i>Alana Aronin</i></p>

<p>Nothing new to report as they have not met recently. Several new opportunities to explore during COVID.</p> <p>Tobacco Prevention/Vaping – Sarah Emami/Karen Thompkins Anti-vaping campaign update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 video submissions received. 236 participating students • Fan favorite voting currently ongoing through end of the week • 1376 response to date, highlights # of individuals exposed to anti vaping campaign videos 	
<p>COH Website-Vanessa Kachipande Potential changes to COH website were shared with commissioners Suggestions from Governance workgroup to add testimonies and consider capacities for an internal workspace for the group Vanessa Kachipande to meet with governance committee in follow up to website updates and other pending governance workgroup items</p>	<p>Meet with governance workgroup- <i>Vanessa Kachipande and Governance workgroup</i></p>
<p>Committee Formation Election Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance workgroup will replace the function of the nominating committee • Nominations to occur between now and June, with voting to occur at next meeting. • <u>MOTION</u> by Jessica Kronstadt for 1-month postponement for chair/vice chair elections. Crystal DeVance-Wilson seconded motion. • Duration of new term to be reduced and will remain an 11-month term. <p>Membership Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Thompkins will review the membership terms and determine the number of vacancies to be filled for FY21. • Two individuals needed to serve on membership committee, those interested should email Karen Thompkins and Desiree De La Torre. • Members rolling off at the end of FY20 are encouraged to continue to attend meetings until FY21 members are brought on board which is usually at the end of the calendar year. 	<p>Members whose terms have not expired but will not continue with the COH should notify Karen via email.</p> <p>Determine COH vacancies that need to be filled- <i>Karen Thompkins</i></p>
<p>Adjournment <u>MOTION</u> by Chris Burt to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Fabienne Santel seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Resources shared via chat:

- [Contract tracing](#)- Crystal DeVance-Wilson
- [Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov/)<https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov/>- Crystal DeVance-Wilson
- [DHHS COVID-19: Data Dashboard](#)- Desiree De La Torre
- [Article addressing pitfalls of federal COVID funding and negative impact on Medicaid](#) – Terri McGuire