



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
June 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

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

Members Absent: Elliott Brown, Linda McMillan, and Jelani Murrain.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins.

Guests: Brittany Foushee, Helen Lettlow and Chris Rogers

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 6:05 p.m. • Upcoming meetings are on July 16th and August 20th and will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams. The COH will plan to meet in August but attendance of August meeting will not be required. <p>A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Alana Aronin to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian. The minutes were approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Health Officer’s Report – <i>Dr. Travis Gayles</i> Update on COVID-19 response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been tremendous progress on the County dashboard and metrics that allows for continued reopening of business and society. Aggressive strategies are being adopted to drive down the number of cases. • There has been an increase in testing around the county with testing efforts focused on self-testing and mobile testing. The County is looking at further expanding testing to more community venues to allow multiple avenues for testing, especially in high risk areas which includes vulnerable populations (elderly and those living high density areas). • The County is working to decrease household transmission. • Zip Code analysis shows a disproportionate disease burden for certain areas within the county. • The Public Health Advisory Group was formed of experts meeting to discuss a data-based approach to COVID response. Members of the panel include: Georges Benjamin, Torrey Mack, Amanda Castel, Cesar Palacios, Tara Palmore, Brent Berger, and Hongjie Liu. • The County has planned for contingency strategies that may influence COVID response. This includes reopening of the County’s immunization program to influence a large push for immunization, aggressive flu vaccine distribution in preparation for a very bad flu season and the introduction of a COVID vaccine to the public. 	<p>N/A</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of antibody testing is still in development. No formal planning has been set to roll this out at this time. <p>Microaggressions influence the structure and impact of policy. There is a need for conversations on the mental health impact of chronic stress and trauma as it relates to racism. Behavioral health components need to be addressed when it comes to policing.</p> <p>The Racial Equity Committee is being led by Tiffany Ward to identify equity gaps within the county. The committee is securing committee members and two additional staff members to support the effort.</p>	
<p>Post COVID-19 Response and COH Opportunities COVID Community Conversations- <i>Dr. Chris Rogers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Montgomery is moving forward with engaging community partners. The goal is to bring together qualitative and quantitative data for opportunities for actionable change. A survey was sent to the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee and the Commission on Health to solicit ideas and speakers for the COVID Community Conversations. The COH was encouraged to share any recommendations for topics or experts to discuss. The next scheduled Community Conversation will be held the week of June 22nd in partnership with Montgomery County Hospice. 	N/A
<p>Pandemic Response Support Letter Update- <i>Jessica Kronstadt</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter was drafted by the COH to support the County's data-based approach for the pandemic response. Alana Aronin recommended the addition of individual COH members' names to the letters (ex-officio members and staff names will not be added). Any members with concerns on personally signing letters will inform COH staff by Tuesday, June 23rd. Two versions of the letter will be drafted, one will be sent to the County Executive and a second to the County Council. <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jessica Kronstadt approving the letters to be sent following the proposed edits. Michelle Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Update pandemic support letter- <i>Jessica Kronstadt and Vanessa Kachipande</i></p> <p>Inform COH staff by Tuesday, June 23rd if name to be omitted from final letter- <i>All COH Members</i></p>
<p>Data Support Letter Update- <i>Jessica Kronstadt</i></p> <p>The data support letter has been updated to add detail related to COVID-19.</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jessica Kronstadt approving letter to be sent. Jason Woo seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voiced consent.</p>	Finalize and send letter- <i>Vanessa Kachipande</i>
<p>COH Statement Addressing Racism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COH Chair would like to reach out to the Chairs of the other BCCs to coordinate a joint statement on racism. A letter will be drafted by Alana Aronin, Crystal Devance Wilson, Fabienne Santel and Desiree de la Torre to support County Council's resolution to address racism as a public health issue. Alana Aronin recommended that the letter be action oriented with a call to action and some solutions. Fabienne Santel reinforced the delivery of a clear, concise and targeted message. The COH staff will check with Beth Gochrach to confirm the outreach to other COH Chairs is appropriate. Karen Thompkins suggested the potential for all BCCs to select at least one priority that aligns with the resolution for new fiscal year. 	<p>Meet to draft anti-racism support statement- <i>Alana Aronin, Crystal Devance-Wilson, Desiree de la Torre, and Fabienne Santel</i></p> <p>Confirm COH chairs can coordinate with other BCC chairs- <i>Vanessa Kachipande</i></p>

<p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jessica Kronstandt moving to draft the letter. Alana Aronin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Coordinate joint anti-racism statement with other BCCs- <i>Desiree de la Torre</i></p>
<p>PHAB Accreditation Update- Dr. Helen Lettlow Dr. Lettlow provided an update on the status of PHAB accreditation and a summary of the strategic plan, for which she invited comments. For more details, view the power point presentation shared in Microsoft Teams.</p>	<p>Share Dr. Lettlow's presentation to COH members- <i>Vanessa Kachipande</i></p>
<p>Workgroup Updates In the interest of time, the following workgroup updates are to be circulated via email to Karen and Vanessa to share with the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • School Health • Communicable Diseases • Tobacco/Vaping 	<p>Send workgroup updates to COH staff- <i>Workgroup Leads</i></p>
<p>Annual Retreat Discussion Form Retreat Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retreat planning committee will be comprised of two COH members. • Members interested in joining the retreat committee should notify Karen, Vanessa and Desiree. 	<p>Send notification to Vanessa and Desiree via email- <i>All COH Members</i></p>
<p>Adjournment <u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jason Woo to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Alana Aronin seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Workgroup Updates:

Governance- The Governance workgroup met on June 4th to discuss several topics. COH elections will be occurring in July and COH members are encouraged to submit nominations to the Governance workgroup by Thursday, 7/9/20. The workgroup is creating a yearly COH calendar that will be shared with the COH members for review. We hope that in the future the chairs can use the calendar as they are planning the agendas for each meeting. COH staff will be meeting with the County Public Information Officer to discuss updates to the COH Website. Microsoft Teams will be set up as a member only collaboration tool for the COH to host resources and communicate more effectively.

School Health- The COH School Health Workgroup sent letters to the County Commissioners and County Executive, thanking them on their work to increase funding in the County FY21 budget for an additional 10 school health nurses. While schools have been closed this spring, going forward school health nurses will provide even more critical services to the schools and greater community, as they will be an integral part of assuring healthy learning and working environments when schools do reopen.

Communicable Diseases- The Communicable Diseases workgroup is exploring recommendations to improve education with targeted social marketing campaigns to address prevention and risks of Covid and other communicable infectious diseases.

They will be looking for ways to particularly address those at higher risk, such as under-resourced communities, those who speak English as a second language, and parents of school-age children, teens and other young adults.

Messaging will also address efforts to encourage routine vaccinations as part of the effort to prevent disease, and to improve messaging and infrastructure to help make the eventual coronavirus vaccination available and accepted by as many County residents as possible.

Tobacco/Vaping-N/A