



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
February 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Brent Berger, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Marla Caplon, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Travis Gayles, Amy Gyau-Moyer, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Linda McMillan, and Rosemary Payne.

Members Absent: Alana Aronin, Sarah Emami, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Terri McGuire, Jelani Murrain, and Fabienne Santel.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande

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 6:05 p.m. • Upcoming meetings are on March 18th and April 15th. These meetings will take place virtually via Zoom. • The COH Chair welcomed members and provided an update on the goals for the meeting. <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Elliott Brown to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Amy Gyau-Moyer. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize January meeting minutes on COH webpage- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p>Health Officer’s Report –<i>Dr. Travis Gayles</i></p> <p>COVID Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a significant improvement in the number of COVID-19 cases. The County is currently at a 3.5 percent positivity rate. Restaurants have been allowed to reopen for indoor dining at 25 percent capacity. Facemasks are now required to be worn when not eating or drinking. • The United Kingdom and South African COVID-19 variants are present in Maryland. These are more contagious strains. Public health labs continue to closely monitor the spread of these strains. • <i>Testing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the vaccine rollout began, there has been a decrease in testing nationally. ○ Testing continues to operate. Still encouraging people to get tested while waiting for vaccines. 	<p>N/A</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PCR testing timeframe remains at 36-48 hours. The timeframe has sped up from the delays experienced over the holidays. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Vaccinations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The number of vaccine doses being distributed from the federal government has increased. Maryland has received approximately 90,000 doses due to increases in vaccine production and allocation. ○ The County is advocating for a mass vaccination site within the County. Over 20,000 Maryland residents have been vaccinated at the Prince George’s County site and 3,000 Montgomery County residents have been vaccinated there. There is a plan to prioritize appointment slots for Montgomery County residents at mass vaccinations sites. ○ The County working to set up a more equitable vaccine distribution and is encouraging the State set up an equity framework. The County is working with retail pharmacies and hospital partners to ensure equitable distribution and are reviewing strategies to preregister residents in minority populations. ○ The County is working with many partners to possibly host additional clinics including mobile vaccine clinics to help homebound patients. ○ Currently, 55 percent of residents over the age of 75 have been vaccinated. Two additional clinics have been set up in the County to allow for prioritization of vaccinating the 75+ population. <p>Dr. Gayles noted that the Montgomery County DHHS is fully accredited and extended appreciation to the Commissioners for their continued advocacy during this process. He also encouraged the COH to advocate for resources for mental health and other health resources that were scarce prior to the pandemic.</p>	
<p>Legislative Advocacy Update - Chair/Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The General Assembly continues to meet virtually. The senate oversight committee is meeting on vaccines on Monday and the meeting can be viewed on demand on this site: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=vow ● The following health related bills are being tracked by the County Council and may be of interest to the Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HB1123 Increase Local Health Department Funding. ○ HB463 Maryland Health Equity Resource Act; addresses housing destabilization. ○ HB416 Assisted Living Memory Care; focused around staff training and reducing isolation. ○ HB396 Overdose and Infectious Disease Prevention; Advocated for providing sterile needles and a safe space to use. ○ HB123 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021. 	N/A
<p>Liaisons Update</p> <p>African American Health Program (AAHP) - Dr. DeVance Wilson The AAHP will be hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Virtual Town Hall geared towards the black community.</p>	N/A

<p>Commission on Youth and Children-<i>Jonathan Arias</i> The CYC is planning a youth roundtable for opportunities that youth are confronted in. More information will be shared with Commissioners as planning develops.</p> <p>Latino Health Initiative (LHI) – <i>Marcela Campoli</i> Ms. Campoli met with Sonia Mora. LHI hopes to set up a liaison from LHI to COH.</p> <p>Mental Health Advisory Council- <i>Jessica Kronstadt</i> The Council discussed how the COH can collaborate on social determinants of health from a mental health and behavioral health standpoint.</p> <p>Montgomery County Medical Society – <i>Dr. Brent Berger</i> The Montgomery County Medical Society is coordinating with subject matter experts who would facilitate discussions to encourage vaccine engagement and efficacy. They also have full support from the State on telehealth.</p> <p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) – <i>Ms. Sarah Emami</i> MCAB is working on revising their charter and reviewing their budget priorities.</p>	
<p>CHNA Advisory Committee Update - <i>Committee Members</i> Healthy Montgomery staff and CHNA Advisory Committee members provided an update on the CHNA progress. Community partners and facilitators have been identified. Flyers for focus groups and key informant interviews will be distributed to community partners in the next few days for registration to begin.</p>	N/A
<p>Workgroup Group Updates</p> <p>Communicable Disease Workgroup- <i>Brent Berger</i> The Communicable Disease workgroup would like to find more information on TB and HIV. They are also working with the School Health workgroup to discuss vaccination adherence.</p> <p>School Health Workgroup- <i>Crystal DeVance Wilson</i> The School Health workgroup discussed ensuring adequate coverage in schools with nursing staff and having enough coverage for vaccinations as they begin reopening. They are continuing to also research opportunities for partnership for mobile vaccination clinics.</p> <p>Racial Equity Workgroup- <i>Brittne Jackson</i> The Racial Equity workgroup discussed the pandemic outreach, pandemic awareness and vaccine rollout equity. The group brainstormed to encourage vaccine acceptance. They noted that a mobile vaccination unit would help promote equity especially for those in underserved communities and elderly homebound individuals.</p> <p>Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup- <i>Jessica Kronstadt</i> The Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup discussed learning about Healthy Montgomery (HM) data efforts, staff needs, capacity, gaps, and understanding how best to utilize HM metrics. They plan to research the lessons learned with COVID-19 data collection and reporting that can be adapted to reports the health department produces. They plan to review the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation data modernization recommendations that will be published in Summer 2021 to endorse specific recommendations the workgroup supports.</p>	Meet with Workgroup Prior to Next COH Meeting- <i>All Members</i>

<p>Governance Workgroup- Jessica Kronstadt The Governance group discussed spend more time with members to see how they can strengthen member relationships and build partnerships within the COH.</p>	
<p>National Public Health Week Planning- Chair/Co-Chair Rosemary Payne, Kendra Harris and Jessica Kronstadt are interested in engaging in planning for NPHW. The COH would like to present a token on behalf of the commission in response to DHHS’ recent accreditation and also discuss hosting a townhall. The Chair encouraged members to share ideas and to reach out to the COH Chairs if they would like to engage in planning.</p> <p>Dr. Gayles noted that the concepts of equity and social determinants of health could be topics that the COH could help address. There is inequity based on age, race, and zip code. The data is tracked efficiently but would like to be able to bring equity forward in more actionable change.</p>	<p>Reach out to the Chairs to engage in NPHW planning and share any ideas- All Members</p>
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Desiree de la Torre notes that Children’s National is planning a series for youth and young adults. Ms. de la Torre will share details with the COH.</p> <p>Schools will be reopening for special needs children on March 1st through hybrid learning. It will be an important topic for the COH to pay attention to as schools reopen.</p> <p>Amy Gyau-Moyer noted that on Thursday, February 25th, at 1 p.m. Kaiser Permanente will host a virtual event featuring a talk by Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, an African American scientist with the National Institutes of Health and a lead scientist on the Moderna vaccine for COVID-19. This event is free. The flyer will be emailed to the group.</p> <p>Linda McMillian noted that the County has added a vaccine data dashboard that has race/ethnicity and age information. This can be viewed at the following link: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/data/#vaccine</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Crystal DeVance-Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Marcela Campoli. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>