



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

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Elliott Brown, Marcela Campoli, Marla Caplon, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Travis Gayles, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Brittne Jackson, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, Jelani Murrain, and Rosemary Payne and Fabienne Santel.

Members Absent: Brent Berger, Christopher Burt, and Amy Gyau-Moyer,

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Karen Thompkins

Guests: 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 6:05 p.m. The COH Chair welcomed members and provided an update on the goals for the meeting.</li> <li>• Upcoming meetings are on April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will take place virtually via Zoom.</li> </ul> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jessica Kronstadt to approve the February 18, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Terri McGuire. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize February 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>• There has been an increase in the weekly allotment of doses for the State Health Department, Montgomery County and local hospital partners.</li> <li>• In mid-April, a mass vaccination site will be opening in Germantown. The County is reviewing strategies for distribution and continues to focus on administering vaccines to essential employees.</li> <li>• The County Health Officers are meeting with the County Council weekly to review trends from an epidemiological perspective. If numbers in the County continue to remain stable, more activities will begin to reopen.</li> <li>• The County is looking to add mobile clinics and other vaccination sites throughout the County to allow access for those limited by transportation. Mobile clinics will be done alongside community partners. There is a pilot with Care for Your Health Clinic where they have vaccinated about 200 home bound or mobility limited individuals. The County is also working with the group providing in home testing to pilot an in-home vaccine program. The COH can support mobile efforts by connecting DHHS to potential community partners.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Other Efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County continues to focus on doing work to end the HIV epidemic. Montgomery Cares clinics are prioritizing HIV screenings and HIV clinics.</li> <li>• The Minority Data Report is in progress and should be released next month. Dr. Liu is leading the report. The COH would like to consider bringing Dr. Liu to speak on the report once it is published.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Legislative Advocacy Update - Chair/Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, County Council</b></p> <p>Ms. McMillian provided an update on the County Executive’s FY22 budget and reviewed the funding allocated to specific Public Health Initiatives.</p> <p>The telehealth and health equity taskforce bills have been moved from the House to the Senate. Members with questions on specific bills are welcome to contact Linda McMillian for more information.</p> <p>Ms. McMillian will provide COH staff with information to share with the Commissioners.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Liaisons Update</b></p> <p><b>African American Health Program (AAHP) - Dr. DeVance Wilson</b> The AAHP executive committee is working on advocacy and strategy for next steps for a COVID-19 mass vaccination site.</p> <p><b>Commission on Veterans Affairs – Ms. Rosemary Payne</b> The Commission discussed veterans and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed vaccine hesitancy amongst veterans and how to encourage vaccination amongst the veteran population.</p> <p><b>Commission on Youth and Children (CYC)-Jonathan Arias</b> 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><b>Latino Health Initiative (LHI) – Marcela Campoli</b> Since the beginning of the pandemic, LHI has cut back on meetings. The Initiative continues to advocate for communities of color.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Advisory Council- Jessica Krondstadt</b> The Council may be interested in sending a liaison to the COH.</p> <p><b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) – Ms. Sarah Emami</b> MCAB is working on revising their charter. They are also discussing a possible name change.</p>	N/A
<p><b>CHNA Advisory Committee Update - Committee Members</b></p> <p>Healthy Montgomery staff and CHNA Advisory Committee members provided an update on the CHNA progress. The qualitative assessment is beginning April 8<sup>th</sup> and will conclude at the end of June. There will be 33 discussions scheduled with 6 facilitators. These will be hosted, In 6 different languages.</p>	N/A

<p><b>Workgroup Group Updates</b></p> <p><b>Communicable Disease Workgroup- Fabienne Santel</b> The Communicable Disease workgroup drafted a letter in support of the County’s response to COVID-19. The letter was drafted with the guidance of the Montgomery County Medical Society and highlighted support for continued restrictions.</p> <p><b>A MOTION</b> was made by Alana Aronin to approve the COVID-19 Letter of Support. The motion was seconded by Crystal Devance-Wilson. The letter was unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p> <p>The workgroup also reviewed their priorities and would like more information on TB and HIV. They also discussed mobile vaccination plans, vaccine hesitancy and vaccine distribution strategies.</p> <p><b>School Health Workgroup- Crystal DeVance Wilson</b> The School Health workgroup discussed the importance of highlighting mental health. Ms. Aronin shared information on reopening protocols: <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/safety/covid.aspx">https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/safety/covid.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Racial Equity Workgroup- Brittne Jackson</b> The Racial Equity workgroup discussed mental health in schools. They also would like to understand more on the student hesitancy for school return.</p> <p><b>Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup- Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire</b> The Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup connected with Rita Deng, Senior Planning Specialist with the DHHS’ Planning and Epidemiology team. The workgroup would like to further connect with Dr. Rogers on data collection.</p> <p><b>Governance Workgroup- Desiree de la Torre, Jessica Kronstadt</b> The Governance group has been meeting with members individually to see how they can strengthen member relationships and build partnerships within the COH.</p>	<p>Meet with Workgroup Prior to Next COH Meeting- <i>All Members</i></p> <p>Finalize and send COVID-19 Letter of Support- <i>Communicable Disease Workgroup, COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>National Public Health Week Planning- Chair/Co-Chair</b></p> <p>Robin Simmons is the DHHS contact who will planning on NPHW activities for the department. The COH would like to connect with DHHS to engage in NPHW activities.</p>	<p>Share DHHS contact for NPHW planning- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><b>A MOTION</b> was made by Crystal DeVance-Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was seconded by Sarah Emami. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>