



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Thursday, December 21, 2023

The Commission on Health for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via Zoom on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

### PRESENT

Susan Emery, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Marcela Campoli, Arthur Summerville, Beth Barrows, Venchele Saint Dic, Patrick Campbell, Tatjana Meerman, Adam Finkelstein, Milankumar Patel, Yingxi Chen, Gabriela Lemus, Rashida Dokes, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Adam Finkelstein, Laurel Fain, Joey Nichols; Donna Cawley

### ABSENT

Brent Berger

### DHHS STAFF

Dr. Davis, Meghan Sontag

### GUESTS

Patrick Campbell, Alana Aronin

### INTRODUCTIONS-

- All 18 Commissioners present.
- Current and new Commissioners introduced themselves.

### PRESENTATIONS

- A. MCDHHS Health Officer's Report from Dr. Kisha Davis
  - Covid increase- encourage to get vaccine (expected increase in 2 weeks)
  - Youth safety/harm reduction and prevention; crime (school)
  - Collaborative nature- with partners on minority health programs.
  - Alert on sesame seeds allergies- Sesame added as an Allergan- easier to see because it is now in packaging. Some manufacturers- added as a product in the labelling (sesame flours)- might be confusing to customers- encourage to check labeling.
- B. Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hubs- from Patrick Campbell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer (presentation available upon request)
  - Service consolidation = partnerships with governments and others due to severe food needs.
  - Food security task force was created- recommendation to create these hubs.
  - Service consolidation hubs- food access, co-located services, collaborations



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- Including health clinics, and social workers on-site (later)
- Service consolidation hubs FY24 priorities- improve data, become sustainable, increase case management on-site (root causes).
- Changed food delivery model- to community choice model. Want to look more like a grocery store. Guaranteed appointment.
- Strategically placing hubs where it is need it the most. Based on density and poverty levels
- This year, households' numbers are not higher. Serving close to 7,000 households (20,000 individuals). Referrals 100s a month- management team overloaded.
- Next steps: creation of the Office Food Systems Resilience
  - o Several grants coming online to support food providers.
  - o Food insecurity is still high- better data needed.
  - o Expect the hubs to remain funded and continued to provide services.
  - o Connecting more DHHS services at the Hubs (mobile clinics, AD service outreach, state/local partners)

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Letters to the County Executive- Went over the three letters and voted to get it to the County Executive.

- A. PH Admi Letter- went over the document. 4<sup>th</sup> year that we have requested this. Dr. Rogers say that the average salary is 90K + benefits (Senior Planning Specialist).
- It is a budget request and needs to be included in the letter.
  - Interested in learning how we are going to gather data that is needed and how it is going to be processed.
  - Since this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we have requested, we should try something new this year.
  - The dollar amount is not in the current letter. Should be included.
  - 1 person might not be able to give the full encompasses of the program. Determine if we should include month to month data- too overwhelming. 1 person might burn out. Does it make sense to ask for 5 people. it is important to establish process to collect/share data. It is important for the Commission to keep trying.
  - Should look at other programs that have the same position.
  - Another council letter that will go out in 3 months- maybe we can make the changes there.
  - Take a vote- turn the letter to county ex, have the dollar figure in it, work on putting health outcomes as one of the data reports, look for another program that we can show that it has worked. Any other additions? All in favor. No abstains. No against.
- B. Access to Care Letter-



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- Asked if there any comments on the letter.
- Question- why we are not asking for the 2 FTEs? 2 recommendations for the letter. There are no dollar figures.
- Asked if there are data specialist in the department- are there success stories? NO. The data specialist has just been hired few months ago.
- How is recommendation 2 different to what Patrick is doing? We are just recommending cold storage. We are supporting Patrick's recommendation. He wanted expansion and we are supporting it.
- Letters are very general and not too specific. There are no numbers, just general. Story leads us into a recommendation. What has been our approach to write these recommendations.
- Original draft- suggested to include attachments that Patrick gave. Asked if we can include the attachments. Want to make the motion that attachments should be included with the data. Better if the data is included in the letter.
- How to make a compelling case to the audience? Data makes it more powerful.
- Need to make a motion- include the attachments with the letters. Do we have 2<sup>nd</sup>- no Seconds- Motion failed.
- We need to know what attachments are include, but we do not have it.
- Susan- asked for another motion to accept the letter the way it is.
- Joey- motion, Venchele 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, no abstain, no against

### C. Environmental Health Letter

- Letter is focusing on heat and air quality.
- The ask? Provide education on environmental health.
- Motion to accept the letter-Cimo; 2<sup>nd</sup> (Milan)- All in favor, abstain (one), opposed (none)

### County Council Advocacy-

- County council has 11 members. 7 are from districts.
- There are Council committees, interested in talking to HHS committee and Transportation and Environment committee.
- Recommend for commissioners to attend in person and give a 5-10 mins on the letters. Who do we want to go in person?
- We have to submit the letters this month. We have until March/ We can decide on January.
- Between now and March, we can revise the letters.
- Meghan will help set up the meetings with Council members.
- We need to look at which council members we need to meet with.
- Council liaison will be coming- we can talk about it in January.



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- Next month we are going to work on what the message will be.
- We can start thinking on what we are going to say before these meetings with Council.
- Adjourned motion- 8:04. Betty.

#### **ACTIONS – Approval of Advocacy Letters to County Executive**

Approved the 3 advocacy letters: Public Health Administration, Access to Care and Environmental

- PHA Advocacy Letter- Sue made a motion to approve. Unanimously approved by all attendees, no abstentions. 16 total votes to approve with the two edits- add “health outcomes” to Senior Planning Specialist and add dollar amounts for both positions.
- Access to Care Advocacy Letter- Joey made a motion to approve, Venchele seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by 14 attendees. 2 Commissioners had to log off prior to the vote. No abstentions and no opposed.
- Environmental Advocacy Letter- Cimo made a motion, Milan seconded the motion, approved by 13 members, 1 abstention, 0 opposed.