

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH



This meeting did not have quorum, the items were discussed but no formal action was taken.

Thursday, October 19, 2023

The Commission on Health for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via Zoom on Thursday, October 19, 2023.

PRESENT

Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Yingxi Chen, Susan Emery, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Marcela Campoli
Desiree de la Torre, Tara Clemons Johnson

ABSENT

Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Laurel Fain, Gabriela Lemus, Donna Cawley

DHHS STAFF

Dr. Davis, Dr. Rogers, Meghan Sontag, Felicia Hugee

GUESTS

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PRESENTATIONS

- A. No Presentations occurred.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Plans through June 2024 and Beyond: The Chair reviewed the Commission on Health Priorities submitted October 4th and presented to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee on October 11th. The Chair reviewed the comments provided by the Committee and the Commission discussed if priorities align with current priorities or if any additional priorities should be added, including long ER wait times, workforce shortage and pipeline recruitment program, climate change and allergies, data co-location and joint Committee sessions. Council had a joint Public Safety/HHS Committee meeting regarding ER wait times, [information](#) was shared by Tara. If the Commission is interested in a joint Council meeting with HHS and Transportation and Environment Committees, COH will discuss with Tara for more details on this process. COH would need to identify topics to discuss and contact Councilmember Alborno and ask if there potential to schedule a joint work session, in follow up to HHS Committee discussion.

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- B. Health Officer's Report: Dr. Davis provided updates on COVID-19, vaccine availability and the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).
- C. Data Needs: Commissioner Chen discussed a process on how to best submit data requests to Dr. Liu. Dr. Liu shared how the epidemiology team responds to data requests, available data to them, data collection efforts and willingness to request data from other sources. Emphasized the data you receive depends on the question you ask, and epi team is happy to assist with this. Chair posed the question to each workgroup, what data do you need to inform your work? Commissioner Betty, Access to Care Workgroup, requested a presentation from Montgomery County Service Consolidation HUB Director to discuss what they are seeing in terms of food distribution and food access. Commissioner Marcela, Public Health Administration Workgroup, requested more information from Dr. Rogers. Dr. Rogers shared evaluation needs of Public Health Services. Chair reminded Commission that all data requests should be reviewed by the Chair prior to sending to Dr. Liu. Commissioner Alana suggested specific targeted advocacy efforts for success. Dr. Rogers recommended advocacy letters be submitted to CE in October, to allow PHS to consider for DHHS budget process as well. Commissioners discussed taking an electronic vote on the 4 advocacy letters sent last year, for resubmission to the CE by next week. Commission also discussed timing of retreat and moving priority setting up to the spring, to allow for advocacy letters to be finalized and submitted by October in the future.

ACTIONS

No actions were taken this meeting due to lack of quorum.