

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH



Thursday, November 16, 2023

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

The Commission on Health for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via Zoom on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

### PRESENT

Susan Emery, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Marcela Campoli, Tara Clemons Johnson, Donna Cawley, Gabriela Lemus,

### ABSENT

Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Desiree de la Torre, Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Yingxi Chen

### DHHS STAFF

Dr. Davis, Dr. Rogers, Meghan Sontag,

### GUESTS

Dr. Joey Nichols, Sarah Kogel-Smucker

### PRESENTATIONS

- A. Health Officers Report from Dr Davis:
  - a. COVID vaccine uptake not optimal; -- marketing and communications need to be more robust
  - b. Uptick in Flu and RSV cases – hospital capacity is fine
  - c. Opioids: still working on designating treatment beds for youth
  - d. Healthy Montgomery data analysis work is unique and well-received at national conference
  - e. Cannabis: increase in ER visits around legalization, steadily decreasing but still high – suggestion to educate community workers and non-profits
- B. Montgomery County Climate Change Officer – Climate Action Plan
  - a. (slides available)
  - b. COH priorities overlap with Climate resilience.
  - c. Gabriela will follow up with Sarah to discuss priorities for recommendation letter

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### GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Plan for Commission Recommendations: PHS Committee received COH written priorities for the year and Susan presented priorities vocally in person as well. Recommendations to the County Executive are due in December, for inclusion into the County Executive budget. Letters will be voted on next month, so must be drafted this month.
  - a. Last year's recommendation letters were presented to the County Council as a component of the Public Health budget request and were rejected. Next year we will need to vote in September in order to determine priorities and communicate them to Dr Rogers.
  - b. Some discussion occurred about the process of identifying priorities and recommendations, drafting letters, how commissioners have the time to prioritize, and what the process is. Request for a clear process as priorities are set and as new members join. Suggestion that working groups are established after priorities are set, to work on those priorities.
  - c. Working groups were confirmed and letters assigned.
    - i. Access to Care: Food Security
    - ii. Environmental Health: Environmental Communication
    - iii. Public Health Administration: Evaluation of Programs and Services & Health Care Services for Uninsured
- B. Commission Membership: Membership interviews were completed and will be submitted to County Executive Office.
- C. Next Meetings: December 21st and January 18th
  - a. 12/21 – we'll have a Deputy COO for Food Security in to talk to us
    - i. vote on letters to the CE
    - ii. talk about our advocacy with the County Council
  - b. 1/18 – hoping to get someone in from County finance
    - i. be starting to finalize our push with CC letters and advocacy
- D. Dr Rogers suggests that the Chief of Public Health for the County should also report regularly to the COH (in addition to the Health Officer)
  - a. Public health will update the County Council this month on HIV/STI clinics and mobile health clinics
- E. Healthy Montgomery is moving to the Community Health Improvement Implementation Plan – 6-8 months out

### ACTIONS

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