



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
FY22 Annual Retreat
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Travis Gayles, Cara Grant, Kendra Harris, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Jessica Kronstadt, Linda McMillan, Rosemary Payne, and Fabienne Santel.

Members Absent: Elliott Brown, Amy Gyau-Moyer, Nadia Hashimi, and Terri McGuire.

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande

Guests: Emily Brown, Susan Emory, Brittany Foushee, and Chris Rogers.

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order and Welcome – Jessica Kronstadt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. The Chair welcomed members and provided an update on the goals for the Annual Retreat meeting. • Upcoming meetings are October 21st and November 18th. These meetings will take place virtually via Zoom. • The Co-Chair engaged members in an ice breaker to kick off the Annual Retreat. <p>A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Crystal DeVance- Wilson. The minutes were unanimously approved by voiced consent.</p>	<p>Finalize July meeting minutes on COH webpage- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p>FY21 Reflections – Jessica Kronstadt</p> <p><i>Successes and Challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 has had an impact on public health. The County vaccination rates are strong, and the Chair commended the County for their efforts to vaccinate residents. • The County has released their Climate Action Plan. This is a significant undertaking to reduce the impact on the climate in the County. • The County was also able to obtain accreditation in FY21 which was a great achievement for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS). <p><i>Workgroups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Communicable Disease workgroup penned letters to the County Executive and County Council on equitable vaccine distribution and in support of COVID-19 restrictions. They are also investigating gaps in service for HIV, TB and STI prevention. 	<p>N/A</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Health Data and Modernization workgroup prepared a request for additional staff to support data compilation for the County programs serving the uninsured. They also plan to review recommendations from the National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems. • The Racial Equity workgroup focused on vaccine education, access to vaccines and testing in high-risk and marginalized communities. They also collaborated with school health and communicable disease workgroups (including understanding barriers for students returning to school). • The School Health focused assuring the safety of students and staff when they reopen. They would like to continue to consider ways schools can help reverse the downward trend in vaccine rates, and schools’ role in children’s mental health. • The Governance workgroup met one-on-one with all members to help maintain cohesiveness of the Commission. They will continue to review COH functions and implement ways to better meet these functions. 	
<p>Health Officer’s Report –Dr. Travis Gayles</p> <p>Dr. Gayles thanked Commissioners for the input and direction provided to MCDHHS during his tenure with the County. Dr. James Bridgers will be serving as the acting Health Officer in the interim until a replacement is found.</p> <p>These are the four principles that continue to guide the work within MCDHHS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the impact of Social Determinants of Health 2. Equity 3. Access to care 4. Use of epidemiological and surveillance data to drive policy decision making <p>There is a need to continue to advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data to be used and synthesized in driving public health conversations. Covid highlighted many disparities in the public health infrastructure and timely accurate data is needed to influence these conversations. • Policy development that directly examines health inequities and gaps in health outcomes from all perspectives. • Understanding the impact of racism on different aspects of health such as stress, mental health, and maternal and infant health. <p>Specific areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology – The impact how services are delivered should be evaluated and there is a need to advocate for the automation of healthcare services in the County. • Maternal and Infant Health - There is a need to expand the scope of access to services to decrease health disparities for expectant mothers and improve infant outcomes. • Ending the HIV Epidemic – There is a need to understand how social determinants of health (SDOH) influence and impact HIV status and outcomes. • Affordable Care for Uninsured and Underinsured – There is a need to bolster efforts for underinsured and uninsured to be able to afford and access the services available to them. The County also needs to invest more in safety net programs. • Health Education – There is a need to improve health education as it relates to vaccinations and immunizations, and access to services and other social support services. 	<p>N/A</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Health – Improvements are necessary for access to primary care, mental health services and behavioral health services. 	
<p>County Council Budget Cycle – Linda McMillan</p> <p>Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst for the Montgomery County Council, provided an overview on the County’s budget process and timeline for providing testimony. Presentation slides will be shared on the Teams workspace for Commissioner reference.</p>	<p>Post Budget Cycle slides to Teams workspace- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p>Top County Health Issues – Dr. Chris Rogers</p> <p>Dr. Chris Rogers, Policy & Strategy Officer presented on the preliminary qualitative findings in the CHNA. Dr. Rogers also reviewed data that highlighted the top health issues within the County.</p> <p>Presentation slides will be shared on the Teams workspace for Commissioner reference.</p> <p>Dr. Rogers will also share disaggregate data for school aged children highlighting leading causes of death both overall and by race/ethnicity.</p>	<p>Post Top Health Issues slides to Teams workspace -<i>COH Staff</i></p> <p>Share childhood mortality data with COH members – <i>Dr. Chris Rogers, COH Staff</i></p>
<p>Case Study of DHHS in Action: HIV/STI Status - Emily Brown</p> <p>Emily Brown, Program Manager, Ending the HIV Epidemic provided an overview on the HIV/STI status in the County.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>COH FY 2021 Priorities-Setting- Jessica Kronstadt & Crystal DeVance-Wilson</p> <p>Members reviewed criteria for FY22 priority selection process and provide suggestions on potential priorities.</p> <p>Suggested Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Health/Mental Health for school-aged population • Communicable Diseases • Data and Modernization • Racial Equity/Health Equity • Health Literacy • Chronic Illness and disparities • Public Health Workforce • Bureaucracy about services • Community engagement <p>A survey will be sent to members to narrow down priority selection. The priorities will be further discussed and finalized during the next meeting on October 21st.</p> <p>Governance will remain instrumental to healthcare delivery and policy and will continue to remain a focus in FY22.</p>	<p>Create priority setting survey- <i>Retreat Planning Committee, COH Staff</i></p> <p>Complete priorities statement- <i>All COH Members</i></p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. The motion was passed unanimously by voice consent.</p>	<p>N/A</p>