



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**April 20, 2023**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Marcela Campoli, Donna Cawley, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Kendra Harris, Gabriela Lemus, Adam Lustig, Cesar Perez, Betty Smith, Dr. Davis

Members Absent: Yingxi Chen, Susan Emery, Laurel Fain, Tara Clemons Johnson

DHHS Staff: Dr. Rogers, Felicia Hugee, Meghan Sontag

Guests: Dr. Kapunan, Venchele Saint Dic

Topic/Presenter	Key Points	Action Item/ Responsible Person
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. The Chair welcomed Commissioners and guests. Chair noted one of the guest speakers, Leslie Frey, had to cancel her Legislative Briefing for this meeting but has been invited to join an upcoming COH meeting.</li> <li>• The next two COH meetings are May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• The Chair provided a reminder that COH is looking for volunteers to serve on the Membership and Nomination Committees. Chair noted that Desiree has volunteered to serve on Nomination committee, Marcela and Kendra have expressed interest in serving on the membership committee.</li> <li>• Marcela confirmed her interest in serving on the membership committee if that is allowable, as she re-applies for a second term. Donna volunteered to serve with Desiree on the nomination committee.</li> <li>• Chair asked at least one other Commissioner volunteer to serve on the membership committee. Chair reminded Commissioners they can nominate themselves to be Chair and Vice Chair.</li> </ul>	<p>Meghan to contact CE's office to confirm Marcela is eligible to serve on membership committee.  <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p> <p>Desiree and Donna to serve on the nomination committee</p> <p>If interested in serving on the membership committee, please contact Meghan-  Meghan.Sontag@Montgomerycountymd.gov</p>
<b>Approval of March Minutes</b> <i>Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Chair</i>	<p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Gabriela Lemus to approve the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Adam Lustig. The minutes were approved by 11 commissioners, Jonathon Arias abstained from voting due to absence last meeting.</p>	<p>Request the approved March minutes be posted to COH website- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<b>MCDHHS Health Officer's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, there were no patients in the County Hospital ICU's with COVID.</li> </ul>	

<p><i>Dr. Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC recommended vaccine is bivalent booster. Population in good health and under 65+yrs old do not require a second bivalent booster at this time.</li> <li>• Public Health Emergency ends May 11<sup>th</sup> – COVID vaccines will continue to be covered at no cost. County vaccine sites are winding down. Testing kits are still available for free at the libraries.</li> <li>• Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer that we have seen added to some drugs in the County, it is not an opioid and therefore does not respond to Narcan.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Restoration Center</a> is a proposal to provide transitional support for those in crisis- can invite to COH to learn more.</li> </ul>	<p>Resource shared in the chat: <a href="#">White House designation of fentanyl + xylazine as an emerging threat</a></p>
<p><b>Montgomery County Medical Society Report</b> <i>Dr. Brent Berger, Montgomery County Medical Society Representative on COH</i></p>	<p><b>See Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Brent Berger provided an overview of the Montgomery County Medical Society, a component of The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi).</li> <li>• Commissioner asked if the Medical Society has anything in place to link patients with providers that look like them- the Medical Society is a diverse network of doctors but does not link patients to doctors. Rather, the society connects a network of doctors together who work with one another for patient referrals.</li> <li>• Commissioner asked about language access- Dr. Berger will reach out to the Society with this idea- help patients connect to providers.</li> <li>• Commissioner asked if the Society has a list of legislation priorities. Dr. Berger confirmed they do. Chair shared the COH would be interested in learning what priorities are for next year.</li> <li>• Chair shared her meeting with an organization called Safe Center, an organization for people being trafficked. The Commission for Women has been involved with this <a href="#">work</a>. Dr. Davis and Crystal will share what they learn regarding Human Trafficking and the County.</li> <li>• Commissioner Gabriela Lemus ran the Human Trafficking Team for the US Department of Labor during the Obama Administration and offered to be a resource.</li> <li>• Dr. Kapunan shared her experience with addressing this topic in the past working on a multidisciplinary, multi-agency team to provide a safe medical home run at Children’s National through the Child Abuse Center and Goldberg Center.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide Commissioners with slide decks presented- <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p> <p>Resource shared in the chat: <a href="#">UMD Safe Center for Human Trafficking Survivors</a></p> <p>Resource shared in the chat: <a href="#">Maryland Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking</a></p>
<p><b>Discuss Priorities and Metrics</b> <i>All Commissioners</i></p>	<p>The Chair encouraged Commissioners to continue the discussion from last meeting regarding how to move forward with forming next years’ priorities.</p> <p>Dr. Kapunan shared school health priorities COH can consider:</p> <p>(1) Public Health Emergency ending means an expiration date on resources, including testing capacity, vaccine clinics, public assistance programs.</p> <p>(2) Supporting health allies that support children (staff, parents, adult allies). Lack of treatment programs available to our youth for</p>	<p>Public Health Administration workgroup to meet with Dr. Rogers to further discuss evaluation needs. <i>COH staff to schedule (complete)</i></p>

	<p>substance use care (intensive outpatient, residential, partial)- sending youth out of state for support  (3) Vaccinations- Students 19-21yrs who require vaccinations for school but are uninsured are not eligible for free vaccines under vaccines for children.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed school health falls within DHHS and have advocated for school health in the past. Dr. Rogers shared if COH wants to advocate directly to MCPS, need to discuss with CE's office. Commissioner Alana serves as a liaison to School Health Council.</p> <p>Dr. Rogers shared PHS will be before County Council next week to review PHS proposed operating budget for FY24.</p> <p>Chair shared starting point for next priorities can be most recent advocacy efforts, be able to explain data behind priority (how many impacted, seriousness, etc.) and include ideas for what should happen. Important that it is clear why we are advocating and what we would like to see done.</p> <p>Commissioners worked in break out groups to discuss priorities. Three groups: Access to Care, Public Health Administration (PHA) and Environmental Health and Education. Chair and Dr. Rogers present for the PHA brainstorm of future direction.</p>	
<p><b>BCC Liaison Updates</b></p>	<p>Betty Smith: COH staff shared the Access to Care advocacy letter with the Community Action Board staff person. Some priorities overlap. One area of focus for CAB is affordable housing.</p> <p>Marcela Campoli: Latino Health Initiative has three advocacy priorities: bullying/harassment at MCPS schools, drug use at MCPS schools &amp; offering trainings regarding overdoses in different languages and health for all. Met with council members.</p> <p>Donna Cawley: Attended the Mental Health Advisory Committee's virtual presentation on Mobile Response and Stabilization services (MRSS). The County is moving towards a new model with mental health referrals in the schools. Mental Health Advisory Board is focused on mental wellness.</p> <p>Crystal DeVance-Wilson: The African American Health Program is preparing for community day next month. Flyer will be shared when it is available.</p>	<p>Share AAHP Community Day Flyer when available.  <i>COH Staff (complete)</i></p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Desiree de la Torre to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Betty Smith. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.</p>	