

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

March 23, 2022 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Betsy Ballard, Kathy Deerkoski, Julia Doherty, Lynda Honberg, Yuchi Huang, Dr. Langston Smith, Wayne Swann

MCAB Members Absent: Sarah Galbraith-Emami, Sharron Holquin, Ashok Kapur, Peter Lowet, Diana Saladini,

DHHS Staff: Magda Brown, Tara Clemons, Sean Gibson, Yvonne Iscandri, Robert Morrow, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Rebecca Smith

County Council Staff: Essie McGuire, Linda McMillan

Primary Care Coalition: Rose Botchway, Sarah Frazell, Leslie Graham, Aisha Robinson, Hillery Tumba

Guests: Mark Foraker (Mercy Clinic)

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference during COVID-19 pandemic.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – November 18, December 8, 2021, and January 26, 2022 Minutes' approval moved to the April meeting due to lack of quorum	Wayne Swann		
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting time will revert to the pre-pandemic schedule of 6:00 PM starting with the April 2022 meeting Linda shared she is retiring and this will be her last meeting with the MCAB. Essie will be the Council staff liaison for the next few months. Wayne welcomed Essie and expressed his gratitude to Linda for all her work. She has been a great resource and wished her good luck on her future endeavors as did all other members present 	Wayne Swann		
3.	COVID Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara noted that the presentation was not available and asked members to email her if they had any specific questions. Wayne asked that the COVID update be added to the April agenda 	DHHS Staff	Add COVID update to April agenda	HHS Staff ASAP
4.	Health Care for the Uninsured Report See Report	Christopher Rogers/Tara Clemons		

<p><u>Health Care for the Uninsured Related Updates</u></p> <p>Montgomery Cares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Montgomery Cares eligibility extension policy will continue through 09/29/22. Individuals eligible for a QHP will continue to be eligible as they have an end date of 09/30/22. ▪ DHHS continues to maintain the block payment schedule for the Montgomery Cares program. <p><u>Health Care for the Uninsured County Related Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The County Executive’s FY23 Recommend Budget was released Tuesday, March 15th. Items related to the HU programs include - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HealthCare for the Homeless: \$600,000 to provide additional health and psychiatric services due to the increase of year-round clients at homeless shelters ○ Newcomer's project – CFK Community Health Workers ○ No new funding recommended for MCares, MPP and County Dental <p><u>Programmatic Updates</u></p> <p>Montgomery Cares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Montgomery Cares served 16,211 patients through February 2022 with a total of 31,859 patient visits (in-patient and telehealth) at the ten participating clinics. A 7% increase in patients and -7% reduction in encounters compared to the same time last year ▪ Projections place year-end totals at approximately 43,658 encounters (FY21 - 53,336 encounters). ▪ July – Feb 2022: The split of encounters was 79% in-patient and 11% telehealth. <p>Care for Kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program enrollment through Feb 2022 is 6,809 which is a 13% increase over the same time last year (6,029). ▪ Numbers for <u>new patients</u> are significantly up compared to the same time last year 331% (FY21 – 310, FY22 - 1,335). ▪ The volume of new and renewing children has resulted in increased workload for CFK including volume of calls. <p>Maternity Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program enrollment through Feb 2022 is 1,082 which is a 26% increase over the same time last year (860). Projected utilization for the FY is 1,520 women (86 more women served than last year) ▪ The Health Centers saw an increase in new referrals this past month. Reportedly, birth rates seem to be rising from pandemic lows in all populations. Around 10 months ago, it seemed safe to go to doctor's offices and hospitals again, so people started planning their pregnancies once more. <p>Health Care for the Homeless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical Respite –The staff is doing educational sessions with hospitals, external partners and internal staff on the referral process and purpose of program. We will continue to assess ways to increase referrals and admission for appropriate homeless clients in need of recuperative care. ▪ Behavioral Health Psychiatric Services – the program expanded the BH services within the SEPH Continuum of Care. The number of clients being seen consistently continues to expand and the need continues to grow as well. 			
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	<p>The physician is providing 3 days a week of onsite psychiatric services for any shelter guest requesting services, transitioning out of the hospital and complex cases that are unable to be served in the traditional community psychiatric environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The new 200 bed shelter has opened, and we continue to have more clients than historically due to the increased number of homeless residents. <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yuchi asked if CFK has enough funding to handle the influx of new children. Tara detailed MCAB made a FY23 request for additional funding and there are no immediate concerns with assignment of children to providers. Linda shared that Council had added funding to the current fiscal year budget with the expectation that there would be more children ▪ Lynda asked about the status of the school sealant program with MCPS. Tara explained that there is an on-going contract issue. Dr. Rogers added that the school's MOU are being reviewed by DHHS to get the program going. Lynda asked if the funding for the sealant program would rollover into the next fiscal year. Tara explained that to her knowledge it was not a one-time funding, and it would therefore be renewed annually 	Update on sealant program at MCPS	Dr. Rogers/Becky Smith	4/27/22
5.	<p>FY23 -Value Based Care</p> <p>Dr. Rogers provided an update on Value Based Care and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The department had presented a proposal to transform MCares into a Value Based Care Population Health model. The proposal called for implementing an alternative payment method as well as incentives to providers who met certain requirements ▪ Phase 1 – Empanelment of clients to a specific clinic of their choice. To accomplish this, the eligibility process and eligibility policy need to be uniform ▪ DHHS presented a proposal that came up in consultation with the Value Based Care workgroup and PCC along with the lessons learned from previous years. The concept known as the DHHS Health Programs Eligibility Unit is designed to be a centralized single point access for health care for the uninsured programs to complete eligibility determination, and screening. The unit would be operated by OESS, and they would make the final determination on eligibility. ▪ In addition, there was a proposal to have a community-based organization application assistance model where residents could get help throughout the community with completing the application process. The clinics could continue assisting patients with applications and information will be shared with OESS via a user-friendly online portal that DHHS is developing ▪ It was also noted that DHHS needed additional resources to implement the Health Programs Eligibility Unit ▪ A timeline was presented to the workgroup and MCAB with key milestones. DHHS committed to soliciting initial feedback from the MCares Clinics Executive directors on workflow key considerations and to incorporate that feedback into the design of the eligibility unit. The department also committed to bringing drafts to MCAB and the Montgomery Cares Clinics Executive directors for final feedback and consideration before all is finalized by the Summer of 2022 ▪ PCC would be responsible for empanelment through enrollment coordinators 	Wayne Swann/Dr. Rogers		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The department submitted a request to the County Executive as part of the FY23 budget to fund the implementation and infrastructure for the DHSS Health Program Eligibility Unit. The unit was not funded this current fiscal year. Dr. Rogers mentioned he had met with PCC and some of the options that came up regarding eligibility were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return to Phase 1 – Phase 2 eligibility. 6 of the 10 clinics conduct eligibility in partnership with OESS (this requires consultation with OESS and the clinics to determine if they have the infrastructure in place) the additional 4 clinics would complete eligibility themselves ○ Transitioning eligibility solely to the clinics ▪ A final decision needs to be made on the lifting of the eligibility determination suspension that will expire 09/29/2022. Medicaid renewals suspension will be lifted at the end of May ▪ Progress with Phase 1 – empanelment cannot start in FY23 until all stakeholders agree upon a policy. There needs to be consensus on what entity(ies) should conduct final eligibility determination for Montgomery Cares patients <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yuchi acknowledge the work done by both DHHS and Dr. Rogers and wanted to know if the County supports the Health Program Eligibility Unit. Dr. Rogers explained that yes, the County does support it, but they want to ensure that the stakeholders (TROIKA, MCAB, PCC, and HCLC) support the policy decision that OESS will determine eligibility for all Montgomery Cares Clinics ▪ Dr. Rogers explained that he's pushed PCC to ensure that every Montgomery Cares patient receives a welcome packet by mail or text message that includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A welcome letter with a description of the program's benefits, information on improving the doctor-patient relationship with self-advocacy, information on how to schedule appointments, PCC's contact information and a client's ID card 			
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6.	<p>FY23 Advocacy Priorities – Finalize -- Program Committees and Troika Updates See FY23 MCAB Advocacy Chart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tara provided a summary of the advocacy chart and noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ County Dental – Members agreed on the requests at the February meeting ○ Maternity Partnership – Members agreed on the requests at the February meeting ○ Discussion still needs to take place for Care for Kids, Montgomery Cares and Health Care for the Homeless ▪ Wayne highlighted the Calendar with Council Member meetings and explained that there is usually a representative from each of the TROIKA participants. <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Langston questioned if the dental report was part of the CHNA report. Wayne stated that yes, it was, and he will send it along with the rest of the documents ▪ Lynda asked for clarification on the Newcomers Project recommendation. Tara explained that it was included in the FY23 County Executive recommended budget and the MCAB doesn't need to advocate for it. She further clarified that MCAB can support the recommendation from the CE's budget ▪ Lynda pointed out that the County has been aware for many years of the County's dental needs and wanted to know if anyone had any insight on why an increase is never included in the budget proposals. Wayne explained that the situation with dental is comparable to that of mental health and pointed out that at one-point, mental health was completely out of sync until MCAB began to argue for mental health parity and MCAB is now doing the same for dental. Langston noted this was a critical point that the MCAB needs to focus on ▪ Wayne mentioned that while the TROIKA did not come to a consensus on some of the items on the advocacy chart, they also didn't say no. He explained that they are prioritizing the requests into level-1 or level-2 and pointed out that he would include guidance for this process along with the documents he will be sending to all members 	Wayne Swann		
7.	<p>April 2022 Planning Mtg and Next Steps</p> <p>The April meeting will be held on the 27th at 6:00pm.</p>	Wayne Swann		
8.	<p>Meeting Adjourned at 5:41 PM</p> <p><i>Motion to adjourn: Yuchi Huang</i> Seconded: <i>The motion was not passed due to not meeting quorum</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Tara O. Clemons
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board