

## Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

### July 26, 2023 Meeting Notes

**MCAB Members Present:** Viviana Azar, Dr. Kisha Davis, Melinda Hite, Yuchi Huang, Peter Lowet, Diana Saladini, Dr. Helaine Resnick, Wayne Swann, Dr. Katherine Kelly, Melanie Bunting, Susan Emery, Mark Foraker

**MCAB Members Absent:** Sharron Holquin, Denise Kishel

**DHHS Staff:** Dr. Tricia Boyce, Sean Gibson, Robert Morrow, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Becky Smith, Ashley Miller

**County Council Staff:** Tara Clemons Johnson

**Primary Care Coalition:** Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Robinson, Hillery Tumba, Sara Woods

**Guest:** Dr. Sonya Bruton, Yvonne Iscandari

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b> – April 26, 2023 <i>Moved by: Peter Lowet</i> <i>Seconded by: Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b> – May 24, 2023 <i>Moved by: Peter Lowet</i> <i>Seconded by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b> – June 28, 2023 <i>Moved by: Peter Lowet</i> <i>Seconded by: Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>	Wayne Swann		
2.	<p><b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report</b> • The Chair, Wayne Swann highlighted the agenda</p>	Wayne Swann	DHHS to reach out to new	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayne Swann confirmed that the board will be responsible for the minutes starting July 2023. He would take the minutes for the July meeting and seek volunteers for the balance of the year. He noted that members could volunteer, or we would assign responsibility on a rotating basis starting with September 2023.</li> <li>• Wayne Swann announced that an orientation session would be scheduled for the three newest members of the Board (Susan Emery, Viviana Azar and Dr. Katherine Kelly). In addition, the orientation invitation will be extended to all MCAB members.</li> </ul>	member to schedule new member orientation and extend the invitation to all MCAB members.		
3.	<p><b>County Health Officer Update</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Kisha Davis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Davis noted that the extreme heat is a significant health issue and noted the anticipated heat advisory. Residents should be mindful of signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and the County will be providing cooling shelters.</li> <li>• Dr. Davis provided an update on COVID-19 followed by a Q&amp;A session.</li> <li>• The County is experiencing an uptick (10%) in baseline deaths and COVID-19 cases. At this point, there is no evidence that the new variant is causing more severe illness.</li> <li>• Vaccines continue to be available for free for anyone with insurance. The County also has funds available to help cover the cost of the vaccine for those without coverage.</li> <li>• Test kits remain available, and they will continue to be available at libraries and other distribution centers.</li> <li>• FDA and CDC have updated guidance on the Bivalent booster.</li> <li>• The Monovalent booster is no longer approved, and everyone will now get the Bivalent booster. For people over 65 FDA and CDC have said that they can receive an additional booster if it has been over 4 months from the previous one. For immunocompromised individuals, FDA and CDC have said that they can receive an additional booster if it has been over 2 months from the previous booster. Boosters have not been approved for anyone else.</li> <li>• There is a new booster will be available in the fall. There is a possibility that it will be combined with the Flu shot.</li> <li>• Fentanyl and opioid use continue to be on the rise. However, there has been an overall decrease in the number of overdoses and deaths in the 18-44 age group. There has also been a dramatic increase of use and overdoses in the youth under 18. There are increasing opportunities for outpatient treatment. Unfortunately, inpatient treatment facilities are not currently available for youth in the State.</li> <li>• The Community Health Needs Assessment has been completed and is available online.</li> </ul>			

4.	<p><b>Health Care for the Uninsured Report (See Report)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Dr. Christopher Rogers</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Rogers presented an overview of the programs updates followed by a Q&amp;A session. For upcoming sessions, Board members will be asked to review the report ahead of the meetings and provide questions at upcoming meeting in leu of a formal presentation on the report.</li> <li>• Dr. Rogers announced that the County is in the process of developing a Rural Health Initiative to better meet the needs of residents in rural areas of the County. More information will be forthcoming.</li> <li>• Montgomery Cares <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Care for Your Health has become a provider on July 1, 2023. The clinic meets all of Montgomery Cares' minimum essential requirements</li> <li>○ For FY23, Montgomery Cares served a total of 22,693 unduplicated patients and had a total of 61,007 patient visits.</li> <li>○ This is a 3% increase in unduplicated patients and 17% increase in encounters compared to FY22.</li> <li>○ FY23 split of encounters was 95% in-person visits, 5% telehealth visits, which is the same as May 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Care for Kids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For FY23, Care for Kids served 6,436 patients with a total of 8,242 patient visits.</li> <li>○ This is a 66% increase in patients and 93% increase in encounters compared to FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maternity Partnership Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For FY23, Maternity Partnership Program enrolled 1,739 clients, just over the 1,700 budgeted for this year's program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• County Dental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For FY23, County Dental served 5,468 patients with 11,273 patient visits.</li> <li>○ This is a 17% increase in patients and 5% increase in encounters compared to FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Healthcare for the Homeless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Homeless Resource Day scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023. In need of volunteers and donations.</li> <li>○ Homelessness continues to be on the rise for seniors and in general. There is also a noted increase in more significant medical and psychological needs among homeless clients.</li> <li>○ Shelter medical beds have had no available beds most days for the past two months and medical respite has been full.</li> <li>○ For FY23, Healthcare for the Homeless served a total of 403 patients with 1,309 patient visits.</li> <li>○ This is a 67% increase in patients and 37% increase in encounters compared to FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Susan Emery asked if the Colesville Dental Clinic was open, Dr. Rogers shared that this clinic is currently closed for renovations.</li> <li>• Care For Kids data will be broken out by age following the first quarter of FY24.</li> </ul>			
5.	<p><b>Healthy Babies Equity Act (See Presentation)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Rebecca Smith</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Smith provided an extensive report on the impact of the Healthy Babies Act and the transition of the Maternity Partnership Program (MPP) followed by a Q&amp;A session.</li> <li>• The structure of the MPP would remain in place while the 1,300 participants would become eligible for full Medicaid.</li> <li>• The transition will include individual follow up with each current participant.</li> </ul>			

6.	<b>Board Development</b> • Wayne explained that this time could be used for members to discuss any outstanding issues or go over any documents/data. This item was tabled as no items were brought forth.	Diana Saladini			
7.	<b>September Planning Meeting (September 27, 2023, 4-7 pm)</b> • Wayne announced that the planning meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023 from 4-7 pm. • The meeting will be held in-person • Wayne suggested to have a 3-4 person panel discussion; this has been done for past September meetings. Wayne asked members for suggestions on presenters. • Wayne and Diana will develop the agenda which will be sent with other meeting materials virtually prior to the September meeting.	Wayne Swann			
8.	<b>Committees Meet and Report Out (FY25 Priorities)</b> • Wayne noted that a draft of DHHS FY25 Policy and Advocacy Considerations had been sent to all of the MCAB subcommittee Chairs. Wayne reminded subcommittees that they should meet to discuss and determine their own advocacy and policy priorities for FY25. • Magda will reach out to each subcommittee to schedule meetings in August or September with DHHS staff to further review and discuss FY25 advocacy and policy priorities. DHHS will submit a final reconciled advocacy and policy priorities document for next fiscal year to MCAB subcommittees for final consideration at the end of September. • As subcommittees continue the process of determining FY 25 policy and advocacy priorities, members were reminded of the communication and information request form. MCAB members are requested to submit this form when interested in acquiring data or information for DHHS regarding any of the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs. Forms should be submitted to Ashley Miller and Dr. Rogers. • Dr. Resnick noted that an email had been sent to County partners to test the Community Connect Portal and requested further information overall and how the Portal would remove barriers. • Sean Gibson shared that the Portal would be set up so that a client would only need to submit one application for all County programs and screen for program eligibility, thus removing the need to complete multiple forms. Resources for assistance completing forms would also be made available. More information on the Portal is forthcoming.	MCAB	Magda to reach out to subcommittees to set up a meeting with DHHS staff to discuss FY25 advocacy and policy priorities.		
9.	<b>Agenda and Next Steps</b>  Next meeting is on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 and will be held in-person.  <b>Meeting Adjournment</b> The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM <i>Moved by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Peter Lowet</i>	Wayne Swann			

Respectfully submitted,

*Wayne Swann*

Wayne Swann  
 Montgomery Cares Advisory  
 Board