

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

March 22, 2023 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Viviana Azar, Betsy Ballard, Melanie Bunting, Dr. Kisha Davis, Mark Foraker, Melinda Hite, Yuchi Huang, Denise Kishel, Peter Lowet, Helaine Resnick, Diana Saladini, Dr. Langston Smith, Wayne Swann

MCAB Members Absent: Sharron Holquin, Ashok Kapur

DHHS Staff: Dr. Tricia Boyce, Magda Brown, Sean Gibson, LaSonya Kelly, Robert Morrow, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Becky Smith, Yvonne Iscandari

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Leslie Graham, Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Robinson, Hillery Tsumba

Guest: Susan Emery, Dr. Sonya Bruton, Crystal Townsend, Walter Ware

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – February 22, 2023 Wayne Swann <i>Moved by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Diana Saladini</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Wayne Swann <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair, Wayne Swann highlighted the agenda and discussed the advocacy priorities letter to the County Council and County Executive<u>A MOTION</u> was made by Mark Foraker to approve the MCAB Healthcare for the Uninsured Advocacy 2024 letter. The motion was seconded by Diana Saladini. The motion was approved with one abstentionDr. Rogers asked Wayne to please remind members to acknowledge any potential conflicts of interest when voting			
3.	County Health Officer Update Dr. Kisha Davis <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Davis provided an update on COVID-19 followed by a Q&A session			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis noted that based on current COVID-19 trends, the Department of Health and Human Services is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023 • Dr. Davis provided a brief explanation on how the County is preparing for this change • Dr. Davis noted that the topic of opioids and fentanyl use, especially among the County's youth, continues to be followed and monitored. She highlighted that while there has been a decline in usage overall, there has been an increase on the number of deaths • Workshops are being made available for families by MCPS in conjunction with several partners to help increase awareness • Dr. Davis highlighted the lack of treatment available for youth who may be suffering with substance use disorder. She wanted to make the MCAB aware of the large gap in services. She encourages the clinics to become more involved in meeting this need 			
4.	<p>Health Care for the Uninsured Report</p> <p>See Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers presented an overview of the programs updates followed by a Q&A session • Dr. Rogers noted that the CE's recommended FY24 Operating budget includes the following increases to the program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ \$2 million increase in the Montgomery Cares Clinic reimbursement rate ➢ \$30,000 anticipated rate increase for the Behavioral Health Psychiatric Consultation vendor • Dr. Rogers explained that DHHS has not yet reached a decision on what the reimbursement rate will be. He noted that an update should be available by next month • Dr. Rogers, on behalf of the department thanked the MCAB for putting forward a policy and process eligibility recommendation. He also noted that the Department appreciates MCAB's support of the request for an eligibility data system to support the policy recommendation <p>Network Adequacy Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers explained that the department is embarking on a Network Adequacy Assessment/Evaluation. He noted that the department asked PCC to work with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to complete the assessment. The Network Adequacy Assessment/Evaluation will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designing and implementing an evaluation of the Montgomery Cares' program ability to deliver direct health care services to uninsured residents by providing reasonable access to primary care, specialty care, and all the health care services included under the terms of the contract ○ The study will include focus groups and a survey of patients. The purpose will be to assess patient experience, their needs, and barriers to receiving services from primary cares providers within the Montgomery Cares program ○ The study will include focus groups with MCares providers ○ The study will look to assess patient retention factors ○ The study will seek to propose a framework for future years (a template will be provided) 	Dr. Christopher Rogers		

	<p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers noted that DHHS is assessing the request to add providers to the Montgomery Cares program before the Network Adequacy assessment recommendations are available. He explained that the department will announce any clinic additions if or as soon as a decision is made • Mark Foraker noted that the HCLC is in full support of the study but not in the process of adding clinics before the study is complete. A formal response will be submitted • Dr. Rogers noted that DHHS had reached out to PCC to hold a meeting with Catholic Charities, PCC, and the Clinic's Executive Directors or Clinic's leadership from the facilities that would be receiving patients from Catholic Charities • Dr. Rogers highlighted that there seems to be a disconnect between what is being reported by the different stakeholders and he will follow up to get a clear picture of the situation • Mark Foraker reminded the board that the HCLC meets on the second Friday of every month • Dr. Rogers stated he will look for letter from HCLC and the department will provide a response <p>DHHS - MCAB Process and Communication Timeline for Advocacy and Policy Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers presented the proposed MCAB Process and Communication Timeline for Advocacy and Policy Priorities • Wayne asked the board members to volunteer to set up a committee to work with Dr. Rogers on following the suggested timeline. Helaine Resnick volunteered to work with Dr. Rogers 			
5.	<p>Board Development (questionnaire results)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Diana Saladini</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diana shared the additional results of the questionnaire followed by a Q&A session • Wayne thanked the members that participated for their genuine and honest feedback • Wayne suggested adding board development as a standing item on the agenda to raise questions and identify issues consistently • Helaine wanted to discuss the need to have meeting materials distributed more than just 1 day in advance 			
6.	<p>FY24 Program and Advocacy Priorities</p> <p>-- Committee Breakouts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MCAB Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne reminded members how the committee breakout time structure worked before meetings were conducted virtually, and noted that the goal is for the committees to meet during the scheduled monthly meeting • Mark wanted to know if there were any protocols or discussion related to when in-person meetings will take place again. Dr. Rogers explained that the board can decide via vote if they would prefer to meet in person • Members suggested the possibility of a hybrid schedule where in-person meetings take place on a quarterly basis • Wayne will provide options on scheduling 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative from each of the Committees noted they had no need to meet 			
7.	April 26, 2023 Agenda and Next Steps Next meeting is on Wednesday, April 26 th and will be held virtually.	Wayne Swann		
8.	Meeting Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM <i>Moved by Diana Saladini</i> <i>Seconded by Peter Lowet</i>			

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Rogers

Dr. Christopher Rogers
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board