



HHS Committee Public Hearing with the DHHS BCC's Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Position Statement April 6, 2021



Overview

The Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) provides guidance to the County Executive and County Council, which financially and operationally support the health care safety net for uninsured, low-income residents of Montgomery County. The MCAB is focused on ensuring that with the support of our essential partners, including the Primary Care Coalition, the area hospitals, the County DHHS, and the exceptional capabilities of the clinics themselves, the provider network is strong, costs are minimized, and efforts are taken to acquire new resources to ensure that County residents in need receive high quality healthcare services. The MCAB continues to focus on its mission covering programs of the Healthcare for the Uninsured unit including: Care for Kids, Maternity Partnership, Dental Services, Health care for individuals experiencing Homelessness, as well as the Montgomery Cares program.

Program Priorities

Given the impact of CoVid-19 the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board has identified specific priorities for each program with level funding however the following requests represent the need for replacement or increased funding for the affected services (total annualized cost \$854,358).

Telehealth

- Additional cost to provide interpretation services compatible with telehealth technologies.

Behavioral Health – Psychiatry Services

- In order to ensure sufficient psychiatric services are available through the collaborative care model increased funding is required due to the increased cost of the contract provider.

Project Access – Specialty Care

- Increased funding is needed to maintain same level of access to specialty care, addressing the loss of pro-bono specialty services from private practitioners.

Care for Kids

- Need to provide resources to hire 2.0 FTE to address prior years program growth and the anticipated surge in enrollments and renewals in FY22

Dental Services

- Consider the development of a broader Dental safety-net collaborative effort (including a tele-dentistry program)
- Institute a school-based sealant program at MCPS elementary schools
- Provide resources for staffing to meet unmet dental needs.

Healthcare for the Homeless

- Provide resources to hire 1.0 FTE psychiatric discharge planner to coordinate appropriate discharge from inpatient to outpatient settings of residents experiencing homelessness

On behalf of the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board, the Health Centers Leadership Council, representing the executive directors of the 10 health centers, and the Primary Care Coalition we ask that the County Council continue to make strategic investments to strengthen the public-private partnership that has created this very successful safety-net infrastructure that has been critical to improving the health of our community and responding to the current public health crisis. Thank you for your continued support.