

Approved: May 21, 2015

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2015

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Brenda Brooks, Ilana Cohen, Alan Kaplan, Graciela Jaschek, Rose Marie Martinez, Linda McMillan, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ, Tonya Saffer, Ashraf Sufi, Wayne Swann, Shari Targum, Ulder Tillman, Bridget Ware

Members Absent: Kathy Ghiladi, Michelle Hawkins, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Sheela Modin

Staff Present: Doreen Kelly, Mark Hodge

Guests: Marla Caplon - MCPS Liaison; Kathy Mann - Commission on People with Disabilities Liaison; Carlo Rossi - Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Resident

1.0 Call to Order

Upon reaching a quorum, Chair Ron Bialek called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2.0 Report of Officers

2.1 Approval of Minutes – Chair Bialek asked for consideration and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Commission on Health. Dr. Kaplan moved that the minutes from the Commission meeting of March 19, 2015 be approved. Ms. Pruzan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

2.2 Nominating Committee and Membership Committee: Mr. Bialek asked members to consider volunteering for either the Nominating Committee or the Membership Committee, and to let him know if they are interested. The Nominating Committee usually has two commissioners who volunteer to accept nominations for new officers and coordinate the election at the June meeting. The Membership Committee usually has three members who review the applications for membership for the Commission that come from the County Executive's office; and the Membership Committee also conducts interviews of all the candidates, usually in June or July. Dr. Kaplan, Dr. Jaschek and Dr. Russ volunteered to serve on the Membership Committee.

2.3 Upcoming meetings – Mr. Bialek announced that the next meetings of the Commission will be May 21 and June 18, 2015.

3.0 PHS Chief's Report – Ulder J. Tillman, M.D., MPH, County Health Officer

Dr. Tillman gave the Chief's Report from March, which is attached at the end of these Minutes. She discussed the following highlights from the report:

- A Council bill is moving forward to regulate massage parlors;
- Nurse vacancies continue to be a challenge, particularly in the TB program;
- A nursing home was issued penalties based on inadequate plans for risk of falls:

- Immunization program surveys vaccinations in private schools and found 98% compliance;
- Montgomery Cares Program has a lower than anticipated utilization this year; Care for Kids has a higher rate of utilization;
- The Council HHS Committee received an initial overview of the HHS FY16 budget issues; but declined to make decisions until after they hold public hearings. Follow up sessions will be needed the week of 4/27/15 to discuss Public Health's budget issues.

Dr. Tillman noted that Hepatitis B vaccine is given to certain categories without charge (such as refugees) but it is not free for all. She also noted that the Montgomery Cares program utilization data is difficult to analyze for a number of reasons including there is no ACA list available to crosswalk between the large numbers of those who are newly insured under ACA with those who had previously been seen at clinics under the Montgomery Cares program.

4.0 County Council Report - Ms. McMillan reported that the Council HHS Committee started its budget work sessions April 13th. She mentioned the following issues:

- They are waiting for final consideration and decisions until after public hearings are completed.
- The proposed HHS budget includes finding significant savings by keeping a large number of vacant positions unfilled (i.e., personnel lapse).
- Montgomery Cares Program budget includes a reduction of \$500,000 proposed by the County Executive due to declining enrollment and utilization.
- Care for Kids program is critical for primary care for uninsured children and may need increased funding in FY16 due to more unaccompanied children/children fleeing violence, who need the program.
- Behavioral Health expansion funds are being recommended but need to provide further information.
- Welcome Back Center is an important program since it enhances the medical workforce in the County by helping medical professionals who have been trained in other countries to complete requirements to practice medicine here.
- If the Commission wishes to send a letter to the Council regarding FY16 budget recommendations, that would be due to the Council by April 22nd.

5.0 School Nutrition Report – Ms. Caplon reported that she was thrilled that 77 MCPS schools have qualified for the Maryland Meals for Achievement program that provides breakfast in classrooms. There are only a few schools left that could qualify. She said she is now gearing up for the Summer Meals program, working with several partners including the Recreation Department.

6.0 Staff Report – Ms. Kelly encouraged commissioners to register for the April 30th Ethics Training for Boards and Commissions to be held at 7 p.m. at the Executive Office Building. She also distributed the Term Expiration List and asked commissioners to let her know if they were planning on continuing to serve on the Commission for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

7.0 Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Budget Requests – Action Item

Mr. Swann's Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) Liaison Report had been sent to the commissioners electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Swann stated that the MCAB would welcome a letter from the COH to the Council in support of the MCAB's recommendations for increases for the Montgomery Cares program's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget recommendations. The recommendations included adding funds for: increasing clinic reimbursement rates for the primary care visits, expanding specialty care, behavioral health care, oral health care, patient outreach and education, and for certain pharmaceuticals. The total of the various funding requests was \$785,545. That total included \$423,000 for an expanded number of dental services for Montgomery Cares patients. Discussion

followed regarding sending a letter of support for the total funding request, or sending a letter of support for just the Dental Services amount, or not sending a letter of support. Mr. Bialek suggested the COH postpone action on this until later in the meeting, after the workgroups could discuss the issues.

8.0 Legislative Report from Maryland General Assembly – Mr. Hodge gave a report regarding legislation of interest to the COH. He said that there were many new members this session, and more than 2,000 bills were introduced, yet very few of those made it through to final committee hearings or votes. Several bills were introduced on opiate abuse and marijuana, as well as e-cigarette devices. They did finally pass a bill to strengthen prohibitions for selling e-cigarette devices to minors. Other legislation of interest included passage of the Hunger Free Schools bill to make it easier to get funds for these programs; passage of the Nurse Practitioner Authority to Act bill; and passage of a bill to prohibit the sale of powdered alcohol. He said the Diabetes Management in Schools bill, which had some problematic issues involved with its present requirements, did not pass but may come up again next year. The Right to Die legislation was sent to “Summer Study,” signaling significant interest of legislators for future consideration of this issue.

9.0 Workgroups Breakout Session and Report – Mr. Bialek suggested the workgroups meet for a brief breakout session and then the Oral Health Workgroup should report back after that, to the full Commission, with the other two workgroups reporting at the next meeting since time was running short.

- Following the breakout, Ms. Saffer reported that the Oral Health Workgroup had developed a proposed motion. Ms. Saffer moved that the Commission on Health send a letter to the County Council, to be finalized by the Oral Health Workgroup, to support the MCAB recommendation for \$423,000 increase for FY16 for Dental services for Montgomery Cares patients; plus an additional \$150,000 should be added to the FY16 budget to support the Montgomery County Dental Program, which is not restricted to Montgomery Cares patients. Dr. Jaschek seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The Chair called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10.0 Adjournment – Dr. Kaplan motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Pruzan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services

Public Health Services

Chief's Report

March 2015

SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS

- Bill 9-15, Bodywork Establishments, was considered by the HHS/Public Safety Committee and forwarded to full Council for approval in April. The bill will take effect 90 days after enacted. Licensing and Regulatory Services will be responsible for licensing, inspecting and enforcement with police assistance.

HOT SPOTS

- There continue to be two nurse vacancies in the TB Program. One of these is unable to be filled due to a decrease in grant funding. The other is a general fund position awaiting posting on the internal transfer line. The program continues to have a growing backlog of patients awaiting nurse case management for preventive TB treatment, and is hopeful that this position will be available soon.

UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES

Licensing & Regulatory

- A Nursing Home facility was issued two Civil Monetary Penalties for failing to:
 1. Develop an adequate care plan for risk of falls, and failing to revise the care plan for risk of complications due to musculoskeletal problems for a resident; and
 2. Failing to ensure that falls hazards were minimized when staff did not develop and follow a plan of care to provide two-person assistance with toileting a resident who fell and suffered a serious injury.

Immunization Program

- The Immunization program submitted its survey for the academic school year 2014-2015. This survey is designed to assess the vaccination coverage among private schools in Maryland. The Immunization staff surveys 45 private schools out of 210 with a compliance rate of 98% once the schools have had a period of time to bring students into compliance.
- In addition, the program continues in partnership with the DHMH's Hepatitis B Vaccination pilot project by providing (197) doses of Hepatitis B (Category 317 Vaccine) to the clients in STD, HIV, and Refugee clinics during the month of March 2015. The Hepatitis B pilot project will conclude in the month of September 2015. Year-to-date, the total number of Hepatitis B vaccines administered under the pilot project is 1,798.

TB/Refugee

- Starting this month, both Dr. Rosen and Dr. Qasba provide physical exams for Refugee Health Clinic patients. The program's goal is to provide physician visits to all Refugees as part of the health screening process in addition to those Asylees that receive health screenings as appropriate.
- The TB Program clinical staff attended the Maryland DHMH Annual TB Meeting this month. Montgomery County was invited to provide two presentations this year. Kimberly Townsend, Nurse Administrator, presented a panel discussion entitled "Quantiferon Testing in Community School Contact Investigations," and a case presentation entitled "Tuberculosis Discharge Care Planning: One Patient's Journey from Hospital to Home."

Montgomery Cares

- Montgomery Cares continues to experience a rate of utilization below the level anticipated for FY 15. At the end of the first eight months of the Fiscal Year (2/28/15), utilization was at 51% for the year, rather than the "benchmark" level of 66%.

Care for Kids

- Care for Kids enrollment continues to surge with a record number of children served reaching 3,533 as of March 31, 2015; exceeding enrollment for all of FY14 (3,024). County Council recently approved the contract amendment to meet the \$124,000 shortfall in Care for Kids. The additional funding will cover cost for client services, specialty referrals and small staff expansion to handle the backlog of patient enrollments. CFK enrollment remained open through the shortfall.