

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2016

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Ilana Cohen, Maya Das, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Graciela Jaschek, Alan Kaplan, Rose Marie Martinez, Linda McMillan, Susan Milstein, Sheela Modin, Daniel Russ, Tonya Saffer, Fabienne Santel, Wayne Swann, Ulder Tillman, and Bridget Ware

Members Absent: Brenda Brooks, Stacey Burton Dey Foy, Marla Caplon, Michelle Hawkins, and Pierre Marie Longkeng

Staff Present: Helen Lettlow, Ellen Segal, Robyn Simmons

Guest: Danielle Verbeist

**1.0 Call to Order and Welcome**

- Chair Daniel Russ called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings**

- **Approval of Minutes** – Tonya Saffer made a motion to approve the March 2016 meeting minutes. Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian seconded the motion. Pending a correction to the minutes, the minutes were approved unanimously by voice consent.
- **Next Meetings** – The next COH meetings will be Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1A.

**3.0 New Business**

- Dan Russ asked for volunteers for the nominating and membership committees. The nominating committee members are Wayne Swann and Graciela Jaschek. The membership committee members are Dan Russ, Alan Kaplan, and Susan Milstein.
- Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs) met with the County Executive on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The discussion included mission creep, commissions with the ability to lobby and pending legislation to expand the ability to some other BCCs, mental health issues, and individual commission issues.
- The letters of support for the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board and the Minority Health Initiatives will be sent to County Council on 4/22/16.
- COH members were asked to think of ideas for topics on which to focus in FY17.
- DHHS Director, Uma Ahluwalia, will submit a letter of intent for accreditation at the end of the calendar year. COH should consider sending a letter of support.

**4.0 PHS Chief's Report – Helen Lettlow addressed highlights from the February 2016 Chief's report . Highlights included:**

- The week of 4/25/16 is Zika Awareness Week. There are currently nine positive cases of Zika in Maryland.
- Several positive active cases of TB are pending confirmation; one reported in February for 2016. There is a community contact investigation for TB planned for 4/6/16 at Montgomery College.

- The HIV Program has been notified that the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) grant award for FY17 will be \$1,020,000, a 30% increase in funds from FY16.

#### **5.0 County Council Report – Linda McMillan**

- Dr. Ulder Tillman gave an informative presentation on Zika to the County Council and wore appropriate attire to prevent mosquito bites during her presentation regarding Zika prevention.
- The County will coordinate with State officials, in the event that it becomes necessary to spray pesticides in certain areas to prevent the spread of Zika by mosquitoes. There was a PEW Charitable Trust presentation for Results First, which is an approach to budgeting and resource allocation. Pew is interested in implementing the Results First Program in Montgomery County. They also plan to speak to the County Executive about the program. If the County is interested, the County will need to send a letter to Pew inviting them to give a presentation.
- Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and the city of Baltimore have sent a waiver letter to the State to leverage Medicaid funds to serve homeless populations. A final resolution is expected by December.
- The FY17 Operating Budget hearings started today. The Minority Health Initiatives’ request for \$250k each is on the reconciliation list. There are some collective bargaining issues as well as the need to free up funds for schools and other macro issues that need to be resolved before the reconciliation list can be addressed.

#### **6.0 Staff Report – Helen Lettlow**

- The work session for the FY17 Operating Budget has been moved to 4/28/16. Seven COH members’ terms expire 6/30/16. Robyn Simmons will contact the members to find out if they are interested in continuing and provide information on the application process.
- The Commission on Aging is considering a summer study on oral health issues.
- Saturday, 4/30/16 is national drug take-back day. The County will have a designated location for the public to drop off unwanted drugs.
- Helen welcomed Betty Lam, Chief of DHHS Community Affairs, who was invited as a discussant on topics of equity and health literacy.

#### **7.0 Health Literacy Presentation – Danielle Verbeist, Executive Director Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC)**

- The LCMC addresses literacy from a language perspective as the majority of its students are not English speakers.
- The LCMC was started in 1963 as a non-profit to help people who could speak English, but could not read or write. The organization serves ages 18 and up.
- Poor literacy skills add to US health costs by \$230 billion annually.
- 65% of clients state they want to learn English to communicate with doctors.
- In 2014, LCMC looked for best literacy practices and found the Literacy Network of Wisconsin’s English for Health curriculum to have the best approach. LCMC is using that model for its pilot.
- LCMC English for Health program is a two-year pilot, ten- week stand-alone program. The program has enrolled 260 students. The regular literacy program is also ten weeks.
- The pilot teaches appropriate use of emergency rooms, negotiating health insurance, making appointments, and navigating forms. A mock clinic is held.
- Pilot outcomes for students: 75% increased confidence in communicating with a health provider; 80% understood the appropriate use of emergency care; 65% improved their English literacy skills.
- Positive feedback has been received from professional practitioners.
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- The LCMC focuses on vocabulary, English skills, understanding access, and differences in primary care, urgent care, and emergency room care.
- supermarkets.
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- The LCMC partners with hospitals and recreation centers.
- The LCMC's funding sources are 50% State, Federal, and County funds, 25% private foundations, and 25% individual funds.
- Dr. Fabien Santel suggested working with physicians on language used when communicating with patients so that it will be better understood by those with low health literacy.

## **8.0 Break into Workgroups; Lessons Learned**

### **Accreditation Workgroup:**

- Will draft a letter of support for accreditation and share it with Dr. Tillman, Uma Ahluwalia, and Linda McMillan before sending it forward.

### **Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Workgroup:**

- There is a need to get the message about Zika prevention message out to the public in the form of signs, etc. Barriers are the inability to place billboards and funding. The idea of placing Zika prevention signs on buses was suggested.
- COH could possibly address some gaps on Zika prevention. Zika Awareness Week is next week. The group will check with CDC to see what can be applied.

### **Health Literacy:**

- Is focusing on training HHS staff from a variety of programs.
- Would like to explore signage around the County and the concept of health insurance literacy; there is a big gap and a lot of opportunity.

## **9.0 Motion to Adjourn**

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice consent.

Respectfully Submitted:

Helen Lettlow, DrPH  
Commission on Health

**Public Health Services  
Chief's Report  
March, 2016**

**SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS**

- Community Health Services has held 7 Intensive teaming meetings in collaboration with Ron Rivlin and his team on case management of pregnant teens
- School Health Services administered a total of 5,349 doses of FluMist seasonal flu vaccine this school year. The majority of these doses were administered at the annual vaccine clinics arranged at the schools from December 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. SHS continued to administer FluMist vaccine through the elementary schools, high schools, School Based Health and Wellness Centers and the School Health Services Center through March 2016.

**HOT SPOTS**

- Maternity Partnership Program continues to see a growth in enrollment trend which began in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY15. Enrollment may reach 1900 - 2000 women by the end of FY16. This would be approximately 400 more women than originally budgeted, for the program. The reason for the upward trend is unknown, since there is not a correspondingly higher birthrate for the overall County population.
- By the end of February, Care for Kids (CFK) had enrolled 4,135 children, surpassing the enrollment for the same period in FY15 by 20% (3,432). This surge in enrollment began in FY15, and continues to date.

**UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES**

Licensing & Regulatory

- Environmental Health
  - Nuclear Summit: coordinated and inspected with FDA for food to be distributed to members attending the summit.
  - Wheaton Mall: issues with rodent activity which was not being taken care of by mall ownership. Three L&R inspectors walked around and worked with mall management regarding issue. One food establishment was closed for the day until proper cleaning, sanitization, and pest control methods could be addressed. Several other food establishments were cited for minor rodent activity but were using proper pest control methods. Mall management will address issues throughout mall and tenants will address in their stores.

Community Health

- Kya Ragsdale has been appointed Acting Manager for the Women's Cancer Control program.
  - Women's Cancer Control and Cigarette Restitution Programs have been reassigned to Community Health Services
- Community Health Services is developing a new case management model in an effort to prepare for becoming an evidenced based case management program. The new model includes Community Service Aides having a more active role in working directly with clients in the community and involves nurses/staff assignments based on zip codes permitting them to become more knowledgeable of the community resources and services of their assigned area.

Disease Control

- The Disease Control Program approved 41 Mo Co residents for Zika testing according to CDC guidelines (23 pregnant travelers and 18 non-pregnant, symptomatic travelers) in March.

Beginning 1/19/16 through 3/31/16, a total of 140 county residents were approved for Zika testing; resulting in 2 positive cases and 3 probable cases. The Disease Control Program is responsible for facilitating transport of specimens (including amniotic fluid, placental tissue, and cord blood) to DHMH Lab. In addition to Zika investigations, 4 nurses conducted 127 case investigations and 26 animal bites investigations. The Disease Control Nurse Administrator is an active member of several planning committees, teams, and task forces; for example, the Montgomery County Mosquito Control Task Force, DHHS Emerging Infectious Disease Response Planning Committee, and Health Care for the Homeless Outbreak Protocol Team.

#### TB Control

- Several possible active cases pending confirmation; one reported for 2016 in February.
- Community contact investigation planned for 4/6/16 at Montgomery College. Applied for/received Cellestis T-Boss grant which provided 100 QFT specimen collection sets for the investigation. All TB Program staff will participate. Invited PHEP staff to participate. DHMH Nurse Consultant will attend.
- Second group MD position was offered/accepted conditional offer. We are awaiting OMS clearance and start date.
- Video Directly Observed Therapy (VDOT) research study with Johns Hopkins is in the beginning stages of implementation.
- Nurse administrator invited to serve as reviewer for DHMH draft of the revised state guidelines-planned for release/publication in 2016.

#### Refugee Health

- Vacant PAA position closed on the transfer line this week. Two applicants received-both to be scheduled for interviews next week. TB PAAs continue to support/assist.
- Roving team nurse continues to provide coverage for vacant nurse position - 12 hours per week. TB CHNs continue to support/assist.
- Nurse Practitioner will start orienting in Refugee Health clinic next week. She has been orienting with both Dr. Amlani and Dr. Walsh in TB clinic.

#### Immunization Program

- The Immunization's program's outreach workers submitted the Vaccine survey (DHMH) for the private schools for the academic school year 2015-2016. This survey is designed to assess the vaccination coverage among the private schools in Maryland. This year, outreach workers visited 43 private schools, reviewed their records, collected data and completed the survey worksheets to assure compliance with Maryland school immunization regulations. Out of the 43 private schools surveyed only 20 of them are in 100% compliance with the State's guidelines and the remaining 23 have 30-days to comply with the State guidelines.
- The Immunization outreach workers collaborated with Community Clinic Inc. (CCI) and Women Infants and Children program (WIC) and participated in a resourceful information sharing session for community partners held at the Wheaton WIC Center on March 24, 2016.
- We welcomed Ms. Ivana R Mars as the new Senior Supply Technician of the warehouse at Dennis Avenue Health Center.

#### HIV

- HIV Services has been notified that our HOPWA award for FY17 will be \$1,020,000 a 30% increase in funds from FY16. They began FY16 with 39 subsidized units, are currently at 47 subsidized units and estimate that they will be at 53-55 units by June 2016. There is a proposed

pilot program to begin in FY17 where 5 additional units will be added for extremely vulnerable clients who would receive intensive case management services in addition to the standard housing services currently offered. These clients would be afforded full rental payments (as needed) for a period of 24-36 months as they work to gain stability (language classes, employment, childcare arrangements, immigration). Goals will be measured by increased function in their identified areas of need.

Montgomery Cares

- By February 29, 2016 Montgomery Cares utilization of primary care services had reached 43,367 encounters with 18,668 unduplicated patients. Both number of patient and encounters to date is slightly less (-3%) compared with FY15 July – February.

STATISTICS

<b>Program: Montgomery Cares</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Patients	4,589
YTD Patients	18,668
Encounters	5,511
YTD Encounters	43,367
<b>Program: MC Homeless Health</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Patients	18
YTD Patients	101
Encounters	26
YTD Encounters	127
<b>Program: Care for Kids (Quarterly)</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
New enrollments	138
YTD new enrollments	988
YTD patients	4,135
<b>Program: Maternity Partnerships</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of patients referred to hospitals by DHHS	132
YTD Patients	1266
New patients enrolled in prenatal care by hospitals	130
YTD Patients	<b>1234</b>
Number of teens enrolled	15
YTD teen enrollment	84
Percent of patients with entry during first trimester YTD	43%
Number of patients with entry during first trimester YTD	532
<b>Number of patients enrolled YTD</b> ( <i>Unsure of measure needed--see line 33</i> ). <i>Noted here are number of first trimester entries for each month (not YTD).</i>	51
Fetal losses	2
YTD fetal losses	14

<b>Program: Dental Health</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
<b><i>Maternity:</i></b>	
New patients	94
YTD patients	880
Encounters	215
YTD Encounters	1655
<b><i>Children:</i></b>	
New patients	129
YTD patients	1369
Encounters	335
YTD Encounters	2575
<b><i>Adults:</i></b>	
New patients	98
YTD patients	916
Encounters	286
YTD Encounters	2102
<b><i>Seniors:</i></b>	
New patients	38
YTD patients	558
Encounters	126
YTD Encounters	1246
<b><i>TOTAL:</i></b>	
New patients	359
YTD patients	3723
Encounters	962
YTD Encounters	7578
<b>Program: Infants at Risk (IAR)</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of Infant at Risk (IAR) referrals received from hospitals or providers	20
YTD Number	150
Number of referrals received from DHMH or providers for children lead levels > 10ug/dl	2
YTD Number	25
<b>Program: Maternity Partnerships</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of adolescents up to 18 years of age referred to Community Health Services from School Health Services (joint CHS/SHS case-managed pregnant teens)	7
YTD Number	37
Number of CHS/SHS jointly case-managed pregnant teens	see above
YTD number of CHS/SHS jointly case-managed pregnant teens	see above

Number of adolescents up to 18 years of age referred to Community Health Services.	4
YTD Number	36
Number of new Maternity Partnership clients receiving nurse case management services	88
YTD Number	757
Number of new Maternity Partnership clients receiving telephonic case management services	44
YTD Number	507
<b>Program: Health Room</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of visits by students who return to class after and are ready to learn following health room intervention	47536
Number of visits by students with a health room intervention	54693
<b>Program: SBH/WC</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of visits each month to the School Based Health and Wellness Centers(non cumulative)	686
Number of clients enrolled in the School Based Health and Wellness Centers (cumulative)	10056
<b>Program: International Student Admissions Office (ISAO)</b>	<b>Feb-16</b>
Number of VFC vaccinations administered	1244
Number of VFC vaccinations administered to uninsured clients	1135