

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes,

December 20, 2012

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Tara Clemons, Kathy Ghiladi, , Graciela Jaschek, Alan Kaplan, Harry Kwon, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Rose Marie Martinez, Marcos Pesquera, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ, Gregory Serfer, Ashraf Sufi, Wayne L. Swann, Shari Targum, Ulder J. Tillman

Members Absent: Michelle Hawkins, Linda McMillan, and Steve Thronson

Staff Present: Doreen Kelly

Guests: Dr. Lori Diseati, and Marla Caplon, Director, MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Marcos Pesquera called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. upon reaching a quorum.

Doreen Kelly mentioned that Commission staff Jeanine Gould Kostka would be on leave for several weeks. She noted that she would be covering Commission business in Jeanine's absence, and that Commissioners should contact her as needed during this time.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes of November 15, 2012. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously by voice consent.

3.0 Report of Officers – Marcos Pesquera, Chair

3.1 Quarterly Leadership Meeting with the Director for Boards, Commissions & Committees – Mr. Pesquera said that he had attended this meeting with HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia. His remarks at the meeting summarized the Commission's priorities and its recent work. This included the formation of the Commission's priorities during the annual retreat, and the formation of the corresponding work groups to explore the Affordable Care Act and the additional work group to focus on obesity and cardiovascular disease. Commission action items he mentioned included a presentation to the County Council HHS Committee regarding the Commission's recommendations to reduce smoking; and a presentation to the Council when it convened as the Board of Health summarizing Commission activities; and sending the HEZ letter of support.

3.2 HEZ Update -- Mr. Pesquera updated the Commission regarding the County's Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) grant application. He announced that Montgomery County made the reviewers' first cut, and was asked to come to Annapolis to make a presentation. The Commission had previously sent a letter of support for the Montgomery County Health Enterprise Zone application.

3.3 Next Meetings -- Mr. Pesquera announced the next two meetings of the Commission are scheduled for Thursday evening at 6 p.m. on January 17, 2013, and February 21, 2013, in the Tan conference room at 401 Hungerford Drive in Rockville.

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

Dr. Tillman announced the inclusion of the PHS Chief's Report for November 2012 in the COH electronic mail for review. The report is also included at the end of these minutes.

Dr. Tillman discussed the following issues: additional funding received for Women's breast and cervical cancer screening; nearly 9,000 doses of flu vaccine was provided to County residents; the County's Homeless Resource day was successful and included medical and behavioral health services; and mobile dental services are now being provided at homeless shelters. Pertussis is on the rise in Montgomery County and specialized testing is needed to pick it up; TB is higher in Montgomery County due to high population of immigrants from countries where TB is endemic.

Dr. Tillman said that the Department is anticipating an RFP from the State to apply to provide services with the Navigator program to help residents from our combined region of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties with their insurance needs/choices under the Affordable Care Act. Navigator entities will have to have networks with hospitals and other medical providers, and there will also need to be a call center.

There is a wealth of information about the Affordable Care Act at www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

5.0 COH Liaison Reports – Marcos Pesquera, Chair, asked members if they had Liaison Reports to share.

5.1 MCPS Report – Marla Caplon, R. D., Director, MCPS Division of Food and Nutrition Services, gave the following update.

- The in-classroom breakfast program is now in 40 schools. We were able to add 8 additional schools this year. This enables breakfast to naturally become part of the student's day. Breakfast is served to all at no cost.
- The division continues to expand the salad bar initiative.
- Last year, entrée salads were introduced to elementary schools as a pilot. This year, entrée salads have been added to the menu for all elementary schools.
- Official free and reduced student eligibility is 33.17% for school year 2012-13.

5.2 Latino Health Initiative – Rose Marie Martinez submitted the following report. She is the Liaison to the Latino Health Initiative

Priorities of the Board, Committee or Commission:

The Montgomery County Latino Health Initiative (LHI) is committed to improve the quality of life of Latinos living in Montgomery County by contributing to the development and implementation of an integrated, coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent health wellness system that supports, values, and respects Latino families and communities.

The LHI works to:

- Enhance coordination between existing health programs and services targeting Latinos.
- Provide technical assistance to programs serving the Latino community.
- Develop and support models of programs and services to adequately reach Latinos.
- Advocate for policies and practices needed to effectively reach and serve Latinos.

The LHI is comprised of staff members from the Department of Health and Human Services and a group of 20 volunteer professionals and community leaders. These individuals work as a team to inform the Latino community about the LHI and to collect feedback from them regarding their health concerns.

In addition, the group acts as the planning body for the LHI and advocates for improving the health of the Latino community.

Key points for the COH action/information:

The Latino Health Initiative Steering Committee seeks to inform the Commission on Health regarding the following issues:

LHI Steering Committee Activity

Over the past few months the LHI Steering Committee has supported the work of the Latino Health initiative by advocating for funds to support activities of the Welcome Back Center. Funding requests were to assist in training approximately 10 new health professionals for the Long Branch area.

Steering Committee members also provided technical assistance to department staff during the development of the Health Empowerment Zone proposal. The proposal includes the development of health promoter programs in the Long Branch area

Several members of the Steering Committee now participate in the Cultural Competency Workgroup of the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council associated with the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012.

Role of the Minority Health Initiatives/Program in DHHS

Three members of the Latino Health Initiative continue to participate in the DHHDS Minority Health Initiative/Program advisory group. As mentioned previously, this group was convened to assist Dr. Ahluwalia in reviewing the Department's role in providing services to racially, linguistically and ethnically diverse communities and the role and structure of the Minority Health initiatives/Programs with the goal to: *“Enhance HHS practice, policy, and infrastructure to best serve racially, linguistically and ethnically diverse communities including emerging populations and explore and recommend the roles of MHI/P as integral to the department.”*

The process is now nearing the end of phase II which has included identifying priority areas of focus and recommendations. The group has begun to discuss the final functions and structure of the initiatives/program. One additional meeting will be held in January.

Welcome Back Center

The Suburban Maryland Welcome Back Center received an award of \$10,000 for FY13 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Two participants of the Welcome Back Center began working as Registered Nurse (RN) for a total of 2 nurses during this fiscal year and overall 33 nurses currently working as RNs in Maryland. Two additional foreign-trained nurses passed the Nursing Board Exam (NCLEX-RN) in Maryland for a total of 44 participants who completed the program since 2006.

The Welcome Back Center has begun working with 10 Latino Behavior Health Professionals in response to the recommendations of the Latino Youth Collaborative, which identified a need for these professionals. Thirty foreign trained physicians applied for the program.

Health Promoters Program “Vías de la Salud”

The LHI Health Promoters program has been conducting extensive outreach and education efforts throughout the County. During the month of November, the program reached **1,328** individuals at diverse settings including safety net clinics and community events.

As one of the entities participating in the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant from DHMH, four LHI Health Promoters, conducted 12 educational outreach activities at diverse community sites. Through these outreach activities **139** individuals were reached and of those, **29** who

were identified as being at-risk for cardiovascular disease, were referred and navigated to local community clinics for appointments.

As part of the Aspen Hill-Wheaton Neighbors Coalition collaboration, four LHI health promoters supported a bake sale aimed at raising funds for the Food Pantry Program at the Millian Memorial Methodist. A total of \$4000 dollars were raised.

Ama Tu Vida Health Festival which had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather is now scheduled for March 10th.

6.0 Workgroups – Marcos Pesquera, Chair

Mr. Pesquera asked the membership to divide into their 4 workgroups, and for the remainder of the meeting, to work on the groups' work plans. Three of the four workgroups cover various aspects of the Affordable Care Act, and one additional workgroup focuses on obesity and cardiovascular health.

7.0 Unfinished Business/New Business/Announcements – Marcos Pesquera, Chair

There was no unfinished business or new business, and there were no announcements.

8.0 Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Kelly
Administrator, Public Health Services

CHIEF'S REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES—NOVEMBER 2012

SUCCESES AND GOOD NEWS

Women's Cancer Control Program will receive additional grant funding for \$32,690 to provide an opportunity for 127 additional eligible female county residents to access comprehensive medical screening for breast and cervical cancer in FY 2013. The additional funding is being made available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevention and Public Health Funds.

Immunization Program teamed with Community Health Services, School Health Services, Maternity Partnership, Minority Health Initiatives, Homeless Services, Disease Control, and Faith-based Communities to provide nearly 9,000 doses of flu vaccine to Montgomery County residents.

County's Homeless Resource Day was held on Nov. 15, 2012. The Montgomery Cares Homeless Health staff played a key role in organizing and executing a broad array of health care and related services, including medical, podiatry, and behavioral health services, vision screening, flu shots, and assistance with Primary Adult Care (PAC) enrollment.

Homeless Oral Health Program: On Nov. 2, 2012, County Council member George Leventhal, plus staff from Councilmember Rice's office and HHS Committee staff, visited the new **Homeless Health Mobile Dental Program.** Through a contracting arrangement with The Mobile Dentist, the mobile van is spending one full day each week at a

shelter site, alternating between the women's shelter on Wilkins Avenue and the men's shelter on Gude Drive. The van will have the capacity to see up to 16 patients per day and offer preventive and restorative services.

HOT SPOTS

Disease Control faces a significant challenge: Pertussis is on the rise in Montgomery County - we have our first ever outbreak of Pertussis. Ten investigations for Pertussis were conducted in November. This brings the **total investigations for 2012 to 90**. For each case, we are identifying, on average, 4 close contacts who need to receive prophylaxis for Pertussis, which is very challenging for those uninsured adults with no medical home. We are working with Montgomery Cares to provide prophylaxis, but this is still quite challenging. **Disease Control** is exploring other options for prophylaxis for this population. Total investigations for the past 5 years:

2011 - 25 investigations
2010 - 24
2009 - 26
2008 - 53
2007 - 34

Most of the rest of Maryland is also seeing a rise in Pertussis cases and investigations, but Montgomery County has been inordinately affected. Dr. Tillman presented this situation to the Board of Health in November.

The TB Control Program reached 75 active TB cases at the end of November compared to a total of 73 active cases for all of 2011. Total number for 2012 is expected to reach 85, estimated to be over 40% of all TB cases in the State. Dr. Tillman presented the TB morbidity situation to the Board of Health in November—including the fact that our numbers/rates are rising and most of the rest of the country, cases are temporarily declining. This interesting fact was picked up by NPR and several other media outlets.

UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES

School Health Services began orientation and training of 4 substitute School Community Health Nurses (SCHNs) on November 26th. The orientation is scheduled for 3 weeks and will include classroom and on-site training. The new substitute SCHNs will have continued support from an experienced nurse mentor and begin immediately fulfilling the many needs we currently have in school health rooms.

School Health Services administered a total of 6,851 doses of FluMist seasonal flu vaccine at three high school clinics on Monday, November 5th, and 132 elementary school clinics on November 12th and 13th. School Based Health/Wellness Centers and School Health Services Center are continuing to offer FluMist seasonal flu vaccine. The November 5th high school flu vaccine clinics were organized according to the Incident Command Model. Representatives from Public Health Services Emergency Preparedness Program attended the clinics to collect clinic flow time data.

HIV Services has seen a noticeable increase in clients returning to Dennis Avenue Health Center for HIV medical care because they have lost their MHIP coverage. HIV Services Case Managers believe the majority of these clients have lost their coverage due to non-payment of their premiums by the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program (MADAP). Program staff is working with MADAP to determine the source of the problem.

Public Health's **Affordable Care Act Work Groups**, convened by Carol Jordan, met in individual teams to prepare for a larger group meeting in December. This collective group will make recommendations to the Health Officer by February 2013. Subject matter expert Dourakine Rosarion has provided consultation. The teams are:

1. **Education and Outreach**, chaired by Cindy Edwards
2. **Public Health Safety Net/ Special Populations**, chaired by Jean Hochron
3. **Public Health Workforce**, chaired by Patricia Horton
4. **Public Health Delivery System**, chaired by Mark Hodge

Refugee Health Program Administrator attended a Consultation with Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees to learn that from 10/1/11 - 9/30/12 the following numbers of refugees resettled in Maryland Counties:

- 511 – Baltimore City
- 364 – Montgomery
- 184 – Prince George
- 77 – Howard
- 72 – Frederick
- 104 – all other Maryland Counties

Germantown Health Center vaccinated 350 residents for influenza during November clinics.

