

Montgomery County Commission on Health

**FISCAL YEAR 2014
ANNUAL REPORT**



July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair	3
Mission, Purpose and Meeting Information	5
Membership	6
Priorities & Correspondence FY14	7
Testimonies & Guest Speakers FY14	8
Liaisons, Committees and Work Groups	9
Work Group Reports	10
Liaison Highlights	12



Commission on Health Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Rice:

The Commission on Health (COH) thanks you for the opportunity to serve Montgomery County through activities of the COH. During FY2014, the COH focused on researching several important public health issues and developing recommendations for the County Executive, County Council, and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS). After extensive research involving presentations by and discussions with experts on national public health accreditation, and analysis of data and literature on the uninsured, chronic diseases, and preventive services, the COH is recommending actions to be taken by MCDHHS, the County Executive, and the County Council in three areas:

- Public Health Accreditation
- Access to health insurance and needed health services by underserved populations in the County
- Food security for all County residents

The issues and recommendations related to each of these three important areas follow:

Public Health Accreditation – The new national voluntary accreditation process for health departments is helping to assure communities around the country that their health departments have sufficient capacity and demonstrate a high level of performance to protect the public’s health. The COH believes that our County’s health department should seek accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Achieving accreditation is an important step in assuring the public that their health department meets national standards. Additionally, the accreditation process places a great deal of emphasis on continuous improvement – an essential element given today’s rapidly evolving public health and health care needs.

Access to health insurance and needed health services by underserved populations in the County – Over the past two years, the COH has made a variety of recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and MCDHHS focused on assuring access to health care for all County residents. This year, the COH focused on progress towards achieving past recommendations. The need remains great for many of our County’s lower income residents for health insurance and access to health care and behavioral health services. Even after full implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is anticipated that over 50,000 County residents will remain uninsured. In addition, data are woefully inadequate within the County to effectively identify and meet needs at the community level.

Food security for all County residents – The COH has noted that in virtually every community in the nation there are issues with food insecurity. In an attempt to learn about food and nutrition concerns, the COH has been researching this issue. Recognizing that there are several boards, committees, and commissions and other organizations addressing this issue, the COH also has been working with working with and learning from others in the County. At the present time, the COH plans to work with the Commission on Aging

to explore data and data needs that may shed light on potential food insecurity for some of the County's aging populations.

Specific recommendations and strategies to address these areas have been transmitted to the County Executive and County Council through recommendation letters.

Each year, during the COH's annual retreat, we focus on topics we plan to explore for the coming year. The topics are determined based on public health needs within the County and where the COH can make a positive contribution. During the coming year, the COH plans to research oral health needs of County residents and develop recommendations for consideration by the County Executive, County Council, and MCDHHS. In addition, the COH will continue to work on issues related to health insurance and access to care for the underserved, public health accreditation, and food security.

For the past four years, the COH has collaborated with other Montgomery County boards, committees and commissions to create a unified voice that is supportive of issues relevant to improving the health status of our residents. We are pleased to report that we are actively and successfully engaged with nine Montgomery County boards, committees and commissions as well as the Montgomery County Medical Society.

It is an honor to serve as chair of the COH for a second term. Every year a team of 19 very accomplished and dedicated commissioners serve our County by sharing their knowledge and expertise in partnership with County government to improve our residents' health and vitality. Throughout FY2014, we have focused on helping the County prepare for enormous changes occurring in public health and health care. In FY2015, we will continue these efforts and explore new opportunities to enhance public health and social services throughout the County.

All of these efforts would have not been possible without the expertise, guidance and support of Jeanine Gould-Kostka, Doreen Kelly and COH Vice Chair, Daniel Russ. The Montgomery County Commission on Health respectfully submits the attached FY2014 Annual Report.

Sincerely,



Ron Bialek, MPP, CQIA
Chair

Commission on Health Minutes and Annual Reports

Website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/PHS/CommOnHealth/COHIndex.html>

Mission and Purpose

The primary mission of the Montgomery County Commission on Health (COH) is to advise the County Executive and the County Council on public health issues, programs, services and the allocation of funds devoted to public health needs and to monitor and assess the priorities of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MCDHHS) in its efforts to address the health needs of residents in this County. The purpose of this report is to comply with the annual requirement that the COH provide the County Executive and the County Council with an update on the activities of the COH from July 2013 through June 2014.

**CHAPTER 24-24 OF
THE MONTGOMERY
COUNTY CODE
PROVIDES
AUTHORITY FOR THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH. THE
COMMISSION ON
HEALTH (COH) WAS
ESTABLISHED ON
JULY 1, 1988.**

Structure

The COH is comprised of 19 voting members with representation from consumers and providers of health services in the County. The majority of the members must be from sectors of the County's health care and public health consumer populations. As dictated by County Code, the COH also has a representative from the County Medical Society.

In FY 2014, there were 13 consumers, 5 providers as well as the Medical Society representative. The ex-officio members (non-voting) of the COH include: the County Public Health Officer; the Montgomery County Public Schools liaison; and the County Council liaison. The COH continues to represent a diverse cross-section of Montgomery County residents. The membership consisted of 9 men and 9 women who are racially and ethnically diverse and vary in age, geography and experience in health policy, public health, and the health care system.

The COH has an elected Chair and Vice Chair whose terms are one year. During FY14, Ron Bialek was the Chair of the Commission and Daniel Russ was the Vice Chair. The entire COH met monthly with the exception of August 2013. The Chair, with input from staff and the Vice Chair, created the agenda for the monthly meetings.

Meetings

The Commission on Health meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Tan Meeting Room at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 except in August. All meetings are open to the general public.

At a minimum, every member of the COH is expected to either serve on one workgroup and, if requested, as a liaison to other health-related County boards, commissions, committees, and health initiatives or programs.

With its broad perspective of public health, the COH recognizes the value of collaboration and communication with other health-related boards, commissions and committees. Many commissioners have an area of specialization or interest in a particular area or constituency of public health and are therefore encouraged to serve as liaisons with other relevant health-related boards, commissions and committees. Integral to this area of special interest is the constraint that all actions are in voice of the entire COH and not self-serving in any manner. Finally, members of the COH also served on committees that allowed the COH to conduct its business such as the membership, nominating and retreat planning committees. These committees require significant time and are in addition to the monthly scheduled meetings.

FY14 Membership

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Mitchell Berger, MPH, J.D.

Ronald Bialek, MPP (Chair)

Brenda Brooks, MA

Tara Clemons, MPA

Kathy Ghiladi, J.D.

Graciela Jaschek, Ph.D., MPH

Pierre-Marie Longkeng, MHSA

Rose Marie Martinez, Sc.D.

Marcia Pruzan

Nelson Rosenbaum, Ph.D.

Daniel Russ, Ph.D. (Vice Chair)

Tonya Saffer, MPH

Wayne L. Swann, SPHR, FACHE

PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Michelle R. Hawkins, DNP, MSN, MBA, RN, CCM

Alan S. Kaplan, M.D., MPH

Joneigh Khaldun, M.D., MPH, FAAEM

Ashraf M. Sufi, M.D.

Shari Targum, M.D.

MEDICAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

Sheela Modin, M.D.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Marla Caplon, R.D., L.D., Director, Division of Food and Nutrition Services, MCPS

Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

Ulder J. Tillman, Montgomery County Health Officer, Chief, Public Health Services, MCDHHS

STAFF

Jeanine Gould-Kostka, Program Specialist II, Commission on Health, Public Health Services, MCDHHS

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services, MCDHHS

Commission on Health Priorities 2013-2014

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 areas of focus for the Commission on Health (COH) were set during their October 17, 2013 annual retreat held at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center.

Three work groups for the year were created during the COH's retreat :

- Public Health Accreditation Work Group with the goal of advising the County Council on the accreditation process for public health services and recommend actions;
- Food Security & Nutrition Work Group with the goals of educating the work group and commission on food security/nutrition issues in the County, as well as making specific, actionable recommendations to the County Executive and County Council;
- Surveillance Work Group with the goal of reviewing achievement and relevancy of FY 2012 & 2013 recommendations to the County Executive and County Council and determining progress.



The COH sets priorities for the fiscal year during the annual retreat each October.

Commission Correspondence 2013-2014

The Commission on Health sent the following letters during Fiscal Year 2014:

- Letters of recommendation to the County Executive and County Council related to social determinants of health to help improve health outcomes in Montgomery County – January 28, 2014.
- Letter of Support to the County Council: Additional \$1.03 million funding request for Montgomery Cares services such as behavioral health, specialty care and pharmaceuticals – April 24, 2014.
- Letter of support to the Commission on Aging (COA) related to a proposal for a COA Task Force to identify gaps in data concerning the health of our older population – May 16, 2014.
- Letter of recommendation to the County Council, seated as the Board of Health, to work with the MCDHHS in planning to achieve public health accreditation status in the near future — June 24, 2014
- Letters of recommendation to the County Executive and County Council related to: efforts to enroll minority residents in health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA); increasing current funding levels for behavioral health and oral health services for low-income individuals and families; and State legislation to increase cigarette taxes and limit access to tobacco — June 24, 2014

“IMPROVING QUALITY, DEMONSTRATING EFFECTIVENESS AND ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY ARE PARAMOUNT TO OPTIMIZING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES”

Commission on Health Testimonies

The Commission on Health (COH) testified at the following forums:

- The COH FY 2013 Annual Report was presented to the County Council seated as the Board of Health on October 1, 2013.
- The annual HHS Committee Boards and Commissions Breakfast testimony was presented on October 17, 2013.
- County Executive - Annual Meeting for Boards, Committees and Commissions testimony was March 11, 2014.

Commission Guest Speakers FY14

The Commission on Health received guest speakers during COH meetings:

- On October 17, 2013 the COH welcomed Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN, President and CEO, Public Health Accreditation Board and Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H., Frederick County Health Officer to speak about public health accreditation during the annual retreat.
- On November 21, 2013 Jenna Umbriac, Director of Nutrition Programs, Manna Food Center, presented an overview of the food environment in Montgomery County.
- Food Insecurity and MCPS Presentation to the COH by Marla Caplon, Director, Division of Food & Nutrition Services – December 19, 2013.
- ACA Implementation Update to the COH by Dourakine Rosarion, DHHS Special Assistant, Office of the Director – January 16, 2014.
- Montgomery Cares and ACA Update to the COH by Jean Hochron, Senior Administrator, Montgomery Cares and Sharon Zalewski, Vice President and Director, Center for Health Care Access, Primary Care Coalition – February 20, 2014.

**"THE GOAL OF
THE VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL
ACCREDITATION
PROGRAM IS TO
IMPROVE AND
PROTECT THE
HEALTH OF THE
PUBLIC"**

Commission on Health Liaisons

Michelle Hawkins, Dn.P. – African American Health Program Executive Committee

Ashraf Sufi, MD – Asian American Health Initiative Steering Committee

Marcia Pruzan – Commission on Aging

Ron Bialek – Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee

Rose Marie Martinez, Sc.D. – Latino Health Initiative Steering Committee

Wayne Swann – Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

Joneigh Khaldun, MD – Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth & Families

Alan S. Kaplan, MD – Obesity Prevention Strategy Group

Daniel Russ, Ph.D. – School Health Council

Sheela Modin, MD – Montgomery County Medical Society

Commission on People with Disabilities Liaison to the COH: Seth Morgan, MD



Commission on Health FY14 Committees

Retreat Planning Committee FY 14

Ron Bialek

Daniel Russ

Mitchell Berger

Michelle Hawkins

Graciela Jaschek

Membership Committee

Graciela Jaschek

Kathy Ghiladi

Nominating Committee

Wayne Swann

Rose Marie Martinez



Commission on Health Work Groups

Food Security & Nutrition Work Group:

Alan Kaplan, Linda McMillan, Sheela Modin, Marcia Pruzan (Vice Chair), Nelson Rosenbaum, Ashraf Sufi and Shari Targum (Chair)

Public Health Accreditation Work Group:

Mitchell Berger, Tara Clemons (Vice Chair), Graciela Jaschek, Joneigh Khaldun (Chair), Daniel Russ and Ulder J. Tillman

Surveillance Work Group:

Brenda Brooks, Kathy Ghiladi, Michelle Hawkins, Pierre-Marie Longkeng (Vice Chair), Rose Marie Martinez, Tonya Saffer and Wayne Swann (Chair)

Food Security & Nutrition Work Group Report

Work Group Goals:

- Educate work group and commission on food security/nutrition issues in the County;
- Make specific, actionable recommendations to the County Executive and County Council.

The work group on food security was concerned that there may be pockets of individuals in the County for whom the ability to afford and/or access food may be challenging. The group was also concerned that those in need may lack both knowledge of where they may obtain food and understanding about healthy nutrition.

The group learned that several organizations are working on food security and nutrition issues in the County. These organizations include: the Food Recovery Work Group; the Food Council; Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS); and Manna.

Throughout the course of the year, the Commission on Health heard presentations from:

- Jenna Umbriac (Director of Nutrition Programs, Manna Food Center and co-chair of the Food Access Work Group on the Montgomery County Food Council). Manna distributes food to needy individuals and families (average 3600 households monthly) and, through the Smart Sack program, provides food on Fridays to more than 2100 elementary school children in 56 schools. Manna also promotes nutrition education and participates in a Farm to Food Bank program.

(Continued on page 12)

Public Health Accreditation Work Group Report

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accredits health departments demonstrating proficiency in several areas that focus on quality, transparency, and accountability. Several health departments have achieved accreditation, including the Chicago and Cook County Departments of Public Health and the Florida Department of Health. Frederick County, Maryland is in the process of achieving accreditation as well. This Work Group of the COH chose to investigate what value accreditation would bring to Montgomery County and what resources would be needed to proceed with the accreditation process.

At the COH retreat in October 2013, Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, the Frederick County Health Officer, discussed her experience in leading the accreditation process in her county. Throughout the year, the Public Health Accreditation (PHA) Work Group reviewed each of the twelve domains required for the accreditation process and performed preliminary research to identify what current county resources, programs and processes align with PHAB accreditation requirements. The Work Group also engaged in ongoing discussions with Dr. Ulder Tillman, the Director of Public Health Services in Montgomery County, and her staff.

The Work Group found that there are many areas where the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (MDDHHS) activities already meet the required standards, but it would take additional resources to earn accreditation. Given the potential to augment capacity, improve services, and advance collaboration, the COH recommended the County Council, as the Board of Health, consider moving forward with the accreditation process. The COH's final recommendations are:

1. The County Council should encourage the MCDHHS to move forward with the PHAB accreditation process.
2. MCDHHS should complete an assessment of its readiness for accreditation and identify the necessary resources to proceed with the process.
3. MCDHHS should identify one or more staff members to serve as Accreditation and Quality Improvement Coordinator(s) to help lead the department's accreditation effort; MCDHHS should determine if this role can be filled by an existing staff member or a newly created position, with appropriate funding.

Surveillance Work Group Report

Surveillance Work Group Goal: Review achievement and relevancy of FY 2012 & 2013 goals, and determine progress and next steps. Review all recommendations and their status and evaluate responses to determine if further action is needed by the COH covering the following areas:

- Access to Care
- ACA Data
- Prevention
- Obesity/CVD
 - Breastfeeding
 - School Vending
 - Local Food Access
- Tobacco

The Surveillance Work Group reviewed the status of all previous recommendations to determine which items had received a satisfactory response or still required either follow-up, clarification or could be discontinued. To this end the Surveillance Work Group prepared an extensive Dashboard tracking all of the areas of study and updated the status of each area based on the past COH Annual Reports and the knowledge of the Commissioners.

Specific Recommendations Related to Access to Care -

- MCDHHS monitors access to care for underserved populations and report semi-annually any issues/concerns to the County Executive, County Council, and COH in the event disparities increase during ACA implementation.
- The County Executive and County Council continue to support Montgomery Cares, the Care for Kids and Maternity Partnership programs as well as other MCDHHS programs that provide necessary health care for uninsured County residents.
- The COH urges the County Executive and County Council to work with the State to ensure that MCDHHS has the flexibility to enroll individuals in both health insurance and social services at the same time.

Specific Recommendations Related to the Affordable Care Act -

- Monitor health care service utilization to ensure that disparities are not increasing.
- Facilitate seamless enrollment by residents into all health and social services County programs for which they are eligible, including those related to the ACA.
- Educate County government employees, residents and health care providers about no-cost preventive health services available as a result of the ACA.

Specific Recommendations Related to Prevention -

- Educate County government employees about the no-cost preventive services available under the ACA and encourage use of these benefits. Education can be through individual departments, supervisors, Human Resources and others.
- Work with employers, employee groups, civic organizations, and other stakeholders to provide education about the availability of no-cost preventive services available through health insurance plans now that the ACA is being implemented.
- Work with health care providers to raise awareness of the new preventive benefits. Health care providers are influential in decisions of their patients to access and use health care services.

Specific Recommendations Related to Obesity -

- Recommendations completed and responses received.

Specific Recommendations Related to Tobacco -

- Recommendations completed and responses received.

(Continued on page 12)

Surveillance Work Group Report—Continued

(Continued from page 11)

The Surveillance Work Group prepared a letter for the COH to be sent to the County Executive and the County Council demonstrating support in the areas of need identified. The letter covered the following recommendations approved by the COH:

- Request additional funding for behavioral health access and treatment through the Montgomery Cares Program and other healthcare providers.
- Request additional funding for dental health access and treatment through the Montgomery Cares Program and other healthcare providers.
- Recommend that Montgomery County advocates for State of Maryland legislation to increase Maryland cigarette taxes.
- Recommend that Montgomery County advocates for State of Maryland legislation to increase the age a person can purchase cigarettes from age 18 to 21.

Food Security & Nutrition Work Group Report—Continued

(Continued from page 10)

- Marla Caplon (Director of Division of Food and Nutrition Services, MCPS): Ms. Caplon discussed the FARMS program and how there has been a 1% increase in students eligible for the program from the previous school year. A total of 52 schools now participate in the Universal Breakfast program within MCPS. The after-school supper program has increased by about 300 students daily for a total of more than 2000 participating daily. MCPS curriculum includes nutrition lessons in Grades 2 and 5 as well as in middle school and high school health courses.

The Work Group decided to focus on nutrition and food security needs in the elderly population. Dr. Odile Brunetto, who heads the local Area Agency on Aging, was able to supply information about how many meals are served and to whom, but at this time it is difficult to know who may be missed among the senior population, including minority and ethnic seniors.

The Commission on Health therefore wrote a letter to the Commission on Aging to request that its newly formed data task force consider this a topic for research when it begins assessing and collecting data needed for a complete understanding of the health and wellness needs of County seniors.

Liaison Highlights

Commission on Health liaisons presented updates during four Commission meetings this fiscal year.



Collaboration creates a unified voice to support & improve the health status of our residents

- FY13 Annual reports were provided by all liaisons during the July 18, 2013 meeting.
- Liaison reports were provided during the following FY14 meetings:
 - September 19, 2013
 - November 21, 2013
 - March 20, 2014

Montgomery County Commission on Health

Commission on Health
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Suite 236
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Phone: 240-777-1141
E-mail: jeanine.gould-kostka@montgomerycountymd.gov

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://
WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTY
MD.GOV/HHS-PROGRAM/
PHS/COMMONHEALTH/
COHINDEX.HTML](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-PROGRAM/PHS/COMMONHEALTH/COHINDEX.HTML)

Commission on Health FY 15 Annual Retreat

Thursday, October 16, 2014

3:30—8:30 PM

Ingleside at King Farm
701 King Farm Blvd
Rockville, MD 20850

The Commission on Health thanks Ingleside at King Farm for hosting the Commission's annual retreat

Commission on Health



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Uma S. Ahluwalia
Director

The Commission on Health was established on July 1, 1988. See Chapter 24-23 of the Montgomery County Code for a description of the mission of the Commission on Health.

The County Executive and County Council encourages people who live or work in Montgomery County to become actively involved in matters affecting the quality of life in Montgomery County. Appointments are made to over 75 Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) by the County Executive, with confirmation by the County Council.

[http://
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html)