

Approved: July 18, 2015

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2015

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Ilana Cohen, Kathy Ghiladi, Michelle Hawkins, Graciela Jaschek, Alan Kaplan, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Rose Marie Martinez, Linda McMillan, Sheela Modin, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ, Ashraf Sufi, Wayne Swann, Ulder Tillman

Members Absent: Brenda Brooks, Tonya Saffer, Shari Targum, and Bridget Ware

Staff Present: Tara Clemons, Jean Hochron, Doreen Kelly, and Ellen Segal

Guests: Kathy Mann, Commission on People with Disabilities

1.0 Call to Order

Upon reaching a quorum, Chair Ron Bialek called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Cohen made a motion to approve the May 2015 Commission on Health (COH) meeting minutes. Dr. Hawkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously by voice consent.

3.0 Reports of Officers

- Chair Ron Bialek said that the Commission's letter of thanks had been sent to the County Council for their approval of funding for oral health services for Fiscal Year 2016.
- Vice Chair Dan Russ reported on the HHS Director's meeting with officers of boards and commissions. He reported that Uma Ahluwalia stated that even though there was a net increase in the department's Fiscal Year 2016 budget, compared with 2015, part of that was due to increased expenditures for personnel (e.g., benefits, salaries, etc.). Therefore, every service area had reductions to certain programs or staff. There were significant adjustments made to some Montgomery Cares services, which is a reflection of lower utilization in that program this past year. COH played a part in influencing the dental budget increase. The meeting included a brief report from each board or commission within HHS. He said COH could think about organizing with other boards or commissions in the future. One recurring issue seemed to be mental health.

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

Dr Tillman reported on highlights in Public Health Services. Her Chief's Report for May is attached to the minutes. Some of the highlights discussed were the following:

- On May 12, Jean Hochron presented an overview of the features of the Montgomery Cares program to a conference of Latino Health at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- The Montgomery County Dental Program and the Oral Health Program of the Cancer Crusade received a \$55,000 reward from the DHMH Office of Oral Health. These funds will be used to

- expand direct dental services to vulnerable populations at the Piccard Drive Dental Clinic and to continue various programs already in place.
- Germantown and Silver Spring Health Centers are working closely with Dental Services to increase the number of Maternity Partnership patients enrolled in the County's Oral Health Program.
 - There were 2 TB outbreak investigations beginning in early June; one in a local nursing home and the other at a MCPS high school. More than 300 individuals from the nursing home are being tested. There is contact tracing taking place at the high school.
 - There is an individual at NIH with XDR TB, which is highly contagious and hard to cure.
 - As of May 22, 2015, there were still 7,087 sixth grade students without proof of the required Tdap/MCV immunizations. As of August 31, 2015, seventh grade students will need proof of having received the required Tdap/MCV immunizations or will not be permitted to attend classes.
 - The Back to School Fair is on August 29. Clinics will be offered at the event and afterwards.
 - Disease Control nurses conducted 36 animal bite investigations of which 8 were children. There was a 3 year old child admitted to Children's National Medical Center with severe bites to the hand.
 - In May, 250 travelers from Ebola endemic countries came to Montgomery County. All were Low, but not Zero Risk, and the DHMH Call Center is handling the monitoring. As of May 29, 1,285 travelers from Ebola endemic countries have been monitored in Montgomery County.
 - An additional \$125,000 has been added to the Care for Kids program budget for FY15 as a result of an increase in enrollment.
 - Montgomery Cares is experiencing a rate of utilization of 68% (at the end of April); below the benchmark level of 83%.

5.0 Ms. Jean Hochron: Administrator for Healthcare for the Uninsured, and Guest Speaker on "Montgomery Cares 2.0"

An overview of Health Care for the Uninsured:

- These are programs for low income, uninsured residents of the County.
- Programs include: Care for Kids, Maternity Partnership, Dental Services, Montgomery Cares and Homeless Health.
 - The Montgomery Cares (MCares) program served approximately 26,000 to 27,000 people this year.
 - MCares is contracted with the Primary Care Coalition which subcontracts with local medical clinics and providers.
 - There are 12 clinics and 30 to 35 locations for services.
 - The budget is now at approximately 12 million dollars.
 - Eight to nine of the MCares organizations are Medicaid providers.

MCares 2.0:

- MCares 2.0 looks at where we are now and where we will be in the future.
- A consulting firm, John Snow, helped with streamlining/recommendations for the future of MCares.
- A MCares committee presented recommendations that addressed improvements in the following areas:
 - Enrollment and eligibility – more consistency across clinics
 - Greater consistency across all clinics for patient experience and services available
 - Alignment of other program components, such as co-pays, at all clinic locations
 - Improved patient materials.

Ms. Hochron said that the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB) has a unique “sunset” provision so MCAB was asked for its recommendations for continuing the MCAB. The MCAB recommended that it continue in its advisory capacity with a scope expanded to include oversight over other programs in the Healthcare for the Uninsured section, including: Maternity Partnership, Care for Kids, Dental and Homeless Health. They also recommended adding one new member to the board to represent the Managed Care sector.

Discussion followed about people who can't afford the high deductibles with new insurance purchased through the Maryland Health Connection. Right now the program is limited only to the uninsured. There is nothing for the underinsured. Mr. Bialek suggested that this issue be explored further. Dr. Martinez said she wondered if there is a way to measure the extent of this problem.

6.0 Election of Officers

Mr. Swann, chair of the Nominations Committee announced that there were two members nominated and interested in serving in Fiscal Year 2016 as officers of the Commission on Health. Those two members were:

- Chair: Dr. Daniel Russ
- Vice Chair: Mitchell Berger

He asked if there were any other nominations at this time from the floor. There were no additional nominations. Dr. Kaplan moved to take a voice vote on the two nominated for officers. The motion was seconded. Dr. Daniel Russ and Mr. Mitchell Berger were approved by unanimous consent. They will take office starting in July 2015.

7.0 County Council Report – Linda McMillan reported that on July 2 at 2:00 p.m. the County Council will hold a meeting on the authorizing legislation and advocacy role of boards and committees for persons with disabilities. For some boards and commissions this is a question of equity since some board members are permitted to advocate with the State while others cannot. There will be time available to comment after the hearing before the final council meeting which will be held in the fall. Dr. Mann noted that this issue is important to the Commission on People with Disabilities since many programs relevant to that board are managed at the State level.

7.2 Staff Report - Doreen Kelly said that the County Executive's office has issued the new member recruitment for openings on the COH. Anyone interested in serving a second term should remember to apply online by the July 1 deadline.

7.3 State Legislation – COH Recommendations Discussion

- Two legislative issue proposals were prepared by COH members to be considered by the full COH to recommend to DHHS that they be forwarded for County support for the next State General Assembly.
- Dr. Hawkins summarized the proposal for state legislation to increase the tax on cigarettes and increase the minimum age to purchase cigarettes to 21, in order to decrease tobacco use in minors. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded and the COH unanimously approved sending the recommendation forward.
- Mr. Bialek summarized the proposal for state legislation to require schools share aggregate data on heights and weights, or body mass index (BMI) data with state and local health departments in order to benchmark, and then reduce or prevent childhood obesity and improve child health. Discussion followed. Dr. Tillman noted that MCPS and Healthy Montgomery are moving toward data sharing of BMI for all incoming kindergartners; and the workgroup would like it

also for 6th graders. A motion was made and seconded, and the COH unanimously approved sending the recommendation forward.

7.4 Liaison Reports:

- Dr. Martinez noted her concern regarding reductions in FY16 funding for certain minority initiatives' requests. Dr. Tillman stated that there is no new funding, but programs will still receive the base level funding.
- Healthy Montgomery Liaison Ron Bialek said that Healthy Montgomery's emphasis is changing from focusing on specific diseases and conditions to looking at social determinants of health for risk factors for several diseases.
- Dr. Mann said the Commission on People with Disabilities has decided to focus on the issue of significant health disparities among people with disabilities, compared with the general public.
- Very brief Liaison Reports for the Commission's FY15 Annual Report are due before the next meeting on July 16.

7.5 HEAL

- Chair Bialek raised the suggestion to have someone from HEAL come in as a guest speaker to provide information on HEAL. HEAL stands for Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL). It is a program of the Institute for Public Health Innovation to support government leaders to adopt policies that promote healthy choices. The COH agreed to invite a speaker about HEAL to a future meeting. Dr. Martinez suggested that someone from the city of Gaithersburg be invited to share how they benefited from HEAL.

8.0 Adjournment – Dr. Sufi motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Hawkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services

Public Health Services Chief's Report May 2015

SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS

- On May 12, 2015, Jean Hochron attended a Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health conference on Latino Health. She presented an overview of the features of the Montgomery Cares program, and described how the program provides access to care for low-income, uninsured County residents.
- The Montgomery County Dental Program and the Oral Health Program of the Cancer Crusade received a \$55,000 award from DHMH Office of Oral Health. Funds will be used to expand direct

dental services to vulnerable populations at the Piccard Drive Dental Clinic, continue the Injury Prevention (student mouth guard) program, and to continue supporting the County's Oral Cancer Program.

- The two County Health Centers have been working closely with Dental Services to help increase the number of Maternity Partnership patients enrolled in the County's Oral Health Program. A successful training was provided to Health Center nurses by the Dental Services staff. Dental Services is also planning to send staff to the orientation sessions to talk to MP patients about the importance of oral health care. Process changes are also in the works. At Silver Spring, women will be sent to the Dental window while they are waiting for their orientation session to start. The Health Center is asking patients to arrive one half hour early to complete paperwork and to allow time for making a dental appointment as well.

HOT SPOTS

- There are 2 large TB contact investigations beginning in early June, one in a local nursing home and one in a MCPS high school. More information will be shared after testing in the June Chief's Report.
- The Administrative Care Coordination (ACCU) and the Dedicated Administrative Care Coordination Team (DACCT) continue to receive monthly enrollment reports from the DHMH data team of pregnant women enrolled in Medical Assistance with only 90 day presumptive eligibility. The greatest problem for most of these pregnant women is that after 90 days they have to reapply for Medical Assistance. This process is most cumbersome and creates a delay in clients accessing prenatal care services. The total number of pregnant women impacted by this delayed process (January thru March) was 1016 clients that were screened and enrolled in an MCO. The total of pregnant adolescents up to age 18 years screened and enrolled in an MCO was 38 clients. This is an increase of 8 teens since the beginning of this fiscal year.

UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES

School Health Services

- School Health Services began a three week orientation of one merit School Community Health Nurse on April 7th. Upon successful completion of her orientation, she will be permanently assigned to schools. Additionally, 14 substitute School Health Room Technicians completed their six week orientation to become Certified Nursing Assistants and Certified Medication Technicians with the Maryland Board of Nursing and will be assigned to schools on an as needed basis.
- As of May 22, 2015, there were still 7,087 sixth grade students without proof of the required Tdap/MCV immunizations. All of these sixth grade students will need proof of the required Tdap/MCV immunizations by August 31, 2015. School Health Services staff continues to work in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools to meet the COMAR immunization requirements.

Disease Control

- Disease Control Program nurses conducted 36 animal bite investigations of which 8 were children, including a 3 year old child admitted to CNMC due to severe bites to the hand. May case investigations: n=55 investigations including 5 pertussis, 2 chikungunya, 1 MERS CoV, and many foodborne illness investigations. No outbreak investigations.
- In May, 250 travelers from Ebola endemic countries (roughly 60% traveled from Liberia, 25% from Guinea, and 15% from Sierra Leone) came to Montgomery County. CDC continues to require monitoring for travelers from Liberia until national policy is updated. All were LOW but not Zero

Risk, and mostly monitored by the DHMH Call Center. As of May 29th 1,285 travelers from Ebola endemic countries have been monitored in Montgomery County.

HIV/STD

- HIV Client Services staff is becoming more comfortable and more efficient with using the EHR which is resulting in shorter and more concise meetings with clients.
- We are pleased to welcome two (2) nursing student volunteers who will be assisting in the HIV clinic this summer: Giovana DaSilva and Sheenali Naik. They are both nursing students at the University of Maryland. Their primary role will be assisting the clinic team to transition during our new EHR process. They will be abstracting/entering health information from the current medical records into our EHR system, in addition to gaining a well-rounded clinical experience.

Immunization Program

- The Immunization Program's outreach staff conducted an outreach activity (education) of the vaccine preventable disease and immunization schedule (ACIP recommendation) for the parent of 3-years old students enrolled into the Linkages to Learning program at Wheaton Wood Elementary School.

Licensing & Regulatory

- L&R completed another successful start of the pool season with all pools opening as scheduled for Memorial Day.
- DHMH started the Retail Food Program Review process. The review occurs every three years and is intended to promote quality and uniformity in the application of the Food Code. Seventy randomly selected files will be reviewed and each EHS will conduct 2 observed inspections. The review process will take 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

Care for Kids

- Care for Kids enrollment continues to increase, and \$125,000 in additional funds has been added to the program budget for FY 15.

Maternity Partnership

- The surge in Maternity Partnership demand appears to have slowed slightly over the past several weeks. As of May 28, there have been 144 participants in the May orientation sessions. This is 8% below the level of participation in March (156) and 18% below the same point in time in April (175).

Montgomery Cares

- Montgomery Cares continues to experience a rate of utilization below the level anticipated for FY 15. At the end of the first ten months of the Fiscal Year (4/30/15), utilization was at 68% for the year, rather than the "benchmark" level of 83%.

Community Health

- The number of pregnant women with Medical Assistance screened and enrolled in a Managed Care Organization remains consistent with previous quarters, but the number of pregnant adolescents increased by 8 clients over previous quarters.