

Approved: April 16, 2015

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2015

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Brenda Brooks, Kathy Ghiladi, Michelle Hawkins, Alan Kaplan, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Rose Marie Martinez, Linda McMillan, Sheela Modin, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ, Tonya Saffer, Ashraf Sufi, Wayne Swann, Shari Targum, and Ulder Tillman

Members Absent: Ilana Cohen, Graciela Jaschek, Bridget Ware

Staff Present: Doreen Kelly and Ellen Segal

Guest Speaker: Dr. Charles Doring, President of Maryland Academy of General Dentistry

1.0 Call to Order

Upon reaching a quorum, Chair Ron Bialek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Dr. Tillman gave the Chief's Report, (see attached) discussing the following issues:

- Quality assurance site visits were conducted at most Montgomery Cares clinics in fall of 2014. All of the ten organizations that were reviewed were found to be operating strong programs.
- February was Children's Dental Care month. The dental program launched a new preventive component; providing mouth guards for student athletes to prevent injuries to the mouth and teeth.
- Community Food Rescue with eleven food recovery organizations working together rescued an estimated 3.4 million pounds of food in 2014. The February snowstorm canceled a Montgomery County Public School meeting where 300 lbs. of pastries and fresh fruit were to be served. Community Food Rescue members quickly redirected the food for those in need.
- Dr. Tillman mentioned that there are hiring and procurement freezes throughout the County.
- The Care for Kids enrollment continues to increase and a resolution to the funding shortfall is being developed.
- School Health Services has trained nursing staff on the donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).
- The Tuberculosis Control Program's final count for those testing positive for year 2014 is 59, a total of 7 more than the previous year.
- **The County Executive's FY16 recommended budget:**
 - The budget is cautious for FY16. There is a recommendation of a 1.4 percent increase in the budget.
 - An increase of .3 percent for DHHS from the prior year's budget.
 - A \$500,000 reduction in Montgomery Cares Program to reflect slightly decreasing enrollment and utilization.
 - A recommendation to keep a significant number of positions vacant to produce savings.
 - The County is not yet sure of the impact of State budget reductions; this could result in funds being taken from the County.

- Ms. McMillan stated that the proposed budget includes finding significant savings from keeping a large number of vacant positions unfilled (i.e., personnel lapse).

3.0 Guest Speaker – Dr. Charles Doring, President of Maryland Academy of General Dentistry

Mr. Bialek introduced Dr. Doring. Dr. Doring graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland, the first dental school in the area. He is Chair of the Maryland State Dental Association Foundation (MSDAF). He has a practice in North Bethesda. Dr. Doring has a special interest in treating the mentally and physically challenged patients, and regularly goes to nursing homes to provide dental services for the elderly population. He finds working with elderly patients both interesting and rewarding. His first question upon starting his presentation was, "What could an advisory commission do to further oral health?" Following are some highlights from his presentation.

- Montgomery and Prince George's counties make up the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Maryland State Dental Association Foundation. The Chapter has 2,500 active dentists.
- Maryland State mandates that dental schools be self-sufficient.
- The Maryland Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (MFDH) created a program, Donated Dental Services (DDS), where volunteer dentists throughout the state donate their services and dental laboratories at discounted rates.
- In the past 26 years MFDH, DDS has provided care for over 9,000 patients.
- The Mission of Mercy (MOM) is a Catholic charity that works with other charitable organizations to provide oral health care. MOM travels to various sites throughout the state offering clinics to patients in need of dental services.
- Emergency Care Dental Care
 - Generally, when patients show up at emergency rooms with dental problems, they are seen, triaged, given pain medication, and sent home. This is very costly.
 - Current costs to the Medicaid Program for treating "divertible" patients in the emergency department is \$8.4 million in one year.
 - An effective statewide diversion program could save Maryland Medicaid \$4 million per year.
- Community Action Dental Program
 - Frederick County engaged in a pilot project. Patients who show up at the emergency room with dental problems are diverted and sent to a dentist. The dentist has agreed to use a reduced fee schedule and is committed to seeing the patient within 24 hours.
- Maryland State Dental Association Foundation (MSDAF)
 - MSDAF is developing a tool kit. This includes providing education to teams of dentist's, dental hygienists, and registered dental assistants on working in long term care facilities.
 - Dental education is provided to long term care staff.
 - MSDAF has to be resourceful when providing dental services to long care facilities, as many do not have dental clinics. The dentists will provide treatment in their offices, by using portable equipment, or with a mobile van.
- Barriers to Care for the Elderly
 - Some of the barriers to care for the elderly include transportation, psychological illnesses, financial arrangements, limited dental professionals in long term care centers, and dental problems not being identified. Dental students are now required to take a course on how to write proper prescriptions and get rid of narcotics. Prescriptions for narcotics that are filled go in a database in three days. This helps to cut down on narcotics abuse.
- Financial resources are a big problem when it comes to developing new programs.

3.0 Report of Officers

- **3.1 Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Dan Russ made a motion to approve the February 2015 Commission on Health (COH) meeting minutes. Dr. Hawkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously by voice consent.

- **3.2 Upcoming Meetings** – Chair Ron Bialek stated that the COH's next meetings will be held on April 16 and May 21, 2015.

4.0 General Discussion

- Enrollment is down in the Montgomery Cares program for uninsured adults this year, due to several factors, possibly including more people gaining insurance under the Affordable Care Act. The number of primary care visits per person is also trending downward.
- Dr. Kaplan observed that when the electronic health record was implemented in the clinics the number of patient visits decreased.
- COH members expressed interest in learning more about the reasons for the decline in Montgomery Cares enrollment.

5.0 New Business

- Dr. Modin asked if it was possible to do a virtual COH meeting. Staff said that this is not practical at this time, and a purely virtual meeting (only through technology) is not permitted under the Open Meetings Act.
- COH members discussed whether they would like to send a letter of support for the Montgomery Cares' Advisory Board's (MCAB) FY16 budget recommendations. It was noted that last year a letter was sent concerning Oral Health and Behavioral Health funds. Wayne Swann suggested that there could be a similar letter this year in support of Montgomery Cares budget recommendations. Doreen Kelly said that the MCAB recommendations needed to be shared with the COH ahead of the next meeting under the 72 hour rule, and a motion would be needed in order to send a letter from the COH. Mr. Swann said he would send information to the COH.
- Dr. Hawkins said that she would follow up with the Dental Workgroup in case they want to have a follow up conference call with Dr. Doring, if there were any further questions they had about the oral health issues he raised. Dr. Doring agreed to share his power point presentation with the COH.
- The Data Workgroup said it is starting to get a grasp of the challenges encountered with the implementation of the new HHS electronic medical record.

6.0 Workgroup Sessions

There were no workgroup sessions held at this meeting. However, Chair Ron Bialek invited everyone to stay after the meeting ended to see a few slides of his recent trip to Cuba. There were slides of Cuba health care clinics and Mr. Bialek explained how health care in Cuba is administered.

7.0 Adjournment - Dr. Russ motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Targum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services

**Public Health Services
Chief's Report
February 2015**

SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS

- Under its Montgomery Cares contract, PCC has contracted with an outside entity to conduct a Montgomery Cares patient experience survey. A total of 852 patients have been surveyed to date. Among those surveyed so far, 97.2% of patients would recommend their clinic site to family and friends. Surveys will continue through the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY15.
- Quality assurance site visits were conducted in the fall of 2014 at those Montgomery Cares provider organizations that are not subject to another external review. All ten organizations that were reviewed were found to be operating strong programs, and numerous achievements and best practices were cited. Challenges remain, and the reviewers offered recommendations to address the remaining issues.
- In celebration of Children's Dental Health month, the Dental program has launched its first new preventive component in over a decade. With funding from a State grant, the program is now able to provide custom mouth guards for student athletes to prevent injuries to the mouth and teeth that are painful and expensive to treat. In the first two weeks, the program provided educational sessions for 35 people and actual mouth guards for 14 students at no cost to the client. Please spread the word!
- Community Food Rescue Contract - In 2014, 11 food recovery organizations rescued an estimated 3.4 million pounds of food, valued at \$8.8 million. In addition, growingSOUL composted 635,000 pounds of food and Manna Food Center redirected 65,000 pounds of food to feed local farm animals. (Community Food Rescue aggregated data from 11 self-reporting hunger relief organizations.)
- A February snowstorm cancelled a Montgomery County Public School meeting where 300 lbs. of pastries and fresh fruit were to be served. Within 10 minutes, a posted notice to the Community Food Rescue members redirected the food to Julie's Pantry that distributed it to their clients

HOT SPOTS

- Care for Kids enrollment continues to increase, and a shortfall of \$124,000 is anticipated for FY15. While a resolution to the funding shortfall is being developed, PCC has been instructed to continue to enroll and serve new CFK patients and cancel plans for the establishment of a wait list for new entrants. PCC has forecast that all FY15 funds will be fully expended by April 30, 2015.

UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES

School Health Services

- School Health Services, with support from Public Health Services Emergency Preparedness, trained School Community Health Nurses and School Health Room Technicians in donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPEs) following the Centers for Disease

Control's (CDC) guidance for ambulatory care centers. Two PPE kits are being distributed to each Montgomery County Public School health room.

Immunization Program

- The Immunization program welcomed Cecile Taylor, Community Health Nurse as the new Hepatitis B Coordinator. The program also welcomed Caroline Tcheufo & Tania Jeanty (Per Diem Roving Nurses). The outreach staff concluded 20% of the private school's record surveillance with 98% compliance rate.

HIV/STD

- Melvin Cauthen, Social Work Supervisor of HIV Client Services and Barbara Golding, Community Health Nurse in HIV Medical Services appeared in the winter 2015 issue of *Nursing Forum* – The Magazine of the University of Maryland, School of Nursing. They provided an overview of HHS's HIV program and the Social Work and Nursing roles within it, to students from the University of Maryland at Shady Grove as part of the internship training program.

TB/Refugee

- The Refugee Health program received a monitoring visit from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) on Tuesday, February 20, 2015. One representative from the State Refugee Health Program and three representatives from ORR came to the DAHC to review the program.
- The Tuberculosis Control Program's final count for cases reported in calendar year 2014 is 59 (7 more than the previous year). This count was updated/adjusted by DHMH.
- DHMH monthly chart reviews with the Tuberculosis Control Program started on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. This is a new State TBCP process that will take place via conference call in addition to the DHMH on-site quarterly cohort reviews in all regional jurisdictions.

Montgomery Cares

- Montgomery Cares continues to experience a rate of utilization below the level anticipated for FY15. At the end of the first seven months of the Fiscal Year (1/31/15), utilization was at 47% for the year, rather than the "benchmark" level of 58%.