

Approved: June 18, 2015

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH**

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2015

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Mitchell Berger, Ron Bialek, Brenda Brooks, Ilana Cohen, Michelle Hawkins, Alan Kaplan, Sheela Modin, Marcia Pruzan, Daniel Russ, Tonya Saffer, Wayne Swann, Shari Targum, Bridget Ware

Members Absent: Kathy Ghiladi, Graciela Jaschek, Pierre-Marie Longkeng, Linda McMillan, Rose Marie Martinez, Ashraf Sufi, Ulder Tillman

Staff Present: Doreen Kelly, Helen Lettlow, 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 6:13 p.m.

**2.0 Reports of Officers**

**2.1 Approval of Minutes**

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

**2.2 Next Meetings**

The Chair reminded commissioners that the next COH meetings will be June 18 and July 16 2015, and there will be no meeting in August 2015.

**2.3 Appointment of Nominating Committee Members**

Mr. Swann and Mr. Berger volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee for the COH officers. The Chair thanked them for volunteering and officially appointed them. Members who are interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair or others who wish to nominate someone for these positions should contact Mr. Swann or Mr. Berger. Elections will take place at the June meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

**2.4 Appointment of Membership Committee Members**

Chair Bialek appointed Dr. Russ, Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Jaschek to serve on the Membership Committee to review resumes and interview new applicants for the Commission. Ms. Kelly noted that the COH recruitment notice for new members typically comes out from the Office of the County Executive during May, and then prospective members are interviewed in June. However, all these notices for boards and commissions are running late this year. This means there will not be new members for some time. She reminded COH members that voting members remain voting members until they are replaced; and she encouraged members to keep attending during the next few months even if they may have decided to step down or not seek a second term. Otherwise, it could become difficult to keep reaching quorum until new members are appointed and confirmed. Ms. Kelly noted that there will be a new online application for

new members and for those seeking second terms. The information about the online application will be shared with members along with the COH Recruitment notice as soon as it is available.

### **3.0 COH Retreat**

Chair Bialek thanked Dr. Kaplan for his assistance in obtaining the same conference room as last year's successful retreat at Ingleside at King Farm. The date for the event is October 15, 2015 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Chair asked for volunteers to join him and staff for the Retreat Planning Committee. He appointed the following volunteers: Ms. Brooks, Dr. Hawkins, Mr. Mitchell, and Dr Russ. For one focus of the retreat, he suggested that the Commission could discuss the COH enabling legislation and any potential for updating it or recommending changes to the authority or mission of the COH. He also noted that members of the COH could suggest other focus areas of interest.

### **4.0 Council Action on Oral Health**

Chair Bialek said that the COH letter recommending additional FY2016 funding for oral health services was sent to the County Council and was included in their information packet. He thanked the members who had contributed to writing the excellent letter. He said that the final Council votes on the FY2016 Budget were today. They approved additional funding of \$182,000 for one of the Montgomery Cares clinics' dental services, plus an additional \$100,000 for the Montgomery County Dental Program services, which are not limited to the uninsured Montgomery Cares clients, and are therefore available to insured low income adults, such as those with Medicaid, who lack dental insurance.

### **5.0 PHS Chief's Report**

Dr. Helen Lettlow, Deputy Health Officer, gave the Chief's Report in Dr. Tillman's absence. The full report is attached to these minutes. She discussed the following issues:

- Following the successful rollout of the electronic Dental Record in October and the EHR go-live with the School Based Health and Wellness Centers in January, the rest of Public Health went live on the EHR at the end of April.
- In FY15, 3,500 individuals were served by Dental Services. Moving forward Montgomery County would like to create a more family friendly model for dental services.
- Maternity Partnership has experienced a surge in enrollment during the months of March and April.
- Due to ACA eligibility and failure of some people to renew in a timely manner, HIV Services has seen an unusually large influx of new intakes over the past month.
- 212 travelers from Ebola endemic countries entered Montgomery County during April and were actively monitored.
- Care for Kids enrollment continues to increase. \$125,000 in additional funds has been added to the FY15 budget.
- Montgomery Cares continues to experience a rate of utilization below the anticipated level for FY15.
- The FY16 HHS approved budget increased by \$4.4 million from FY15. There was increased funding for Care for Kids and oral health services, and several "puts and takes" to add funds to some aspects of the Montgomery Cares program, while reducing funding for other aspects of the program with a net decrease primarily reflecting reduced enrollment. Opening of a new school based health center will be delayed due to funding reduction. There is approximately \$6 million dollars for community grants for organizations serving HHS clients.

- There was some discussion of the loss of the Wynne case which will cause loss of funds to the County over several years. The impact to HHS programs is not clear.

## **6.0 New Business**

HHS is currently accepting suggestions for State legislation that they recommend that the County support for the next Maryland General Assembly session in 2016. The first step of the process is to fill out a form, which if approved by the COH is then sent to the Director of HHS and afterwards may be forwarded to the County's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. This is an opportunity for the COH to give input. Discussion followed regarding recommendations on legislation.

- Mr. Bialek said the COH may want to revisit a previous COH recommendation for a BMI bill for obesity data purposes and he would complete that form.
- Dr. Hawkins and others discussed a bill to increase tobacco tax. Dr. Hawkins offered to fill out the form for the tobacco legislation.
- Mr. Swann would like to see a bill requiring health plans to offer oral health for adults. He offered to fill out the form for new legislation concerning oral health plans being offered to adults.
- These forms need to be shared in advance of the next meeting so they can be discussed by the full COH. If approved by the COH, they are due to DHHS the day after the COH June meeting.

Mr. Bialek raised the possibility of recommending to the County Executive and County Council that the COH and other County Boards and Commissions go on a one year hiatus in light of the County's fiscal situation and continued hiring freezes. He expressed that while the Boards and Commissions play important roles in the County, there is considerable time devoted to these Boards and Commissions by County staff. A hiatus might allow County staff to assume vital responsibilities where staff vacancies exist and these positions cannot be filled due to the hiring freeze. Mr. Bialek said he would welcome emails expressing members' opinions on this idea. Discussion followed. Dr. Kaplan said he is concerned that doing this may make the County feel there is no need for the COH. Dr. Lettlow does not think staffing pressures are sufficient grounds for a COH hiatus. She said the work and voice of COH is worth the burden on the staff, as evidenced by the success of the COH input encouraging the Council's increase for oral health funding.

## **7.0 Workgroup Sessions**

The Chair suggested members break out into their workgroups. After discussion ended, members reviewed a few items occurring from the discussion.

- The Oral Health Workgroup drafted a short thank you letter to the Council for approving an increase in funding for oral health services.
- Mr. Swann said his workgroup recommended that the COH invite Jean Hochron, the Montgomery County Administrator for Healthcare for the Uninsured Programs, be invited to a future COH meeting to discuss Montgomery Cares 2.0., the future vision for the Montgomery Cares program.

## **8.0 Adjournment**

Dr. Kaplan motioned to adjourn the meeting and Michelle Hawkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

## **Respectfully Submitted:**

Doreen Kelly, Administrator, Public Health Services

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

**SUCSESSES AND GOOD NEWS**

- Following the successful roll out of the electronic Dental Record in October and the eHR go-live with the School Based Health and Wellness Centers in January, the rest of Public Health went live on the electronic Health Record at the end of April and it was the most successful roll out to date.
- The Montgomery Cares program has launched an initiative entitled "Montgomery Cares 2.0" to undertake strategic efforts to position the program for the future. A Montgomery Cares 2.0 Steering Committee is considering policy recommendations regarding the development of an Enrollment Program for patient eligibility, entrance, and engagement. Following a vetting process, the recommendations of the Steering Committee will be provided to the DHHS Director in early June.
- Collaboration continues with Special Needs Housing and the leadership of the Interagency Commission on Homelessness regarding the establishment of a medical respite care facility at a location in Derwood. Adventist Health has indicated an interest in helping support the program, and a visit to the site with Terry Forde of AHC took place on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Through the first nine months of FY 15, the Dental Services program has seen over 3,500 individuals, representing 86% of the number of patients forecast for the entire Fiscal Year.

**HOT SPOTS**

- Maternity Partnership has experienced a surge in enrollment during the months of March and April, well in excess of prior years. It is anticipated that the program will require additional funds in order to meet the demand for services. DHHS leadership has approved the addition of \$99,695 to the MP FY15 budget to serve 127 additional patients through the end of June.
- HIV Services has seen an unusually large influx of new intakes over the past month due to individuals having issues with ACA eligibility (failure to renew in a timely way, failure to submit insurance bills to MADAP). As a result we currently have 15 + clients awaiting medical assessment.

**UPDATES ON KEY ISSUES**

**Disease Control**

- Disease Control Program nurses conducted 26 animal bite investigations (of which 8 were children) and 41 case investigations (including 3 pertussis investigations). No outbreak investigations occurred during the month of April (following 25 outbreak investigations in long care facilities during the months of Jan through March). 212 (209 LOW but not zero risk and 3 SOME Risk) travelers from Ebola endemic countries ( 45% traveled from Liberia, 30% from Sierra Leone, and 25% from Guinea) entered Montgomery County during April and were actively monitored. Disease Control Program provided direct active monitoring for the travelers with SOME Risk. As of April 30<sup>th</sup> 1,018 travelers from Ebola endemic countries have been monitored in Montgomery County.

#### TB Control

- CHN position posted on County website (closed 5/2/15, rating in process)

#### L&R – Healthcare Facilities

- The Nursing Home and Assisted Living nurses and Montgomery County providers participated in the Montgomery County Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) Bulk Distribution Full Scale Exercise on April 22, 2015. The scenario for this exercise was that Anthrax had been detected in the County. After notification was sent from the Nurse Administrator in Licensure & Regulatory Services to every nursing home and assisted living facility regarding the "Anthrax detection," representatives from the facilities arrived at the designated Closed POD to pick up medications to distribute to their residents, staff and their families. The distribution to all facilities was completed within 4 hours with 94% of facilities participating.

#### L&R - Environmental Health

- L&R Environmental Health staff was instrumental in assisting DHMH with identification, sampling and quarantine of a dangerous Chinese medicinal supplement containing high levels of lead contamination. The actions of DHMH and Montgomery County resulted in a national FDA import advisory.

#### 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.

#### Montgomery Cares

- Montgomery Cares continues to experience a rate of utilization below the level anticipated for FY 15. At the end of the first nine months of the Fiscal Year (3/31/15), utilization was at 60% for the year, rather than the "benchmark" level of 75%.