



Montgomery County Commission on Health



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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Commission on Health FY22 Annual Report

The Commission on Health (COH) respectfully submits its Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Annual Report. Working with the County's leadership as well as the dedicated, professional, and conscientious staff of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the COH focused on several key public health issues over the past year. The COH also provided recommendations to county leadership and DHHS staff on improving county resident health and well-being.

In FY22, the COH had two priority areas related to communicable disease and school health. In addition, we articulated two principles to guide our work—our commitment to identifying, addressing, and correcting racial disparities in Montgomery County and to basing decisions on timely and reliable data.

Consistent with those priorities and goals, we submitted several letters to the County Executive and County Council, advocating for greater staff capacity to collect, compile, and analyze data; and advising on steps to reduce sexually transmitted infections in the County. We also focused on the County's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate DHHS staff's robust and comprehensive efforts to slow transmission and to keep the COH informed. We were also deeply troubled to learn about the harassment faced by public health officials who were working to protect the public's health and wrote a letter in support of a state law to penalize that unacceptable behavior.

It has been an honor to serve as the chair of the COH during FY22. The Commission is comprised of 19 dedicated and very accomplished professionals who willingly volunteer their time and knowledge to leave a lasting positive effect on DHHS and Montgomery County Residents. The Commission also benefits from the expertise of ex-officio DHHS members and support from DHHS staff and liaisons from other commissions. The COH respectfully submits the attached FY22 Annual Report and looks forward to continued work and collaboration to improve public health and advise the County Council and County Executive.

Jessica Kronstadt, MPP
Chair, Commission on Health

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 2021 through June 2022.

**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**

County Code Enabling Legislation Sec. 24-24. Functions

To advise the County Executive and the County Council, the Commission must:

1. Periodically review available County public health programs, services, and facilities;
2. Comment on gaps, deficiencies, or duplication in County public health programs, services, and facilities;
3. Report each year to the County Executive on the performance of DHHS public health programs, actions needed to improve the programs, and the priorities within which the improvements should be made;
4. Comment on the proposed allocation of funds to County public health programs in accordance with the Department's priorities, considering the available financial resources and the need for health cost containment;
5. Advise on local public health planning needs;
6. Comment on the appropriateness of institutional health services proposed to be offered in the County and the metropolitan area by the private sector and nonprofit, state, or other public sector agencies;
7. Advise on the development of statewide criteria and standards for certificates of need and health planning, considering the regional impact when appropriate.
8. The Commission must report to and meet with the County Council, sitting as the County Board of Health, at least annually, on the programs and policies within its purview.

Structure

The Commission is comprised of 19 voting members with representation from consumers and providers of health services in the County. As dictated by County Code, the COH also has a representative from the Montgomery County Medical Society. In accordance with County Code the majority of the 19 commissioners were consumers with the balance being providers, including the Medical Society representative. The ex officio (non-voting) members of the COH include: the County Health Officer, currently filled by the Deputy 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.

Membership consisted of 19 members who were racially and ethnically diverse and vary in age, gender, geography and experience in health policy, public health, and the health care system.

The COH Chair and Vice Chair are elected by COH members and serve one-year terms. During FY22 Jessica Kronstadt was the Chair of the Commission and Crystal DeVance-Wilson was the Vice Chair.



Meetings

The COH meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month (except in August). All meetings are open to the general public. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the COH met monthly via the virtual meeting platform Zoom during the entire 2022 fiscal year. Virtual meetings are planned for the beginning of FY23. However, when in person meetings resume they will take place at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

At a minimum, every member of the Commission is expected to either serve on one workgroup and, when possible, as a liaison to other health-related County boards, commissions, committees or minority health initiatives and 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, interest or constituency of public health and are therefore encouraged to serve as liaisons with other relevant health-related boards, commissions and committees (BCCs). 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.

FY22 MEMBERSHIP

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Jonathan Arias, PhD
Alana Aronin, MPH
Elliott Brown, MS
Christopher Burt, MPH, MBA, MS
Marcela Campoli, PhD, MHA
Desiree de la Torre, MPH, MBA
Sarah Galbraith-Emami, JD, MPH
Susan Emery, MS
Kendra Harris, MBA
Jessica Kronstadt, MPP
Gabriela Lemus, PhD
Adam Lustig
Amy Gyau-Moyer, MS, MBA
Jelani Murrain, JD, MHSA

PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Crystal DeVance-Wilson, PhD, MBA, PHCNS-BC
Nadia Hashimi, MD
Brittne Jackson, DPT, MPH
Terri McGuire, PA, MHSc, MPH
Rosemary Payne, MSN, RN

MEDICAL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

Brent Berger, MD

FY22 MEMBERSHIP

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

James C. Bridgers, Jr., PhD, MBA, Deputy Health Officer, DHHS

Cara Grant, EdD, Supervisor, Health and Physical Education, MCPS

Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council

Tara Clemons, Legislative Analyst, Montgomery County Council (alternate)

STAFF

Robyn Simmons, MSA, Program Manager, DHHS

Felicia Hugee, MPH, Program Manager, DHHS

Magda Brown, Office Services Coordinator, DHHS

MEET THE MEMBERS

Jonathan Arias

Jonathan is a Health Science Administrator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, where he helps the organization identify and invest in transformative biomedical research efforts to improve human health. Prior to joining the NIH, he was a professor at the University of Maryland College Park where he studied protective biological responses to environmental toxins. He has served as a scientific expert on Federal advisory committees on food safety and human health and has a long record of service aimed at improving public education. He received his M.S. at Purdue University and Ph.D. at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Alana Aronin

Alana is President of Forte Group Consulting, a consulting firm specializing in public policy, community organizing, and public relations services for the broad range of public health interests. She has extensive experience in training advocates to create change at all levels of policy and building grassroots mobilizations to advance public health agendas. Alana has a MPH from The University of Michigan, and an undergraduate degree in Public Policy from James Madison College of Michigan State University.

Brent Berger

Brent is an internist with Bethesda Medical Associates, a primary care practice with a focus on prevention and wellness. A native of Montgomery County, he has been practicing here since 1990, and is on the staff at Suburban Hospital. Brent received his BA from Johns Hopkins University and his MD from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Elliott Brown

Elliott is George Washington University Hospital's Associate Administrator. In that role, he oversees support and ancillary services at the hospital. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration, with a minor in Public Health, from George Washington University and his Master of Science in Health Systems Administration from Georgetown University. Elliott also served as an EMT in Montgomery County for more than 10 years.

Christopher Burt

Chris serves as a Special Volunteer of the Health Inequities and Global Health Branch within the Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science (CTRIS) at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). Chris' academic background includes a B.S. in Social Science from Indiana University, M.S. in Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania, M.B.A in Applied Management from Indiana Wesleyan University and a M.P.H. in Epidemiology and Emergency Management from Benedictine University, Lisle, IL.

Marcela Campoli

Marcela is the ANCC (American Nurse Credentialing Center) Director of the Institute for Credentialing Research and Quality Management, and Lead Coach and Member of Georgetown University's Bias Reduction Improvement Committee pursuing improved commitment against biases of all types and increased racial Equity. In the community, she serves as pro-bono President of Cares4Health's Board of Directors, an organization providing access to high-quality health care to

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immigrants and uninsured individuals in general. She holds a doctorate in health economics, a master's degree in health administration, and a baccalaureate degree in business administration (BBA). She is certified by the American Society of Quality as a Quality Improvement/Performance Manager, and completed a WHO/PAHO International Health residency.

Desiree de la Torre

Desiree is the Director of Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement for Children's National Health System in Washington, DC. She leads the organization's population health improvement planning process, including support for community-based organizations, health equity, and compliance with federal community benefit regulations. She received a BS degree in Psychobiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, a MPH from Boston University, and a MBA from The Johns Hopkins University.

Crystal DeVance-Wilson

Dr. Crystal DeVance-Wilson is a board-certified public health clinical nurse specialist with 30 years of experience working in acute and community settings with diverse populations. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing where she teaches in the graduate and undergraduate programs. She is also the Assistant Director of the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center which addresses issues affecting Maryland nurses, nursing students, schools of nursing, and healthcare organizations. Dr. DeVance-Wilson has held leadership positions in several community organizations and is also a member of several national organizations including the Association for Public Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE), American Public Health Association (APHA) and Sigma Theta Tau (STT). Dr. DeVance-Wilson's research interests include Black men's health, health policy and health disparities.

Susan Emery

Susan is a retired engineer who worked in Computer Science and Telecommunications Management for 30 years. Fifteen years ago, she founded a Montgomery County nonprofit organization, Circle of Rights, Inc., dedicated to preventing stroke. Circle of Rights has presented in multiple languages on blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, healthy eating, and healthy living in public facilities throughout Montgomery County. Susan received a BS from Michigan State University and an MS from University of Maryland/University College.

Sarah Galbraith-Emami

Sarah has spent over 15 years working in issues around international and comparative health law and policy for the World Health Organization and other international organizations. She currently works as a senior consultant in tobacco product regulation for WHO and teaches as an adjunct faculty at American University. Sarah received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Amy Gyau-Moyer

Amy is a Senior Program Manager for Community Health at Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States where she is responsible for leading targeted public health initiatives inclusive of Kaiser Permanente's food security portfolio, strategy for effective community health communications, health policy advocacy and local community-based initiatives. With over two decades of experience in the healthcare, social and human services arenas, she has facilitated public health initiatives for nonprofit

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and government organizations centered around mitigating health disparities. Amy holds an MS in Management and Public Relations in addition to an MBA both obtained from the University of Maryland. Her undergraduate studies focused on Healthcare Administration at the Washington Adventist University.

Nadia Hashimi

Nadia is a pediatrician, an internationally bestselling author, and public speaker. She is a member of the US-Afghan Women's Council, a member of the Gaithersburg Book Festival organizing committee, and board member of Aschiana Foundation, Sahar Education for Girls and Kallion. She graduated from Brandeis University with a BA in Biology and Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. She obtained her medical degree from SUNY Downstate.

Kendra Harris

Kendra is a medical liaison where she is directly responsible for overseeing the development, coordination, and execution of The Living Legacy Foundations programmatic efforts to increase and raise awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation. Prior to joining The Living Legacy Foundation, she worked as a Licensed Funeral Director in Silver Spring, MD. Kendra received a B.S. in Biology from Norfolk State University, an A.S in Mortuary Science from Gupton Jones College of Funeral Service and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland University College. She is committed to serving her community and advocating for the citizens of Montgomery County.

Jessica Kronstadt

Jessica is the Vice President for Program, Research and Evaluation at the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). In this role, she oversees the administration of the national health department accreditation program, as well as efforts to evaluate the program and promote research relevant to accreditation.

Gabriela Lemus

Dr. Lemus is a passionate advocate for the Latinx community at the intersection of social justice and economic growth. Her career spans more than 15 years in senior strategic leadership roles in congressional and government affairs, non-profit management, policy advocacy and community/civic-engagement. She joined Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) as the founding Executive Director in 2020 after launching – Revolution Strategy US - a management and communications strategy consultancy where she advised clients best practices for building multi-racial coalitions and advocacy campaigns, advancing public policy and civic engagement. In her first year as Executive Director of MLU, she also co-founded and administers the Mid-Atlantic Latinx Vaccine Equity Coalition (MALVEC). She is an innovator in voter engagement and civic participation for the Latino community.

Adam Lustig, MS

Mr. Lustig is a population health expert with experience leading and supporting advocacy, research, and partner building efforts to improve health and well-being in communities across the United States. He has served as a lead investigator, project director, strategist and analyst on a variety of projects designed.

MEET THE MEMBERS

to create, test, and advance evidence-based policies in health care, public health, and life sciences. Mr. Lustig has managed and supported multi-sector collaborative efforts for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and other philanthropic partners

Rosemary Payne

Rosemary is a federal government employee with more than seven years of federal service between two agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services. She has seventeen years of nursing leadership within both federal and civilian healthcare enterprises. She has nursing leadership and public health experience in biomedical research, mental health and addictions, HIV/AIDS, correctional health, and emergency medicine and parish nursing. She was a past member of the American Psychiatric Nursing Association. Rosemary is a Registered Nurse with a Master of Science in Nursing from Morgan State University.

Commission on Health Priorities

Following the Commission on Health Annual Retreat held September 9, 2021, the Commission set two priorities for FY22.

- Communicable Disease
- School Health

Underlying all the Commission's work and recommendations is a commitment to using an equity lens and basing decisions on reliable and timely data.



Commission Correspondence

The Commission on Health sent the following letters during Fiscal Year 2022:

- Letter to the County Council in Support of Expedited Bill 34-2, Personnel and Human Resources - COVID-19 Vaccination Required, October 2021.
- Letter to the County Executive advocating for Data and Public Health Modernization, November 2021.
- Letter to the Maryland State Senate expressing COH support for Senate Bill 298 Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member, February 2022.
- Letter to the County Council and County Executive expressing concerns and suggestions in support of the County's ongoing effort to address sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the County, March 2022.
- Letter to the County Council President advocating for Data and Public Health Modernization, April 2022.

Commission on Health Testimonies

The Commission on Health testified at the following forums:

- Presentation to the County Council sitting as the Board of Health on November 9, 2021.
- County Council HHS Committee Work Session for HHS Boards, Committees and Commissions on November 15, 2021.
- BCC Chairs meeting with HHS Director Dr. Raymond Crowel on April 11, 2022, to discuss COH priorities and ongoing operations.

Commission on Health Liaisons

Board, Committee or Commission	Liaison
African American Health Program (AAHP)	Crystal DeVance -Wilson
Commission on Children Youth and Families	Jonathan Arias
Commission on People with Disabilities (CPWD)	Susan Emery
Commission on Veterans Affairs	Rosemary Payne
Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee	Christopher Burt
Latino Health Initiative (LHI)	Marcela Campoli
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board (MCAB)	Sarah Emami
School Health Council	Alana Aronin

Commission on Health Committees

Membership Committee

Marcela Campoli
Kendra Harris

Nominating Committee

Marcela Campoli
Desiree de la Torre

Retreat Planning Committee

Crystal DeVance-Wilson
Jessica Kronstadt
Desiree de la Torre

Commission on Health Workgroups

Communicable Disease

Sarah Emami and Rosemary Payne.

Governance

Sarah Emami (Chair), Marcela Campoli, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Jessica Kronstadt, Elliott Brown, and Jonathan Arias.

Racial Equity

Marcela Campoli (Chair), Chris Burt, and Amy Gyau-Moyer.

School Health

Desiree de la Torre (Co-chair), Brent Berger (Co-chair), Alana Aronin, and Kendra Harris.

Commission on Health Workgroups Summary Reports

Governance

The Governance Workgroup focused on ensuring the Commission on Health is well-positioned to fulfill its functions. To this end, the workgroup requested and reviewed documentation from DHHS, including the strategic plan for Public Health Services. We also held a meeting with former ex-officer member and County Council Senior Legislative Analyst Linda McMillan and arranged for the new Council Senior Legislative Analyst Essie McGuire to present to the full Commission to ensure an understanding of the budget process and how the Commission could most effectively provide input into that process. Similarly, the County's DHHS Director, Dr. Raymond Crowel, was invited to speak at the June meeting to provide an overview of DHHS priorities to help inform the Commission's determination of priorities for the next fiscal year.

Racial Equity

During Fiscal Year 2022 the Commission on Health had a collective approach to helping eliminate racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone living in Montgomery County. Commissioners analyzed policies, practices, systems, and structures with an intentional and continual practice of a racial equity framework. By prioritizing discussions and conversations around measurable changes in the lives of minorities and people of color, the Commission not only held itself accountable but ensured that everyone shared these understandings, and the Department treated the issue as a top priority.

Commission on Health Workgroups Summary Reports

School Health

The School Health workgroup of the Montgomery County Commission on Health focused on bringing new light to critical public health issues that have plagued our students. One area of particular concern was STI rates among the Montgomery County's teens and young adults. As a result, the COH requested additional data including an update from the Communicable Diseases program.

The Commission on Health received a presentation from Melvin Cauthen on "STIs in Montgomery County" in January 2022, highlighting the unacceptably high rates of STIs in student-age Montgomery County residents. Of particular concern is the disparity in STI rates, with BIPOC population rates nearly double that of white Montgomery County residents. In February 2022, the Commission on Health prepared and sent a letter to the Montgomery County Council advocating for additional interventions to reduce STI rates in Montgomery County president in February 2022.

The School Health workgroup is also represented at the School Health Council meeting where services and programming across the spectrum of physical and mental health in Montgomery County Public Schools are monitored. Full re-opening of health services and staffing of school health centers in MCPS, school closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic continue to be an important topic for key stakeholders. Other topics of considerations include nutrition/food services, vaccination clinics, environmental studies including drinking water safety, and availability of mental health services.

The School Health workgroup monitored the status of COVID-19 and its impact on health and education. Our efforts focused on reviewing access to vaccines and distribution to communities of most need. With an increased attention in the community on violence, the School Health workgroup reviewed current data and reports related to youth and community violence and met with County Council President Gabe Albornoz's staff that also indicated community violence as a priority. Both these issues are important for monitoring in the year ahead.

Montgomery County Commission on Health

Commission on Health
1401 Rockville Pike
2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20852

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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



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



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel
Director

The County Executive and County Council encourage 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 by the County Executive, with confirmation by the County Council.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html>