

Draft Introduced: August 22, 2017
Approved: September 21, 2017

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2017

401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Members Present: Brandie Armijo, Sean Bailey, Mitchell Berger, Laura Boyle, Marla Caplon, Ilana Cohen, Maya Das, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Kathy Mann Koepke, Jessica Kronstadt, Pierre Marie Longkeng, Linda McMillan, Susan Milstein, Sheela Modin, Daniel Russ, and Tonya Saffer.

Members Absent: Brenda Brooks, Stacey Burton Dey Foy, Graciela Jaschek, Fabienne Santel and Bridget Ware.

Staff Present: Mark Hodge, Ellen Segal, and Karen Thompkins.

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

- Chair Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 COH Minutes and Next Meetings

- A motion to approve the June 2017 minutes was made by Dan Russ and seconded by Michelle Hawkins. The minutes were approved unanimously by voiced consent.
 - The next COH meeting will be Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Conference Room 1A and B, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. The following meeting will be the COH Retreat October 19, 2017 from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m. More details to follow.
- *Please note there is no meeting in August.**

3.0 COH Updates

- We have received 19 applications for the eight openings at COH. Interviews will take place at the end of August.
- Certificates of Appreciation were given to those who have served the Commission whose terms have ended or are no longer available to serve. COH thanks you for your service.
- Dourakine Rosarion would like to speak on the Connector Entity in September.

4.0 Public Health Services Chief's Report for May – Mark Hodge

The Chief's Report for June 2017 is attached to these minutes. A few highlights discussed included the following.

- The start date for the new Health Officer will be September 18, 2017.
- Public Health Services has applied for PHAB Accreditation and submitted the fee on July 2, 2017. This gives PHS one year to fulfill the application duties.
- Dental Services has seen an increase in the number of uninsured residents served during FY17 by 18% to 6,340 clients compared to 5,380 clients in FY16. The Department of Health and Human Services will be hiring a Dental Director hoping to alleviate some of the problem.

5.0 Liaison Reports: African American Health Program – Michelle Hawkins

- AAHP partnered with Fit Fathers for the 4th Annual Fit Father's Day celebration on June 18th. They had a DJ, fitness class, health snacks, and prizes.
- The Health Freedom Walk is a recurring event to promote increased physical activity. Participants hike on a path similar to the historic route followed by slaves in their quest for freedom.

5.1 County Council Report - Linda McMillan

- County Council will be meeting Monday. Focus will be on menu labeling. There will also be discussion on the Community Health Plan and obesity.
- The opioid crisis:
 - The County Council will be getting feedback from police and fire fighters on opioid responses.
 - The County has a rigorous testing program for their methadone program.
 - Montgomery County has a document that physicians will need to review before prescribing opioids.
 - Maryland State is sending out strict guidelines on opioid prescribing. Doctors are only permitted to prescribe a fixed number of opioids per patient.
- There is a County effort to home all chronically homeless people by next year. The County is working on underlying issues. Currently 265 people are homeless in Montgomery County.

5.2 Food & Nutrition Services Report – Marla Caplon

- The summer food program is up and running.
- There is discussion on having cupcakes and other sweets at student's birthday parties. Regulations for provision of sweets at parties are up to the individual schools. This gives the principal decision making authority.
- Healthy Montgomery: Eat Well, Be Active has decided a wellness person will be hired as a consultant.
- Wellness Councils will be formed in five schools. Eventually, there is hope all county schools will have Wellness Councils.

5.3 Veteran's Affairs – Brandie Armijo

- Fire departments will do free inspection on fire alarms.

5.4 Montgomery Cares Advisory Board – Sean Bailey

- Healthcare for the Homeless gave a presentation. Sean will send this out to COH members.
- Zika posters will be posted at bus stops throughout the County.

5.5 Healthy Montgomery – Michelle Hawkins

- Healthy Montgomery will be inventorying behavioral health.
- Health in All Policies is looking into an area off of Veirs Mill.

5.6 Mental Health Advisory Board – Jessica Kronstadt

- Mental Health Court was implemented in Montgomery County in June of 2016 and has been successful.
- There is talk about how substance abuse and mental health should be more integrated.
- Prevention strategies for mental health include no bullying and reducing stress.
- Brandi suggested looking into acupuncture to help with behavioral health and substance abuse. She pointed out that this is done within the Florida court system. In Ohio Medicaid covers acupuncture treatments.

5.7 Montgomery County Medical Society – Sheila Modin

- Montgomery County has had educational sessions on opioid addiction.
- Montgomery County Medical Society has partnered with Nexus Montgomery on a new initiative.

5.8 Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee – Maya Das

- The Committee is working on Vision Zero, to provide more vision for bicyclists.

5.9 People with Disabilities – Kathy Mann Koepke

- People with Disabilities is beginning to discuss budget proposals.
- The Committee is off for the summer.

6.0 New Business – Retreat Planning – October 19, 2017 from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Our retreat committee members are Tonya Saffer, Michelle Hawkins, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochain, and Sean Bailey. There was discussion concerning shortening the retreat, but it was decided to keep the retreat at five hours.

Discussion on presentations and topics:

- Tonya Saffer would like to approach getting new topics by finding gaps in county health care using data. She would like to bring in a speaker from the county.
- Susan Milstein mentioned brainstorming and looking at gaps. Perhaps they could do brainstorming at the retreat.
- Sean Bailey mentioned picking one issue as an umbrella.
- Lenna Israbian-Jamgochain mentioned keeping the ideas practical and attainable.
- COH is interested in finding out the new Health Officer's priority. It is also thought that the Health Officer may have fresh ideas stemming from prior positions.
- It was suggested that the Community Health Needs Assessment would be a good way of finding topics for this upcoming year.
- Discussion on metrics; Chunfu is working on evaluating what we will do moving forward.
- Mark Hodge mentioned we need measures in place to improve on quality.

7.0 Break into Workgroups – Workgroup Reports

Health Literacy

- The group has been exploring two areas of health literacy in the county. One is the communication among the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services front facing employees. It is felt these staff members should complete training to improve health literacy communication skills.
- Health Literacy workgroup recommends that outreach partners and navigators enroll in the University of Maryland Smart Choice Program to enhance literacy and knowledge of residents in the community.
- The DHHS is now requiring that all community outreach partners complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's program on Health Literacy for Public Health Officials.

Health Prevention/Adolescent Obesity Prevention

- The workgroup discovered many other groups are working on this issue.
- The group would like to see more data on adolescent obesity collected. Elementary schools are beginning to collect BMI data.
- The workgroup would like to see COH support the work and collaboration of MCPS, DHHS, and other organizations in the community to prevent adolescent obesity and to promote lifelong wellness.

Men's Health

- The workgroup has gathered information and is deciding on what recommendations to make.
- On the county level, there are indications from Healthy Montgomery data that men are less likely than women to have health insurance or go to a physician for routine care.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Thompkins".

Karen Thompkins
Commission on Health