



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Brent Berger, Dr. James Bridgers, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Cara Grant, Kendra Harris, Nadia Hashimi, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Jessica Kronstadt, Terri McGuire, Linda McMillan, and Rosemary Payne, Fabienne Santel

Members Absent: Sarah Emami, Amy Gyau-Moyer

Staff Present: Vanessa Kachipande, and Christopher Rogers

Guests: Susan Emery

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order and Welcome – Jessica Kronstadt and Crystal DeVance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The COH Co-Chair welcomed members <p>The Chair provided members with an update on her meetings with the County Council and noted she had met with the County Council twice in November. On 11/9, she met with the full Council sitting as the Board of Health. On 11/15, there was a meeting with the Council's Health and Human Services Committee and the health-related boards, commissions, and councils. In both meetings, she summarized the COH's two policy priorities for this year—school health and communicable diseases—and two overarching principles—focusing on equity and being data driven.</p> <p>A few highlights from those discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Student health: Councilmember Albornoz asked if there were any recommendations for how to recruit and retain school health staff given high levels of burnout and turnover nationwide. Councilmember Rice (who chairs the committee on education and culture) thanked the COH for advocating for increasing school nurses prior to COVID. He said that he would like to come up with a comprehensive plan to address the mental health needs of studentsEquity/communicable disease: In the county, the vaccination rates among African Americans is 20 points lower than the Hispanic population. The council would like to develop a detailed plan to do targeted outreach and address vaccine hesitancy in this community. Councilmember Glass appreciated that the COH elevated the concerns about STI rates and the disparities within the county. Councilmember Jawando was particularly interested in the work of the equity workgroup	<p>Add November minutes to December's agenda for approval- <i>COH Staff</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Related to data: the Council, particularly Councilmember Albornoz was very interested in expanding the county's data capacity and suggested it might be worth having a working session this topic. <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Jonathan Arias to approve the September 9, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Brent Berger. The minutes were unanimously approved</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Brent Berger to approve the October 21, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Kendra Harris. The minutes were approved with one abstention</p>	
<p>Health Officer's Report –Dr. James Bridgers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bridgers shared his COVID-19 Vaccinations, Cases, and Testing November 17 update and noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County continues to vaccinate and provide boosters ○ The case count has gone up and based on the board of health amendment, there is an off ramp of 7 days and an on ramp of 7 days ○ Testing and vaccination continues to take place at high volumes averaging 3,500 tests per week, however, community level transmission remains at a substantial level ○ HHS started to work with the Public Health Advisory teams to find out what 2022 will look like transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic state ○ 88% of the population has received at least 1 dose and 78% has received both doses or single J&J ○ The County is working hard to get the 5–11-year-old population vaccinated. ○ The County continues to work on their equity and access framework in the Hispanic and black communities ○ The total breakthrough cases and breakthrough hospitalizations numbers have declined ○ The pediatric dose distribution plans and partnership with MCPS ○ The local health department requested 20,000 pediatric doses, 13,200 were received and 11,000 of the doses were given out during the first week since FDA approval • Dr. Bridgers explained that there was a miscalculation of the pediatric doses being administered at South Lake Elementary. He noted that a Town Hall meeting had taken place and a discussion about the efficacy of the vaccine, the vaccine error, the conversations with Pfizer to remedy any concerns, and the conversations with the Maryland department had taken place. • In response to Jessica Kronstadt's request for an update on the search for the new County Health Official Dr. Bridgers noted that interviews had taken place and the names have been sent to the County Executive for consideration 	N/A
<p>Transportation Services Improvement Fund – Co-Chair</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Desiree de la Torre to support allocation of funding for improvements or expansion of transportation services for low-income residents accessing health care programs and services operated by PHS or Community-partners. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Arias. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>	NA

<p>COH Testimony Supporting Bill 34-21 - Co-Chair</p> <p>A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Alana Aronin to ratify the letter that was previously voted on and approved. The motion was seconded by Elliott Brown. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>	NA
<p>Data and Public Health Modernization Advocacy Letter – Co-Chair</p> <p>A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Brent Berger to approve the Data and Public Health Modernization Advocacy Letter. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Arias. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>	NA
<p>FY21 Annual Report – Co-Chair</p> <p>A <u>MOTION</u> was made by Desiree de la Torre to approve the FY21 Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Rosemary Payne. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>	NA
<p>Workgroup Group Reports – All Members</p> <p>Communicable Diseases Workgroup – Rosemary Payne No report</p> <p>School Health Workgroup – Desiree de la Torre No report</p> <p>Equity Workgroup – Marcela Campoli No report</p> <p>Governance Workgroup –Jessica Kronstadt The governance group discussed the need for advocacy in support for data to make decisions related to health. The group will meet with Linda to get suggestions on how to operate as a Commission most effectively as well as with PHS staff to ensure the Commission has information on the strategic plan and/or the performance management system</p>	NA
<p>COH Liaison Updates Co-Chair/Vanessa Kachipande</p> <p>The Co-Chair brought up the vacancies for the Liaisons to Montgomery County Voluntary Advisory group and the need for representation. She encouraged members to sign up</p> <p>The Co-Chair shared her notes from the African American Health Program and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They continue to do testing • They are working with 20 churches as testing sites, and they are in the process of adding more churches • The churches are receiving a stipend for every time the African American Health Program uses it • The mobile van is doing mammograms on site, and they also have a new weight management program. They are offering more classes e.g., diabetes and yoga and they are developing a video library • They had a Veteran's Day program with representation from the County 	

<p>In response to Rosemary’s questions about the new commissioners and when they will join, Vanessa announced that the list of applicants had been received a week or two ago and noted that the process should be starting soon. She explained that they are currently in the process of lining up schedules with the membership committee</p>	
<p>Announcements</p> <p>The Co-Chair expressed her gratitude to Vanessa for all the work she did with the Commission and wished her the best in her future endeavors. Vanessa thanked everyone</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Elliott Brown to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Desiree de la Torre. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>	<p>N/A</p>