



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
December 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Alana Aronin, Dr. James Bridgers, Elliott Brown, Christopher Burt, Marcela Campoli, Desiree de la Torre, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Cara Grant, Kendra Harris, Jessica Kronstadt, Linda McMillan, Rosemary Payne

Members Absent: Brent Berger, Amy Gyau-Moyer, Nadia Hashimi, Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian, Terri McGuire, Fabienne Santel

Staff Present: Felicia Hugee, and Christopher Rogers

Guests: Susan Emery

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order and Officer Report – Jessica Kronstadt and Crystal DeVance Wilson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. The COH Chair welcomed members and provided an update on the goals for the meeting• Upcoming meetings are January 20th and February 17th. These meetings will take place virtually via Zoom.• The Chair discussed the opportunity to extend an invitation to a few speakers to join the Commission at the next meetings.• The Chair mentioned that the Governance committee had a great conversation with Linda earlier in the week and asked if there was interest in having someone join the meeting to discuss budget updates. <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Marcela Campoli to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Crystal DeVance-Wilson. The minutes were unanimously approved</p>	<p>Add December minutes to January's agenda for approval- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p>In-Person Meetings –All Commissioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The COH Chair asked members to discuss the possible return to in-person meetings. She noted that Felicia Hugee had investigated and found out that it is up to the Commission to select whether to meet in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.• There were mixed feelings regarding in-person meetings. A few members were open to meeting in-person if there was a sufficiently large space that would allow for safe social distancing, while others expressed concerns over the trends being observed in other countries and what that could mean for the US. Members also expressed desire to meeting in-person sometime in the Spring of 2022.• The Chair will check and coordinate with DHHS Staff to find additional information about spaces available and lead time needed.	

<p>MCDHHS Health Officer's Report –Dr. James Bridgers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bridgers shared his COVID-19 Vaccinations, Cases, and Testing December 15th update and noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County continues to work diligently to vaccinate and provide boosters ○ 40, 435 pediatric (5-11) dosages have been administered. 45-47% of children on this age range have received at least 1 dose and 28-31% are fully vaccinated ○ A meeting is scheduled for December 4th with the County sitting as the Board of Health to discuss indoor mask mandate and efficacy of mask wearing ○ There has been a significant increase in the number of testing and expect to see even more as we get closer to the Holidays. An average of 3,000-4,000 tests were administered weekly before the surge. The County is currently averaging about 7,000 tests per week and all data points indicate that this number will move to 8,000 tests per week ○ Covid Outbreaks are being closely monitored ○ Some of the data shared from Maryland's DHHS covered vaccine effectiveness which included CDC's recommendation to consider using Pfizer or Moderna vaccines instead of Johnson and Johnson due to the blood clotting challenges ○ There was a 41% increase at the State level in hospitalization beds ○ HHS has distributed ~15,000 Abbott Binax NOW Covid-19 rapid tests from MDH and County orders with Abbott. The County is receiving ~2,500 Take Home tests per week from MDH • Dr. Bridgers noted the cases surge in MCPS and mentioned an earlier meeting that discussed layered preventative measures, suspending extracurricular activities, and suppressing exposure. An immediate switch to a virtual platform is not recommended at this time. There is a plan in place to increase testing upon return from winter break • Dr. Bridgers also explained that the Take Home tests come with all the information for the patient to be able to self-report the results on the app • Dr. Rogers noted that he would be sending an email to all members of the COH asking if they know of any organizations that would like to receive some test kits to give out to their community residents 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Sexually Transmitted Infection Letter - Vice-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vice-Chair expressed her concerns over this issue and noted that the numbers have not decreased. She also noted that before Dr. Gayles left, he was working on a few initiatives to address STIs in the County • The Vice-Chair explained that the letter was drafted with the intent of sharing it with the County Council, The County Executive, or whoever will be in the best position to effect change in this issue • Desiree de la Torre suggested adding a sentence or two at the beginning of the letter recognizing that while most efforts have been focused around Covid-19, STIs continue to be an issue that demands attention. Jonathan suggested adding bullet points to the solutions for clarity • The most appropriate recipient of the letter would be the County Health Department or Public Health services 	<p>NA</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vice-Chair brought up the comments made by Brent Berger regarding the United States Preventative Services Task Force and their recommendation for male (13–24-year-old) screenings vs. females in the same age group and how the males were only to be tested if at risk. • Rosemary Payne noted while they may not be able to change the recommendation by the USPSTF, there is an opportunity with the communication provided within MCPS middle schools and high schools as that is the population of concern • The Chair proposed that changes are made to the letter by the January meeting for the COH to vote on • Dr. Rogers mentioned that Melvin Cauthen, the administrator over at HIV/STI will be joining the COH for the January meeting. He also noted in his opinion, the STI letter would be best directed to Public Health Services 	
<p>COH Liaison Updates <i>Vice-Chair</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Emami provided an update on the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board and noted that most of the work that has taken place over the past 2 months has been around governance which included the development of a letter that was drafted regarding membership eligibility • The Chair asked members who would like to serve as liaison, to contact her to go over any opening 	
<p>Workgroup Group Breakout sessions – Chair/Workgroup Leads</p> <p>Communicable Diseases Workgroup – Rosemary Payne Will meet separately before January’s meeting</p> <p>School Health Workgroup – Desiree de la Torre Will meet separately before January’s meeting</p> <p>Equity Workgroup – Marcela Campoli</p> <p>Governance Workgroup –Jessica Kronstadt</p>	NA
<p>Workgroup Group Report out – Chair/Workgroup Leads</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 Met with the Governance workgroup and agreed on advocating for adding a cross line of equity, diversity, and inclusion in all the data that the County and DHHS provide to the public</p> <p>Governance Workgroup –Jessica Kronstadt The governance group met with the Equity workgroup and discussed the need for advocacy in support for data. The Chair noted that there needs to be clarity in terms of what data to ask for</p>	NA

<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Payne informed the COH members that she included the link for the Commission on Veterans Affairs Annual report in the chat • The Chair provided an update on the current vacancies and noted that interviews are being set for the individuals who applied 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Rosemary Payne to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Elliott Brown. The motion was not passed due to not meeting quorum.</p>	<p>N/A</p>