



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH

Thursday, September 18, 2025

This meeting had a quorum.

The Commission on Health for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via Zoom on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Present

Dr. Nathan, Korey Anthony Chisholm, Susan Emery (Vice Chair), Marisol Euceda, Adam Finkelstein, Dr. Jacobs, Gabriela Lemus, Dr. Parker-Fahey, Milan Patel, Venchele Saint Dic, Arthur Summerville (Chair), Karen Tincknell, Dr. Davis (Ex-Officio)

Absent

Dr. Attang, Marcela Cámpoli, Donna Cawley, Rashida Dokes, Ian Weston, Vicky Le, Yuchi Huang, Tara Clemons Johnson

DHHS Staff

Meghan Sontag

Guests

Caroline M, Emebet Jole, Evelyn Castro, Briana Hunter

Presentations

No presentations occurred.

General Business

- A. Welcome
 - a. The meeting commenced with a welcome from Susan Emery, Vice Chair.
- B. Member Introductions
 - a. Welcomed 1 new Commissioner
- C. Approval of August Minutes. August minutes were reviewed and approved.

New Business

- D. Monthly Reports:
 - a. Health Officer's Report - Dr. Davis
 - i. Provided vaccine updates- COVID, FLU, RSV, Pediatric Vaccine Coverage
 - ii. Back to school vaccination rates have been good in the County



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- iii. Highlighted National Suicide Awareness Day and the 988 resource
- iv. Commission can be of support by getting the word out to communities in the county regarding vaccine availability
- v. County Budget season- opportunity to advocate broadly as a resident. Budget forum schedule will be shared with Commissioners via email.
- vi. School enrollment, changes in DC Health Care Alliance and potential impact to Montgomery County were discussed.
 - 1. Vice Chair noted the vacant COH position on the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board.

E. COH FY27 Priority Letter

- a. Vice Chair reviewed timeline and purpose of this letter.
- b. Commissioners reviewed DRAFT priority letter and Commissioners discussed edits and revisions.
- c. The letter was voted to approve with the following edits:
 - Add “language”- “such as those related to income, minority status, language, or rural residence” in paragraph 2
 - Change “adult” to “residents” - “programs for residents with chronic medical conditions” in bullet point 1
 - Change “mental health” to “behavioral health” in bullet points 1 and 2
 - Remove “education” – “and behavioral health education” in bullet point 2

F. COH FY27 Workgroup Report Outs

- a. Physical Activity: Provided an update on work completed to date. Met with Jason Fasteau, manager for Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and Monika Hammer, Director of Communications and Public Outreach. Topics included current recreation offerings, marketing and exercise prescriptions. Workgroup requested data regarding their marketing as a potential advocacy issue.
- b. Behavioral Health: Provided an update on work completed to date. Met with Sara Rose, Directory of Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) and members of Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC). Workgroup drafted some recommendations for behavioral health, shared with Commissioners and no concerns were voiced. The work group will continue to work on recommendations, being sure to keep the other priorities in mind (food & nutrition, and physical activity). Gap in education for residents, knowing what is available, and funding for sustainability.
- c. Food & Nutrition: Provided an update on work completed to date. Met with Dr. Rogers, Policy & Strategy Officer with Public Health Services. Discussed Food as Medicine. Workgroup has requested a meeting with the Office of Food Resilience. Meeting is in process of being scheduled.
- d. Two Commissioners joined workgroups: Venchele Saint Dic joined Behavioral Health and Karen Tincknell joined Food & Nutrition.

G. Next Steps: Priority Workgroups will continue to meet to draft advocacy for submission to the Chair and Vice Chair by Thursday October 9th. The Commission on Health hopes to approve the advocacy letter for the County Executive at the October COH meeting. Meghan will follow



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up on outstanding data (Physical Activity Workgroup) and meeting request (Food and Nutrition Workgroup).

Adjourn

ACTIONS

Motion to approve minutes. A MOTION was made by Dr. Jacobs to approve the August 21st meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nathan. The minutes were unanimously approved by all voting Commissioners. Two Commissioners joined after the voting took place.

Motion to approve FY27 DRAFT Priority Letter. A MOTION was made by Dr. Parker-Fahey to approve the FY27 DRAFT Priority Letter. The motion was seconded by Adam Finkelstein. The FY27 DRAFT letter was approved with edits (listed above) by all present Commissioners. One Commissioner joined after the voting took place.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. A MOTION was made by Dr. Nathan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Korey Anthony Chisholm. Vice Chair adjourned the meeting.