



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON HEALTH
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
May 19, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Arias, Brent Berger, Elliott Brown, Marcela Campoli, Desiree de la Torre, Susan Emery, Kendra Harris, Jessica Kronstadt, Gabriela Lemus, Rosemary Payne

Members Absent: Alana Aronin, Dr. James Bridgers, Christopher Burt, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Sarah Emami, Cara Grant, Adam Lustig

County Council Staff: Essie McGuire

DHHS Staff: Felicia Hугee

Liaisons: Betsy Carrier

AGENDA ITEMS/PRESENTER	ACTION ITEMS /RESPONSIBLE PARTY
<p>Meeting call to Order and Officer Report – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. The COH Chair welcomed members and highlighted that there were two committees in need of volunteers (the nominating committee and the retreat planning committee). She provided a brief description of each committee and asked for members to let her know if they wanted to volunteer. Desiree de la Torre and Marcela Campoli volunteered for the nominating committee, Susan Emery and Gabriela Lemus volunteered for the retreat planning committee. The Chair provided a link to the COH’s annual reports and asked the commissioners who were on the COH last year and wanted to update their bio to contact Robyn Simmons by May 27th. She also asked for the workgroups to provide 1 or 2 paragraphs summarizing the work the group has done. The Chair suggested that members reach out to friends and colleagues who may be interested in joining the COH for future vacancies. There were suggestions to recruit individuals who speak different languages as well as sign language. Upcoming meetings are June 16th and July 21st. <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Elliott Brown to approve the April 21, 2022, minutes with a typo correction (Jonathan Arias will email the correction needed to the Chair). The motion was seconded by Kendra Harris. The minutes were unanimously approved.</p>	<p>Add May’s minutes to June’s agenda for approval- <i>COH Staff</i></p>
<p>Review Survey Results/ Discuss Priorities – Chair/ Vice Chair/ All Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair mentioned that opportunities to advocate for items to be added to the County budget are sometimes missed and noted that this happens in part due to the structure of all boards and commission. She explained that the priorities are usually produced after the retreat in the fall which limits participation in the full budget setting process. 	

- The Chair highlighted that there are 2 phases to the budget setting process. The first is done at the departments' level where they make their recommendations to the County Executive. The second is when the Executive's budget gets turned over to the County Council at which point there is an opportunity to advocate in front of the County Council. The Chair noted that last year, the COH was able to advocate during both stages for the planning specialist but this was only because it was a leftover priority from the prior year.
- The Chair announced that Dr. Crowel requested that all BCCs provide their priorities by the end of summer. She explained that the COH needs to vote on the priorities at the July meeting.
- The Chair also mentioned that a request was made for Dr. Crowel or someone from Public Health to join the COH's June meeting to discuss PHSs needs.
- The Chair provided a summary of the survey results and the suggested solutions. The results included the following topics:
 - Access to equitable, affordable health care preventative services (3x), including vaccines
 - Mental health (2x) – access to care, shootings, risky behavior, substance abuse, domestic violence, violence against children
 - Environmental toxins and health (x2) (Chronic conditions related to environment, methane poisoning, workplace safety, environmental justice)
- Jonathan Arias suggested that it would be best to know what the DHHS priorities are before moving forward. Rosemary Payne suggested moving away from coming up with the priorities but rather for the COH to align themselves with the health department's priorities and act as a monitor and hold them accountable for moving the efforts forward.
- The chair believes that mental health is one of the DHHS priorities based on conversations with Dr. Crowel. She noted that at a meeting hosted by Dr. Crowel there was a large conversation about behavioral health issues in school age children.
- Rosemary Payne stated that while there are a limited number of mental health providers, there is also the inability of people to afford mental health services since most providers accept cash only which decreases access to care. She suggested adding access to equitable and affordable care to the mental health topic as well as preventive services.
- The commissioners discussed the infant formula shortage and the impact on WIC recipients. The Chair asked for Dr. Rogers or Essie McGuire to provide the COH with an update on what the County is currently doing to help with the shortage.
- Rosemary Payne asked if the County had any publications about lessons learned from COVID. The Chair explained that she is not aware of anything being developed at the County level but noted that it would be important to do so. She will follow up.
- The commissioners also discussed "Long COVID" and how it affects everyone differently. Desiree de la Torre mentioned that her organization, Children's National Health System, is conducting a Long-COVID study for those 21 and younger.
- The commissioners discussed the importance of addressing environmental issues, exposure to toxins on the job, transportation, and the chronic conditions that can develop from environmental exposures. Gabriela Lemus asked if the COH reaches out to other County agencies. The Chair explained the COH's charge as well as the COH mission. Desiree de la Torre pointed out that this is an election year and the priorities of the County Council may be different

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair also noted some additional issues that came up in the survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health literacy Reproduction and gynecological health – Access to abortion and training of abortion providers. (The Chair explained that the County wants to make funds available for training abortion providers. Gabriela Lemus noted that the Healthy Babies Equity Act, which passed in March, expands Medicaid to cover prenatal and postpartum care to pregnant women regardless of immigration status.) The role of social determinants of health 	
<p>Workgroup Updates – Chair/Workgroup Leads</p> <p>Equity Workgroup – Marcela Campoli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workgroup investigated the topic of violence. Marcela explained that Susan arranged a meeting with the County’s correction system and noted that they oversee offender reentry prevention. Susan Emery has the meeting notes and can make them available to anyone who is interested. She noted that one of the issues discussed was that Baltimore had wraparound services for offenders exiting the system <p>School Health Workgroup – Desiree de la Torre No update</p> <p>Communicable Diseases Workgroup – Rosemary Payne No update</p> <p>Governance Workgroup –Sarah Emami No update</p>	NA
<p>COH Liaison Updates – Chair · BCC Liaisons Updates</p> <p>Commission on People with Disabilities – Susan Emery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Emery mentioned that Eli Glazier with the Montgomery County Planning Department spoke on the pedestrian master plan to make walking and rolling safer. She also mentioned that there was a discussion about the transportation safety improvement fund and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 	NA
<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gabriela Lemus wanted to bring awareness to the buses coming in from Texas and Arizona to D.C. She explained that the buses are bringing migrants from the Texas area and they are starting to come into Montgomery County. The County Council has been informed and there is a large need for transitional housing. Ms. Lemus explained that from a health perspective, the challenge is that no data is being gathered. She noted that 922 have come through as of Monday May 16th and Texas Governor Abbott has sworn he will send 900 buses and the numbers will grow exponentially. She noted that they have been in contact with emergency services, the Maryland Department of Health, and delegates from both Montgomery and Prince George’s County. She mentioned that one of the County’s initiatives “Bienvenidos aqui para ti” opened a respite center in Rockville. 	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Emery wanted to know how many unaccompanied minors were sent. Gabriela Lemus explained that there are no unaccompanied minors on the buses and noted that they are being handled directly through HHS and they go into the foster care system or family members pick them up. 	
Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.	N/A