

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

December 11, 2024 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Dr. Kisha Davis, Mark Foraker, Denise Kishel, Wayne Swann, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Huixing (Kate) Lu, Katherine McGrail, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Leslie Richin, Beth Barrows, Karen Crist, Yuchi Huang

MCAB Members Absent: Vahe Hovian

DHHS Staff: Ashley Miller, Magda Brown, Melinda Fredericks, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Rebecca Smith, Dr. Tricia Boyce, Sean Gibson, LaSonya Kelly, Julia Mandeville

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Dr. Veronica Vela, Tefo Linchwe, Leslie Graham

Guest: Kathy Stevens, Sonya Bruton

Dr. Kathryn Kelly, called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference and in-person at 401 Hungerford Drive.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2024 Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>Dr. Kelly presented the minutes from the October 23, 2024 meeting and with no questions or concerns, a motion was made to approve the minutes.</p> <p><i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Khalfani Walker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>Dr. Kelly lead introductions to welcome the newest member of MCAB, Karen Crist. Karen will fill the role of Ex-Officio Member – Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services – Designee that was previously held by Viviana Azar. Welcome Karen!</p> <p>Dr. Kelly gave an overview of the key policy priorities for MCAB for FY26 and referenced the priorities letter that was sent to the County Executive by MCAB and TROIKA. All MCAB members were previously sent a copy of the MCAB letter that was sent to the County Executive. No questions were posed by the Board.</p>			
3.	<p>Health Officer Update Dr. Kisha Davis</p>			

	<p>Dr. Davis gave a summary of her written report and noted the decrease in fentanyl overdose cases and deaths.</p> <p>Dr. Huang asked a question regarding the report as to why women infected with HIV was listed, but not men. Dr. Davis stated that women were highlighted in the report and that this focus was in part due to the discovery that the marketing was skewed towards men who have sex with men. There was a need to revise messaging to include all constituencies impacted by HIV/AIDS. Dr. Davis referenced the dashboard which includes more information and a comprehensive data overview.</p>			
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DHHS Staff</p> <p>Dr. Rogers gave an overview of the Healthcare for the Uninsured report.</p> <p>Dr. Walker asked for clarification on the scope of services of the Mobile Health Unit for dental services based on the presentation to County Council. Dr. Rogers gave an overview of the intent and scope of the current use of the mobile health unit, reinforcing that the focus is on episodic care and reaching underserved regions of the County. He explained that mobile unit focuses on visiting the hubs and local groups with an organizing presence in the identified priority regions and that a referral network has been established to improve connections to health homes and other ongoing supports.</p> <p>Dr. Huang asked about the increase of patient visits based on percentage and the fluctuation on encounters. Dr. Rogers and Mark Foraker explained the increase in patient utilization and the numerous factors that may impact capacity and utilization at the clinic level.</p>			
5.	<p>Care for Kids Program Update</p> <p>See Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PCC</p> <p>Dr. Veronica Vela gave an overview of the Care for Kids program and the eligibility process.</p> <p>Dr. Huang asked about age range of patients in the program and for an overview of the service coverage for those of sexual reproductive age. Mark Foraker and Dr. Vela explained the range of services and the limitations.</p> <p>Dr. Vela clarified that Kaiser Permanente has 700 slots for adolescent patients.</p> <p>Following the presentation, Dr. Vela provided further details on the data, emphasizing the “newcomers” with 78% of new enrollees (July – November) being those who recently entered United States. She highlighted an example; “Pedro” who had experienced significant burns and needed to be referred to specialty care. Special exemptions were needed due to the limitations of the Care for Kids program and the emphasis on primary care. This lead to a discussion on the complexity of patient need and system transformation.</p>	<p>Reach out to the Office of Community Affairs to get information on the status of the PEP/Newcomers Program.</p>	<p>Ashley Miller</p>	<p>January MCA B Meeting</p>

	Denise Kishel asked about enrollment data compared to FY25 projections and if there is concern of anticipated flood of enrollments mid-year. Dr Vela clarified that current data aligns historically with previous years and is not a significant concern. She referenced that funding was cut to the Point of Entry/ Newcomers Program and there has been an impact on enrollment due to capacity as result. Tara added that the program was overseen by the office of Community Affairs and that we could direct questions to that office regarding future funding and priorities. Ashley Miller will reach out to the Office of Community Affairs to get an update on the status of these programs and will provide further details to MCAB once a response is received.			
6.	Finalize CERB Report Responses + Vote Dr. Kathryn Kelly Dr. Kelly gave an overview of the CERB letter that was discussed at previous MCAB meetings, highlighted some of the responses that were generated and the process for submission. Following the October 2024 meeting, MCAB was given an extension to December 12, 2024 to allow MCAB to provide further feedback/revise before submitting the CERB Report. Dr. Kelly stated that there is a need to define what success means for MCAB and that this will be a focus of discussion in 2025. A motion was requested to approve and submit the CERB Report. <i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>	Submit final approved CERB Report.	Ashley Miller	December 12, 2024.
7.	Comments and Considerations for FY26 County Council Letter MCAB Dr. Kelly informed MCAB that advocacy priorities letter has been sent to County Executive. Dr. Walker asked about the dental collaborative segment in the letter as no funding was listed. Dr. Rogers clarified that this priority item was a policy revision request. There will be an opportunity for MCAB to make revisions to the letter ahead of the submission to County Council once the County Executive has released the FY26 recommendations. Dr. Yuchi Huang emphasized the importance of taking into account the emerging and changing needs in the community as shown by data. He also noted that most of the funding requests are for fundamental rate increases as opposed to service improvements. Dr. Kelly clarified some of the limitations as a provider for Healthcare for the Homeless and how the low reimbursements / inadequate contract payment structures are making rate adjustments a priority. Dr. Kelly included several examples from providers regarding service improvements, innovations and enhancements and that the priority remains on essential baseline funding as that is needed to carry out these improvement efforts.			
8.	Board Representative Updates: Kate McGrail provided an update on the report showing that Maryland had the second longest wait-times for Emergency Department visits in the Nation. She stated that this was largely due to capacity vs demand and that higher acuity needs are driving longer stays, which drives down bed availability. This issue is further exacerbated by limitations on capacity for “step down” resulting in some patients remaining hospitalized for longer. In addition, the facilities, and the system at-	Dr. Kelly to send information about available volunteers	Dr. Kelly & Mark Foraker	December 13, 2024

	<p>large was not designed for an aging population. The State of Maryland has an Emergency Department (ED) wait-time commission to study and address the issue.</p> <p>Discussion continued about ED visit mitigation and how that intersects with the hospital centers and EDs at large. Mark Foraker and Dr. Kelly gave details about efforts at the clinic level.</p> <p>Dr. Kelly announced that the Montgomery County Medical Society has physicians interested in volunteering at clinics. Dr. Kelly will reach out to Mark Foraker to pass the announcements along to other health centers.</p>	to Mark Foraker to present to HCLC.		
9.	<p>Date, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps</p> <p>Next meeting will be held (virtually) via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.</p>			
10.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM <i>Moved by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by: Mark Foraker</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Foraker
Mark Foraker (Jan 23, 2025 12:04 EST)

Mark Foraker
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board