

# Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

## October 23, 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, Vahe Hovian

**MCAB Members Absent:** Dr. Yuchi Huang

**DHHS Staff:** Ashley Miller, Magda Brown, Melinda Fredericks, Rebecca Smith, Julia Mandeville, Dr. Tricia Boyce

**County Council Staff:** Tara Clemons Johnson

**Primary Care Coalition:** Dr. Veronica Vela, Aisha Robinson, Marisol Ortiz, Wenjing Zhang

**Guest:** Kathy Stevens, Lynn Arndt, Sofya Orlosky, Peter Lowet, Karen Crist

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p><b>Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2024</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></span></p> <p><i>Moved by Dr. Kathryn Kelly</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>Mark Foraker will take the December minutes. Beth Barrows will take the January minutes. Leslie Richin will take the February minutes.</p>			
2.	<p><b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update BCC Meeting with HHS Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Wayne Swann provided an update on the BCC Chair Meeting with the County Council HHS Committee. Wayne presented to the Committee on MCAB's top two priorities for FY25.</li><li>-Wayne noted that Councilmember Alborno commented on his positive experience as part of the September MCAB Retreat panel.</li><li>-The Committee shared that a recent report noted that Montgomery County has some of the highest appointment wait times in the state. Board members asked hospital representative Kate McGrail if more information was available on this. Kate will provide a brief update at the December meeting.</li></ul></li><li>MCAB Vacancy Notice Update</li></ul>			

	-Ashley Miller shared that the BCC Office is still working to put together the MCAB Vacancy Notice to recruit new members to the Board. Ashley will provide an update as soon as more information available from the BCC Office. MCAB has 5 vacancies.			
<b>3.</b>	<b>Open Virtual Voting for Chair and Vice Chair Positions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nominating Committee reviewed the process for the Board to vote to select the MCAB Chair and Vice Chair position by secret ballot.</li> <li>The members of the Board must elect a Chair and Vice Chair by majority vote to serve a 1 year term. Current Chair is Wayne Swann, Vice Chair position is vacant. Nominees are Dr. Kathryn Kelly for Chair and Mark Foraker for Vice Chair.</li> <li>Following review of the voting process, voting was opened to the Board to cast their electronic votes.</li> </ul>	<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
<b>4.</b>	<b>County Health Officer Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Davis noted that there is a limited supply of COVID vaccines at the County. The County is hoping to get more in the future and, if supplies allow, will share with partners.</li> <li>Dr. Davis provided an update on the renovations and reopening currently taken place at Mountain Manor Treatment Center. She noted that with the increase on substance abuse and overdoses, there wasn't a place to take the under 18 population for the intense level of treatment needed. She further noted that because of the renovations, they are only able to admit males at this time.</li> <li>Dr. Davis shared that overdoses in the County as well as the entire state of Maryland are decreasing, especially opioids and Fentanyl. She explained that the County has seen a decrease of about 50% and the state of Maryland has seen a decrease of about 33% compared to last year respectively. She explained that the decreases are due to preventative care treatment, public health efforts, and education.</li> </ul>	<b>Dr. Kisha Davis</b>		
<b>5.</b>	<b>Health Care for the Uninsured Report Q&amp;A</b> <b>See Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashley Miller shared program highlights from this month's report followed by a Q&amp;A session. No questions were provided by the Board.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<b>DHHS Staff</b>		
<b>6.</b>	<b>MCares Quarterly Report + Any Additional NAS Questions from the Board</b> <b>See Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aisha Mason presented an overview of program updates followed by a Q&amp;A session.</li> <li>Wayne Swann asked if there was a timeline to move all the health centers to a common electronic medical record. Aisha explained that there is no current plan to move them all to one platform, she further noted that there is a plan in place to update the case management system which is shared by all centers in an effort to improve the reporting and referrals process.</li> <li>Mark Foraker agreed with Aisha Mason, noting that it would be very difficult due to cost and other factors to have all clinics on the same platform.</li> </ul>	<b>PCC</b>		

7.	<b>Review, Discuss and Finalize CERB Report Responses</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wayne Swann noted that a draft had been sent out with initial responses to the CERB Report questions for the Board to review and provide feedback. Ashley Miller provided a brief overview of the CERB Report and its purpose for the member who were not present at the September meeting.</li> <li>Ashley Miller thanked CERB member Sofya Orlosky for joining the meeting and noted that others from that group may join the MCAB meetings in the coming months.</li> <li>Ashley Miller reviewed each individual response with the Board members and made adjustments to the draft responses as suggested by the Board.</li> <li>Ashley will reach out to the BCC Office to request an extension and will send an updated version of the CERB Report draft responses to the Board. If an extension is granted, the Board will review and vote to finalize the responses at the December MCAB meeting.</li> </ul>			
8.	<b>Subcommittees Meet to Finalize FY26 Priorities</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>MCAB</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wayne Swann reviewed the priorities document with the Board and requested feedback from the Board members. The subcommittees were provided an opportunity to meet prior to the October meeting and opted not to meet during this month's meeting.</li> <li>Wayne Swann noted that the priorities have overall remained similar from the previous year's priorities.</li> <li>Mark Foraker wanted to ensure that the document included the correct data for Health Care for the Homeless, Ashley Miller clarified that the current document reflects the latest information provided by LaSonya Kelly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Approval of FY26 priorities</b>  <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i>  <i>Seconded by Dr. Kathryn Kelly</i>  <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
9.	<b>Review and Finalize Draft Letter to County Executive</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></span> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wayne Swann reviewed the draft letter to the County Executive with the Board and requested feedback from the Board members.</li> <li>Mark Foraker noted the need to emphasize that very few priorities were funded the previous year, and the urgency has been compounded by recent inflationary cost, noting the harmful impact of inaction.</li> <li>Wayne Swann reminded the Board that based on the comments the County Executive gave during the panel discussion at the September meeting, he is in full support of the MCAB priorities as requested and that an emphasis on the impact of lack of funding for many of the previous years' priorities was noted in the draft letter.</li> <li>Mark Foraker expressed support for letter in its current form to go to the County Executive, but suggested making some adjustments to it when reaching out to the County Council and OMB to further emphasize the impact of the lack of funding and critical need for the priorities included in the letter.</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aisha Mason noted that Project Access specialty care was listed as a preliminary priority at the beginning of last fiscal year, but it was removed due to competing priorities. It was noted it may be worth having a conversation again if the Board wants to include this priority in the future.</li> <li>Aisha Mason also noted that Holy Cross used to accept referrals from all the Montgomery Cares clinics to provide gynecology care, but they have cut off the pro bono gynecology care that was being offered to members of the network. PCC completed an estimate of the impact and noted that approximately 240 referrals were made a year for women. An estimate of the total cost of care was provided to DHHS which comes to over half a million dollars. DHHS is working to identify funding and alternative options for services and will reach out with an update when more information is available.</li> <li>Vahe Hovian and other new MCAB members noted some questions regarding the selection of priorities and process for submission of advocacy and policy priorities. Time will be allocated in the December agenda to clarify any questions on priorities and the process.</li> <li>Ashley Miller provided a timeline for the letter to be submitted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Approval of draft letter to County Executive</b>  <i>Moved by Mark Foraker to approval letter to County Executive with minor modifications.</i>  <i>Seconded by Dr. Kathryn Kelly</i>  <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>Additional time will be included in the December meeting to begin discussions regarding any updates needed for the letter that will go out to the County Council in Spring 2025.</p>			
10	<p><b>Chair and Vice Chair Election Results</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Ashley Miller</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nominating Committee closed electronic voting for Board members.</li> <li>Ashley Miller thanked the Board members for their full participation on the vote. She announced that Dr. Kathryn Kelly was unanimously voted as the next MCAB Chair and Mark Foraker as the Vice Chair beginning at the December meeting. She also thanked Wayne Swann for his leadership. Dr. Kelly and Mark will serve in their leadership roles until October 2025.</li> </ul>			
11	<p><b>December 11, 2024 Agenda and Next Steps</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The meeting will be in-person.</li> </ul>			
12	<p><b>Meeting Adjournment</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM</p> <p><i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i>  <i>Seconded by Wayne Swann</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Magda Brown  
Magda Brown (Dec 16, 2024 11:57 EST)

Magda Brown  
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board