

# Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

## February 26, 2025 Meeting Notes

**MCAB Members Present:** Mark Foraker, Wayne Swann, Vahe Hovian, Huixing (Kate) Lu, Katherine McGrail, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Leslie Richin, Beth Barrows, Karen Crist, Yuchi Huang, Dr. Khalfani Walker

**MCAB Members Absent:** Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Dr. Kisha Davis, Denise Kishel

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

**County Council Staff:** Tara Clemons Johnson, Diana Carillo

**Primary Care Coalition:** Sarah Frazell, Marisol Ortiz, Fareed Anjum, Oge Ogechukwu

**Guest:** Charlotte Jenkins, Courtney McKelphin, Kathy Stevens, Susan Emery

Mark Foraker, MCAB Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<b>Approval of Minutes - January 22, 2025</b> Mark Foraker  <i>Moved by: Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Khalfani Walker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			
2.	<b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report</b> Mark Foraker  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>MCAB Meeting Minutes Sign Up</b> – Mark Foraker asked members of the Board to volunteer to take minutes for the remainder of the 2025 fiscal year. The following members volunteered to take meeting minutes.</li> <li>- March - Dr. Khalfani Walker</li> <li>- April - Mark Foraker</li> <li>- May Kate McGrail</li> <li>- June - Xuixing (Kate) Lu</li> <li>- <b>TROIKA Update</b> – Mark Foraker shared that TROIKA met with County Council president Kate Stewart and her staff to share and discuss priorities and gauge areas of alignment. Mark noted during this meeting that it may be beneficial to have County Council and County Executive representatives in attendance for MCAB meetings, which was supported. Mark also note the County Executive is anticipated to release the FY26 budget recommendations on March 13, 2025.</li> </ul>	Follow up with MCAB note takers.	Ashley Miller	In advance of upcoming FY25 MCAB meetings.

3.	<b>Health Officer Report Update</b> Dr. Kisha Davis Dr. Kisha Davis was unable to be present to provide the Health Officer Report Update. Mark Foraker asked if Board members had questions form the Report. Questions will be passed along to Dr. Davis following the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Nina Ashford and Ashley Miller captured questions to share with Dr. Davis from this month’s Health Officer Report. Concern was expressed about budget cuts and health care for immigrants, and folks are noticing drops in encounters.</li> <li>- Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired if there was a way to highlight data/areas of least and greatest concern included in the reports (example: red – high concern, yellow – some concern, green – low concern)? This feedback will be share with Dr. Davis.</li> <li>- Wayne Swann asked how the State deficit and Federal cuts will impact the County? Dr. Ashford noted that the County should have a better picture of this in the coming weeks, but that County leadership will provide awareness and additional information when available. The County is in a better position as it is not solely Federal and State funding reliant. The County faced a difficult funding year in FY25 and anticipates there may be funding challenges for FY26.</li> <li>- On behalf of Dr. Davis, Dr. Ashford inquired if members are seeing or hearing any concerns or changes in patient appointments due to immigration concerns? Mark Foraker noted that so far, trends have been variable across clinics. Some clinics report an increased rate of “no shows” and a reduction in appointments scheduled, some have had no change, and others are experiencing increases in appointments. Mark felt it was still early to gauge the ripple effects and said he would continue to monitor and provide updates. Vahe Hovian noted a reduction in CFK visits.</li> <li>- Ashley Miller shared on behalf of Dr. Davis, that MCAB members that may be interested in having summer interns should share their interest with Ashley via email.</li> </ul>	Share questions with Dr. Davis	Dr. Nina Ashford and Ashley Miller	Prior to March 2025 MC AB meeting.
4.	<b>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&amp;A</b> DHHS Staff Time was allotted for MCAB members to ask questions on the monthly HCU Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Yuchi Huang asked why July always had the lowest numbers and June the highest numbers for patients and encounters for the CFK data. Marisol Ortiz shared that this is because individuals that are active the previous year are not included in the count as a unique patient in the new fiscal year.</li> </ul>			
5.	<b>County Dental Programs Update</b> Dr. Tricia Boyce See Presentation Dr. Tricia Boyce, Dental Director, Montgomery County DHHS, presented an update on the County Dental Programs and answered questions. Some items noted during the presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data (for target population: high poverty schools) showed that the number of schools/students increased from FY24 – FY25.</li> <li>- The Dental Program launched a new Pilot program with University of Maryland School of Dentistry. The program provides severely discounted specialty and regular dental services to eligible DHHS adult patients in need of regular and advanced dental procedures such as dentures, root canals, crowns, etc.</li> <li>- Member Wayne Swann inquired if individuals with untreated decay are given priority appointments and thanked Dr. Tricia Boyce for her worked. Dr. Boyce confirmed these patients are given appointments.</li> </ul>	Share HBEA document.	Ashley Miller	Before March 26, 2025 meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following the meeting, Dr. Boyce will share with Ashley Miller a document she referenced on the Health Babies Equity Act which includes age parameters for children in the program. Ashley will share the document with MCAB members.</li> </ul>			
6.	<b>CFK Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Presentation</b> PCC See Presentation Sarah Frazell, Primary Care Coalition’s Director of Behavioral Health and Marisol Ortiz, Director of Family Centered Care, presented on the CFK Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Survey, titled “Substance Use Disorder Identification, Treatment, and Referral in the Care for Kids population.” Some items noted during the presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is wide interest in primary care providers being trained in medication assisted treatment, especially if CMEs are offered.</li> <li>- Next steps: PCC and DHHS exploring Medication Assisted Treatment training for primary care providers and include continuing education credits. PCC to follow up with providers who did not respond to the survey to gather additional data. Any additional information will be shared at the March 2025 MCAB meeting.</li> </ul>			
7.	<b>MCAB Definition of Success</b> Mark Foraker Mark Foraker continued discussions to develop a “definition of success,” setting up for a broader conversation at the March 2025 MCAB meeting when Dr. Kelly is in attendance. Mark requested MCAB members spend the next month thinking about what they see for themselves and for the future of MCAB. Members were asked to come ready to the March 2025 meeting to discuss. Questions to think about include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What brings MCAB members to the table and how do they define success?</li> <li>- How should success be measured?</li> <li>- What are members goals for the coming year related to MCAB?</li> </ul>	Review questions and come ready to discuss responses at March 2025 MCAB Meeting.	MCAB members	March 26, 2025 MCAB meeting.
8.	<b>Board Representative Updates</b> Mark Foraker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time was allocated in the agenda for MCAB members that serve in their position as representatives for other Boards, Commissions or groups to provide representative updates.</li> <li>- There were no updates provided</li> </ul>			
9.	<b>March 26, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps</b>  Next meeting is on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 and will be held virtually.			
10.	<b>Meeting Adjournment</b>  The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm <i>Moved by: Wayne Swann</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i>			

Respectfully submitted,

*Leslie Richin*

Leslie Richin,  
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board