

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

March, 26, 2025 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Mark Foraker, Vahe Hovian, Huixing (Kate) Lu, Katherine McGrail, Leslie Richin, Karen Crist, Dr. Yuchi Huang, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Dr. Kisha Davis

MCAB Members Absent: Denise Kishel, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Beth Barrows, Wayne Swann

DHHS Staff: Ashley Miller, Melinda Fredericks, Dr. Nina Ashford, Sean Gibson, LaSonya Kelly, Magda Brown, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Arnechia Moody

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Dr. Veronica Vela, Marisol Ortiz, Fareed Anjum, Leslie Graham, Kristine Gallagher-Sargsyan

Guest: Charlotte Jenkins, Ana Maria Espinoza

Dr. Kathryn Kelly, MCAB Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2025 Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p><i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TROIKA Update: TROIKA will meet with County Council in April 2025 to provide more information to Council members on why the Healthcare for the Uninsured Items identified in the County Executive’s Budget Recommendations should remain in the FY26 budget as well as advocate for other items that were not included with the County Executive’s Budget Recommendations for FY26. - Easy Access to Comprehensive Healthcare Priority Action Team: Members of this team will provide input and recommendations that will be used in the development of the 2025-2028 Montgomery County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Time commitment for this team is Spring 2025 – Summer 2028. Dr. Kelly has offered to serve as MCAB representative on the Action Team and will provide updates to MCAB on the progress of the Action Team. Thank you, Dr. Kelly! 	Follow up with MCAB on items noted in this month’s Chair Report	Dr. Kelly	At the April MCA B meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kate Lu noted MCAres patients most often seek help when there are urgent needs. Clinics work with new patients to educate the importance of regular check-ups and preventive care. She also inquired if there was a possibility that people would move to Montgomery County to be able to get care through the MCAres program in light of the new Access to Care Act, changes in the Federal Administration and the eligibility policy change. Dr. Christopher Rogers responded that DHHS will be monitoring enrollment and participation rates to see the impact of these changes. - Yuchi Huang noted it is important to continue to advocate for and make clear to increase the reimbursement rate to \$175 and increase encounters to accommodate possible higher enrollment from the policy change. <p>FY26 County Executive Recommendations Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karen Crist inquired if the increased funding for behavioral health would include evaluation services? Marisol Ortiz responded that it would not. - Dr. Christopher Rogers will schedule a follow up meeting between Marisol Ortiz, Karen Crist and DHHS to discuss this item further. 			
5.	<p>Reconcile MCAB Priorities For County Council Letter – April Submission- Next Steps MCAB</p> <p>Based on the release of the County Executive’s FY26 Budget Recommendations that Board was asked to provide feedback on any changes they would like in advance of the submission of the MCAB FY26 Priorities Letter to County Council. A copy of the FY26 MCAB Priorities Letter that was sent to the County Executive was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Mark Foraker recommended that the priorities remain the same as the letter that was submitted in Fall 2024. Members present agreed.</p> <p>Based on the County Executive’s FY26 recommendations, Dr. Kathryn Kelly noted that it is important to continue to establish more clear lines of communication with the County Executive Office and County Council. She noted the importance of the County Executive attending the September MCAB Retreat and attendance by County Council representatives and monthly MCAB meetings. She encouraged the Board to continue making connections and establishing strong communication lines to ensure priorities are being considered and dire needs are being met.</p> <p>Karen Crist recommended updating the language in the letter that goes to County Council to open the language up to reflect recent national events and be more inclusive of other immigrant groups. MCAB Chair, Vice Chair and Legislative Liaison will work to update the draft letter with these language suggestions.</p> <p>Board members should email Ashley Miller with any other comments or changes for the FY26 draft County Council Letter. An updated draft will be shared at the April meeting. MCAB will review the changes and vote to finalize the Letter at the April meeting.</p>	Email feedback on the MCAB FY26 County Council Letter draft	MCAB	Prior to the April 2025 MCAB meeting.

6.	<p data-bbox="199 99 556 126">MCAB Definition of Success</p> <p data-bbox="1276 99 1491 126">Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p data-bbox="199 164 1503 354">MCAB members continued the discussion to develop a definition of success for MCAB. The MCAB Chair and Vice Chair provided the Board with priority considerations and questions to consider at last month's meeting. Members were asked to reflect and bring responses to the March meeting for discussion. Questions included: Why did you want to join MCAB? What HCU Program focus areas were you hoping to influence? How can that influence/changes be measured? What are your core goals as a Board member you are hoping to achieve in the next year?</p> <p data-bbox="199 391 1503 483">Dr. Kathryn Kelly noted the work of MCAB aligns with her passions and were one of the reasons she wanted to join the Board. Through her work on MCAB she would like to shine a light on Healthcare For the Homeless and hopes to share resources among the members an different clinics represented.</p> <p data-bbox="199 521 1423 646">Mark Foraker shared that he has spent 24 years making headway in the nonprofit sector, with 10 years at Mercy Clinic. Through MCAB he would like to work to improve community and patient outcomes and see MCAB priorities advance. Given the rich array of representation and skills on the Board he wants to participate in knowledge sharing with the Board and hopes to gain new perspectives and insights.</p> <p data-bbox="199 683 1402 808">Dr. Khalfani Walker shared that he joined the Board as a way to learn more about healthcare resources in Montgomery County and to find ways to better serve his patients and the residents of Montgomery County. He wants to see the community succeed and be part of the solution to assist the County's most vulnerable residents.</p> <p data-bbox="199 846 1396 906">Kate Lu wants to give a voice and unique perspective to the Asian population of Montgomery County, which makes up 17%., as well as those uninsured and underinsured.</p> <p data-bbox="199 943 1402 1068">Dr. Yuchi Huang shared a quote from Dr. Davis, noting that when the neighborhood and community improves, everybody improves. He noted that the goal should be to keep everyone healthy and satisfy basic needs of residents in the community. Health is a process and not an end point. The focus needs to be addressing the root cause. More emphasis and goals need to be tied to prevention.</p> <p data-bbox="199 1105 1411 1198">Karen Crist noted the importance of advocacy and accountability. Through MCAB she hopes to make a positive impact in the community and share resources, trends and network with others to influence behavioral health outcomes of the County.</p> <p data-bbox="199 1235 1381 1328">Vahe Hovian views his membership on the Board as a privilege and opportunity. Through MCAB he hopes to help others and amplify the voices of all groups. He also supports focus and advocacy on prevention in the context of MCAB.</p> <p data-bbox="199 1365 1360 1458">Following the discussion members are asked to email Ashley Miller with additional thoughts or feedback ahead of the April meeting. The definition of success discussion will continue at the April meeting.</p>	Email Feedback no Definition of Success – comments and priorities	MCAB	Prior to April 2025 MCA b meeti ng.
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7.	<p>Board Representative Updates MCAB</p> <p>MCAB member Vahe Hovian (PCC representative) noted that success is where advocacy finds priority. PCC is working to create better alignment across programs and the safety-net.</p> <p>Karen Crist noted that DHHS Behavioral Health and Crisis Services is looking at offering CME's through a Child and Adolescent Health Clinic. The clinic would provide substance abuse prevention and training non-providers. They are looking into partners.</p> <p>Dr. Kelly noted that the Montgomery County Medical Society went to Capitol Hill to advocate for no cuts to Medicare and Medicaid programs. There will also be a Lobby Day in Annapolis against pre-authorizations.</p> <p>Kate Lu shared there will be an open house for the new clinic location for CCACC on 3/28/2025. Kate will share the invitation with Board members following the meeting.</p>			
8.	<p>April 23, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 and will be held virtually.</p>			

9.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm <i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i></p>	Dr. Kathryn Kelly			
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Respectfully submitted,

Khalfani Walker
Khalfani Walker (May 1, 2025 16:32 EDT)

Khalfani Walker, DMD

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