

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

December 10, 2025 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Mark Foraker, Wayne Swann, Kate Lu, Vahe Hovian, Kate McGrail, Leslie Richin, Deborah Miller Young, Karen Crist, Dr. Troy Jacobs

MCAB Members Absent: Dr. Khalfani Walker, Denise Kishel, Dr. Kisha Davis

DHHS Staff: Ashley Miller, Melinda Fredericks, Magda Brown, Dr. Trisha Boyce, Sean Gibson, Iye Kanu

County Council Staff: None

Primary Care Coalition: Annice Cody, Yasmin Cespedes-Zamen, Marisol Ortiz

Guest: Sean Hwang

Dr. Kathryn Kelley, confirmed quorum was met and called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm. Meeting was held in person with video option.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – (October 22, 2025),</p> <p><i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Deborah Miller Young</i></p> <p><i>The motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report</p> <p>The MCAB Chair Report was provided by Dr. Kathryn Kelly covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Kelly introduced the newest member of MCAB, Dr. Troy Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs is the new Commission on Health Representative for MCAB. Dr. Jacobs replaced Beth Barrows. Welcome Dr. Jacobs. - Dr. Kelly provided notice that the MCAB FY27 Advocacy and Policy Priorities Letter had been submitted to the County Executive for consideration at the end of October 2025. A copy of the letter was included with the meeting materials packet. - Dr. Kelly presented on behalf of MCAB to the HHS Committee on FY27 Priorities on October 23. A copy of the MCAB statement is included with the meeting packet 		Dr. Kathryn Kelly	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Kelly notified MCAB that TROIKA has also submitted their FY27 Priorities Letter to the County Executive. Additional updates will be presented at the January Meeting - Dr. Kelly presented an update on the MCAB in-person meeting schedule. Last month the Board voted to increase the number of in-person meetings from 3 to 5 per year. A Doodle Poll was sent out to identify which months the board would like to meet in-person. Only a few members were able to respond to the Doodle Poll. Due to this, the Doodle Poll was extended. Board members are requested to provide a response by January 14. Results will be announced at the January meeting. 				
3.	<p>Health Officer Update</p> <p>Dr. Davis was unable to attend the December MCAB meeting. A copy of the December Health Officer Report was included with the meeting packet. Dr. Kelly asked if board members had any question on the report. No questions were posed by board members at the meeting. Questions can be emailed to Ashley Miller and Dr. Kelly.</p>	Dr. Kisha Davis	Email Dr. Kelly and Ashley Miller any Health Officer December Report Questions	MCAB	Before the January 28, 2026 MCAB meeting.
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A</p> <p>A copy of this month's Healthcare for the Uninsured Report was included in the meeting packet. Members were requested to bring any questions on the report to the meeting.</p> <p>Due to the timing of the meeting, November data for Montgomery Cares, Care For Kids, Montgomery Perinatal Program and Healthcare for the Homeless will be provided with the January Healthcare for the Uninsured Report.</p> <p>Dr. Jacobs inquired why there was a decrease in Care For Kids enrollment in FY25. PCC staff noted that the decrease was likely a result of immigration fears. PCC has been working to address this in FY26. PCC staff are working on outreach and education efforts to provide information and reduce fears among the Care For Kids population regarding the program and enrollment.</p> <p>Dr. Jacobs asked about the Healthcare for the Homeless numbers. It appeared there may be an error in the calculations. DHHS staff is looking into this and will provide an update at the January 2026 meeting.</p>	DHHS Staff			
5.	<p>Care for Kids Program Update</p> <p>See Presentation</p> <p>The Care For Kids Update was presented by PCC staff member, Marisol Ortiz and highlighted key aspects of</p>	PCC			

	<p>the first two quarters of the program. Of note the program has experienced an decrease in enrollment in FY26 compared to FY25. This is mainly due to political uncertainty. However, among enrolled participants, there has been a 48% increase from FY25 in specialty care encounters, particularly optometry encounters. There has also been a 183% increase from FY25 in specialty dental encounters among those enrolled. Utilizing FY26 County funding, the Care For Kids program is working on a reproductive health program to increase access and coverage to reproductive health education and contraceptives among Care For Kids youth.</p> <p>Dr. Jacobs inquired if it would be possible to include in-person vs. telehealth appointments for Care For Kids in the monthly Healthcare for the Uninsured Report. PCC staff will look into this request. An update will be provided at the January MCAB meeting.</p>			
6.	<p>Access to Care Workgroup Update</p> <p>Melinda Fredericks provided a summary of work on the Access to Care Workgroup to-date. The Primary Care Coalition and DHHS have hosted 2 meetings, one in October and another in November. Additional meetings are planned for winter 2026. Melinda will share a document outlining the updates and progress to-date shared following the meeting.</p>	Disseminate summary document on Access to Care Workgroup	Melinda Fredericks /Ashley Miller	Following December MCAB Meeting.
7.	<p>Vacancy Notice/ Nominating Committee Updates</p> <p>The MCAB vacancy notice closed on December 5, 2025 and received a record number of applications, over 30.</p> <p>The board worked to solidify the Nominating Committee, which will oversee the interview and selection process for new MCAB members. Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Karen Crist, Vahe Hovian and Dr. Troy Jacobs volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.</p> <p>A motion was made to approve the Nominating Committee members.</p> <p><i>Moved by: Dr. Deborah Miller-Young</i> <i>Seconded by: Mark Foraker</i></p>			
8.	<p>Board Representative Updates</p> <p>Mark Foraker shared an update on the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) Meeting that was held in November. At the October MCAB meeting, the board selected the top two mental health challenges faced by the Healthcare for the</p>			

	<p>Uninsured population. The two challenges selected were shared by Mark Foraker at the MHAC meeting. Priorities from all BCCs will be consolidated into a letter that will be shared with the County Executive and County Council. Mark and Ashley will provide an updates that follow.</p> <p>Kate McGrail shared an update on the Montgomery County Hospital Collaborative’s work with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A strategy session for the CHIP will be held on January 12 at 10:30 am at the Solver Spring Civic Center. Updates will be shared at upcoming MCAB meetings.</p> <p>Dr. Kelly and her nonprofit will be participating in the AMA National Advocacy Conference in February and advocating on crucial healthcare issues regarding Healthcare for the Homeless.</p>			
<p>9.</p>	<p>January 28, 2026 Agenda and Next Steps</p> <p>Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 and will be held virtually.</p> <p>Results of the MCAB in-person meeting Doodle Poll will be announced.</p>			<p>Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM</p> <p><i>Moved by: Kate McGrail</i> <i>Seconded by: Mark Foraker</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Swann
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board