

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

May 28, 2025 Meeting Notes

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

MCAB Members Absent: Vahe Hovian, Denise Kishel, Dr. Khafani Walker

DHHS Staff: Dr. Nina Ashford, Magda Brown, Melinda Fredericks, Ashley Miller, Sean Gibson, Dr. Trisha Boyce, Rebecca Smith

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Annice Cody, Ana Maria Espinosa, Tefo Linchwe, Ogechukwu Okeke

Guest: Caroline Davenport, Kathy Stevens, Charlotte Jenkins

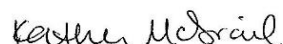
Dr. Kathryn Kelly, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Meeting held via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – from April 23, 2025 Dr. Kathryn Kelly <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>	N/A		
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Dr. Kathryn Kelly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kathryn Kelly provided a TROIKA Update. TROIKA met with members of County Council in advance of the final vote on the FY26 budget. In an effort to ensure awareness of MCAB priorities for the coming year, Dr. Kelly and Mark Foraker will work to extend invitations to Council representatives. Dr. Kelly and Ashley Miller provided an update on the FY26 MCAB letter to County Council. Upon recommendation of the County Council Vice President, MCAB FY26 Priority Letters were sent to each individual County Council Member. A copy of the final FY26 MCAB Policy and Advocacy Priorities Letter was included with this month’s meeting materials. 	N/A		
3.	Health Officer Update Dr. Kisha Davis See report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kisha Davis shared that the County is currently at record low rates for respiratory disease. The Health Department is closely following the impact of Federal Administration changes, e.g. vaccine recommendations and cuts to state budgets. The County will need to consider re-prioritizing issues in light of these changes. 	Share health center contact information with Dr. Ashford	Ashley Miller	Prior to June MCA B meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Davis assured MCAB that health equity and reducing disparities will remain priorities for Montgomery County as the landscape changes. Dr. Davis also assured MCAB of DHHS and County Council’s commitment to the safety-net health centers and continuing to address the care of those with highest needs. Dr. Ashford will be reaching out to the health centers to schedule informal visits. She would like to meet the staff, hear about health center priorities and barriers, and learn how the County can better advocate for the health centers. Ashley Miller will share contact information for the health centers that participate in Montgomery Cares with Dr. Ashford. Mark will also help spread the word to HCLC clinic directors. 	Share information with HCLC clinic directors.	Mark Foraker	Prior to June MCAB meeting
4.	Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A DHHS Staff See presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates for all programs were reviewed. Ashley Miller asked if MCAB members had any question on items included in the MCAB monthly Healthcare for the Uninsured Report. MCAB members did not have any questions. Ashley Miller shared that the Healthcare for the Uninsured Program Brochures have been updated to reflect the changes noted in April regarding the eligibility policy. Ashley will share copies of the updated brochures with the MCAB listserv following the meeting. The FY26 County Council Operating Budget was approved in May 2025. Ashley shared a presentation on the final FY26 Operating Budget compared to the FY26 MCAB policy and advocacy priorities. The FY26 County Council budget included MCAB FY26 policy and priority items for Montgomery Cares, Care For Kids, and County Dental. The County Council’s FY26 Budget did not include MCAB priority items for Montgomery Perinatal Program or Healthcare for the Homeless. DHHS was working to get clarification on two items related to Montgomery Cares and County Dental. Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired if it would be possible to share information on the total operating budgets for each Healthcare for the Uninsured Program. Ashley shared that an updated version of the County Council Budget presentation will be sent out with next month’s meeting materials to include clarification on the two items noted above as well as to include the Healthcare for the Uninsured Program FY26 Operating Budget. 	Share updated Healthcare for the Uninsured brochure. Share Update County Council FY26 Budget Presentation	Ashley Miller Ashley Miller	Following May 2025 MCAB meeting. Prior to MCAB June 2025 meeting.
5.	Montgomery Perinatal Program Update Rebecca Smith See presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Smith provided an update on FY25 of the Montgomery Perinatal Program. Rebecca initiated the session with a history of the program to give context and background for those unfamiliar. Rebecca shared slides from a presentation shared at the Maternal Health Summit held in early 2025, which outlined federal, state, and local updates around maternal and child health including to specific programs and partners. Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired on County rates for teen pregnancy. Rebecca noted that overall, teen pregnancy rates were down in Montgomery County compared to previous years. 	N/A		
6.	September Strategic Planning Meeting Dr. Kathryn Kelly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual retreat will be held, in-person (with virtual option), on September 24, 2025 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at 401 Hungerford in Rockville. Dr. Kathryn Kelly noted that time will be allocated for the MCAB subcommittees to meet. 	Consider panelists and come prepared to	MCAB Members	June 2025 meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCAB brainstormed individuals to invite to speak on the panel, noting that no more than two councilmembers from the same committee are allowed to participate in the panel. Suggestions for panelists included, Council President Kate Stewart, Gabe Albornoz, County Executive Mark Elrich and Chief of Public Health Services, Dr. Nina Ashford. MCAB members were asked to think about panelists they would like to have included in this year's retreat and be ready to take a final vote on panel members at the June MCAB meeting. Furthermore, it was suggested that the County Executive, who participated on the retreat panel in 2024, be invited back at a future date to (1) address how DHHS can commit to priorities despite Federal Administration changes, e.g. build resiliency among disruption, and (2) advocate for MCAB priorities by sharing perspectives. Dr. Yuchi Huang suggested that councilmembers be invited to attend MCAB members in the months leading up to the retreat as a way to garner awareness and perspectives that can be discussed by MCAB leading up to the finalization of priorities. Dr. Kelly concurred that this was included in "definition of success" exercise completed by MCAB earlier in 2025. 	provide suggestions /vote.		
7.	Board Representative Updates MCAB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time was allocated for MCAB Board Member representatives to provide updates. Kate Lu shared a positive example of cross collaboration of programs and populations; CCACC was asked to provide a health fair for parents of Care for Kids parents. The event identified 15 adults who needed to be connected to care Dr. Kelly's shared that Montgomery County Medical Society plans to sponsor mammograms for uninsured women in October 2025, in honor of breast cancer awareness month. 	N/A		
8.	June 25, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps Dr. Kathryn Kelly The next meeting will be held in-person on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at the 401 Hungerford Building in Rockville (Tan/A&B Conference Rooms). A virtual option will be available via Microsoft Teams.	N/A		
9.	Meeting Adjournment Dr. Kathryn Kelly The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>	N/A		

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine McGrail

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board