

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

June 25, 2025 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Mark Foraker (co-chair), Dr. Yuchi Huang, Dr. Kathryn Kelly (chair), Deborah Miller-Young, Leslie Richin, Wayne Swann, Dr. Kisha Davis, Denise Kishel, Vahe Hovian, Dr. Khalfani Walker

MCAB Members Absent: Beth Barrows, Karen Crist, Kate Lu, Kate McGrail

DHHS Staff: Dr. Nina Ashford, Magda Brown, Melinda Fredericks, Ashley Miller, Sean Gibson, Dr. Trisha Boyce, Rebecca Smith, LaSonya Kelly, Christine Hong, Felicia Thompson, Dr. Christopher Rogers

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Annice Cody, Ana Maria Espinosa, Marisol Ortiz

Guest: Kathy Stevens, Charlotte Jenkins

Vice Chair, Mark Foraker, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Meeting held in-person and via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – from May 28, 2025 Mark Foraker <i>Moved by Denise Kishel</i> <i>Seconded by Leslie Richin</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>	N/A		
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Mark Foraker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Foraker provided a reminder to Board members on the attendance policy as some members are close to or at the maximum amount of meetings which can be missed annually. MCAB members can miss a maximum of 3 meetings per calendar year. Any absences above the maximum may result in removal from the Board. Attendance is critical to conduct Board business and ensure a quorum. Please notify Ashley Miller and Magda Brown if unable to attend a monthly meeting. Mark shared the upcoming schedule of in-person and virtual meetings for FY26. All meetings will be virtual in FY26 with the exception of the September 2025, December 2025 and June 2026 meetings, which will be held in-person. All in-person meeting will have a virtual option. MCAB does not meet in August or November. Mark noted that volunteers are needed to capture the minutes for FY26 meetings. A virtual sign-up sheet will be distributed for member to sign-up. Vahe Hovian volunteered to take the July 2025 minutes. Denise Kishel and Yuchi Huang inquired if legislative liaison or DHHS staff member could take minutes as opposed to members? Ashley Miller will reach out to BCC Office regarding this. 	Confirm with BCC policies on notetaking	Ashley Miller	July MCA B meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vahe Hovian inquired if notetaking technology could be used for members taking minutes. Ashley Miller will reach out to BCC Office regarding this. 			
3.	Health Officer Update See report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kisha Davis provided an overview of the June 2025 Health Officer Report. Covid-19, flu and RSV transmission continue to be low in the County. Hospitalizations for these respiratory viruses also remain low. Dr. Davis noted the Health Department is closely following the impact of Federal Administration changes, e.g. vaccine recommendations and shared concerns on the recommendation to stop recommending Covid-19 vaccination to some high-risk groups. Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired if the recommendation remains the same for those 65 and over. Dr. Davis confirmed that recommendations for Covid-19 vaccines have only changed for those under 65. Dr. Davis noted that a new Covid-19 vaccine was approved by the FDA; Nuvaxovid. The vaccine was developed by a local Montgomery County company. The new vaccine is most suitable for those 65+, have vaccine side effects or are skeptical of mRNA vaccines. Dr. Davis assured MCAB that health equity and reducing disparities will remain priorities for Montgomery County as the landscape changes. Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired where the most reliable public health information. Dr. Davis advised reviewing websites and information provided by National Medical Societies (AAFP, AAP, etc.). 	Dr. Kisha Davis	N/A	
4.	Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A See presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates for all programs were reviewed. MCAB members were asked if they had any question on items included in the MCAB monthly Healthcare for the Uninsured Report. Denise Kishel asked if more information was available on why none of the priorities for the Maternity Partnership Program were funded. Rebecca Smith shared that information on why these items were not funded had not been shared. Rebecca will share any additional information that comes available at the next meeting. 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. Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired why the numbers for unique patients for the dental program always appear lowest in July and peak in June annually. Dr. Tricia Boyce will provide more information on this with the next HCU Report. Dr. Walker noted that school and summer schedules often impact monthly numbers for pediatric clients. 	DHHS Staff	Address questions posed by MCAB	DHHS Staff
5.	Update on the Mobile Health Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Rogers shared an update on the launch of the Mobile Health Clinic; clinic opened in April 2025. The Mobile Health Clinic provide primary care, mental health, dental and social services. Dental services will expand in July 2025. The Mobile Health Clinic provides episodic care, with the ultimate goal of linking clients to a medical home. Dr. Walker asked where the schedule for the Mobile Health Clinic can be found. Brochures in English and Spanish were sent out as part of this month's meeting packet. Brochures include a QR code, that when scanned, redirect individuals to the Mobile Health Clinic website and schedule. 	Dr. Christopher Rogers		July 2025 MCA B Meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Yuchi Huang asked what the staffing capacity for the clinic was? Dr. Rogers noted currently 8-10 medical/behavioral health patients and 10-12 dental patients can be seen per day. • Denise Kishel inquired if there was consideration into partnering with local nursing programs. Dr. Rogers noted that DHHS had looked into partnerships with UMD Shady Grove, and DHHS would look into this further for the future. • Dr. Rogers noted that event request forms are available for community organizations that are interested in hosting. 			
6.	Healthcare for the Homeless Update LaSonya Kelly, Christine Hong, Felicia Thompson, Dr. Kathryn Kelly See presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates were provided by Christine Hong, Felicia Thompson and Dr. Kathryn Kelly. • Christing Hong provided an update on homelessness in Montgomery County. • Felicia Thompson provided an update on psychiatric services for homeless clients in Montgomery County. • Dr. Kathryn Kelly provided an update on primary care and respite for homeless clients. • Mark Foraker noted for FY27 it will be important to highlight these complexities and to identify champions within County Council and the County Executive's Office. Many candidates have identified housing as a priority area. 	N/A		
7.	Finalize September Strategic Planning Meeting Details (September 24, 2025) Mark Foraker <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 the 401 Hungerford Building in Rockville. • MCAB worked to finalize speakers to invite to sit on the panel, noting that no more than two councilmembers from the same committee are allowed to participate in the panel. Discussions from the June 2025 meeting 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 identify and take a vote on panelists they would like to have included in the September Annual Retreat. • Board members were in favor of requesting Council President Kate Stewart, County Executive Marc Elrich, and Public Health Services Chief, Dr. Nina Ashford to serve as panelists for the September 2025 Retreat. The Board was in support of reaching out to Councilmembers Sayles, Juwando, or other DHHS leadership in the case the Council President, County Executive and Dr. Ashford were unable to attend. Vote to request that County President Kate Stewart, County Executive Marc Elrich and Dr. Nina Ashford serve as panelists for the September 2025 MCAB Annua Retreat. <i>Moved by Wayne Swann</i> <i>Seconded by Denise Kishel</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously</i>	Invite panelists to attend the September 2025 Annual Retreat	Ashley Miller	Follo wing June 2025 MCA B Meeti ng
8.	Board Representative Updates MCAB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time was allocated for MCAB Board Member representatives to provide updates. • No updates were shared. 	N/A		
9.	July 23, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps Mark Foraker	N/A		

	The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 via Microsoft Teams. MCAB does not meet in August.			
10.	Meeting Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. <i>Moved by Leslie Richin</i> <i>Seconded by Vahe Hovian</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>	Mark Foraker	N/A	

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Miller
Ashley Miller

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