

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

January 22, 2025, Meeting Notes

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

MCAB Members Absent: Dr. Khalfani Walker

DHHS Staff: Ashley Miller, Melinda Fredericks, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Rebecca Smith, Sean Gibson, Dr. Nina Ashford, Emily Brown, Melvin Cauthen, Dr Kisha Davis

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Dr. Veronica Vela, Tefo Linchwe, Sarah Frazell, Marisol Ortiz, Kristine Gallagher Sargsyan, Wenjing Zhang, Ana Maria Espinoza, Jerome Brown

Guest: Sonya Bruton, Marissa Valeri, Charlotte Jenkins

Dr Kathryn Kelly, MCAB Chair, called the meeting to order at 603pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes - December 11, 2024 <i>Moved by: Vahe Hovian</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report TROIKA Update – Dr. Kelly serves as the MCAB representative on TROIKA. Dr. Kelly shared that TROIKA is looking into how to more effectively advocate priorities and is currently reaching out to centers to get their feedback on how lack of reimbursement rate increases has impacted the centers. Dr. Kelly will share an update on their findings. Teams Chat Update – Dr. Kelly and staff liaison Ashley Miller shared an update that there is a Montgomery County prohibition against recording chats in County meeting. If technology being used has a chat or comments feature that allows public comment it must be turned off during the meeting. However, if accommodation is required, exemptions can be provided upon advance request. See ADA document.			
3.	Health Officer Update			

	<p>Dr. Davis provided an overview of her January Health Officer Report. She shared that local respiratory infection rates are on the rise and that masking is recommended (but not mandatory) to prevent further spread.</p> <p>Mark Foraker inquired if there is any new information available in regard to immigration and public charge. Dr. Davis noted that this information is still forthcoming, but at this time it does appear Medicaid is included.</p>			
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A DHHS Staff</p> <p>Dr Christopher Rodgers discussed in the backdrop of Maryland’s 2024 Access to Care Act. Starting January 1, 2026, this legislation will remove barriers by allowing undocumented residents to purchase and enroll in health plans through Maryland Health Connection (thus removing flags that might expose the undocumented related to their ineligibility for QHPs).</p> <p>Currently, individuals eligible for health insurance through the Maryland Health Connection are not eligible to participate in the County’s Healthcare for the Uninsured (HCU) Programs. The impact of this new legislation will be that most current participants in the HCU program will become ineligible starting January 1, 2026.</p> <p>However, many may not be able to afford the marketplace insurance plans and individuals from immigrant or mixed status families may be reluctant to apply.</p> <p>HCU programs will return to pre-2018 eligibility requirements, eliminating language stating that “to be eligible for HCU programs, patients cannot be enrolled or eligible for health insurance” and instead, replace the language with “to be eligible for HCU programs, patients cannot have other insurance”. The priority will be to enroll those eligible into a Medicaid program as it offers more comprehensive coverage and better reimbursement rates compared to the HCU programs.</p> <p>Additional information on the eligibility changes will be released by DHHS in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Mark Foraker asked how the clinics will know if patients have insurance? Dr. Rogers noted that this is included in screening. With eligibility update, an attestation may be added.</p> <p>Yuchi reiterated that though HCU Programs are comparable, the priority is to get patients enrolled in Medicaid. How will the County ensure that remains the focus and that patients are receiving Medicaid level services when needed. Dr. Rogers shared that the County is and will continue to monitor this closely.</p> <p>Ashley Miller shared that the Point In Time Study (PIT) was being held the evening of January 29, 2025. The PIT is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Montgomery County PIT is looking for volunteers. Ashley will send out a link for those interested in signing up after the meeting.</p>	Send out Link for PIT volunteers	Ashley Miller	1/23/2025
5.	<p>MCares Quarterly Program Update PCC</p> <p>See Presentation</p>	Share presentation and email Ashley	Ashley Miller	Email presentation – 1/23/2025;

	<p>Dr Veronica Vela, Tefo Linchwe, Marisol Ortiz, Sarah Frazell and Wenjing Zhang presented an FY25 Q2 MCares program update.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The program is expected to exceed the budgeted number of encounters. - Telehealth usage may increase under the new administration. - Survey on Safety Net Services launched on January 17, 2025 and will be open through February 7, 2025. Analysis of survey will be shared. - Efforts to Study Specialty Care Access via shadowing, focus groups, and interviews (to occur between January-April 2024) to better understand practices and identify opportunities to improve specialty service delivery. 	Miller with additional questions		MCAB questions due prior to the February 2025 MCAB meeting.
6.	<p>Presentation: County HIV/AIDS Initiatives Emily Brown</p> <p>See Presentation</p> <p>Emily Brown presented on Montgomery County's Plan to End HIV.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although there is a decline in new HIV diagnoses, it is not fast enough to meet MoCo's goal of ending HIV by 2030. - The current usage of PrEP does not match the need. - Emily will share resources on HIV and the County's work with Ashley Miller following the meeting. 	Share presentation and resources	Ashley Miller	1/23/2025
7.	<p>MCAB Definition of Success Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>In response to feedback received as part of the CERB Report, time was allocated in the meeting to begin discussing/laying the foundation for developing a definition of success for MCAB. Dr. Kathryn Kelly noted that these could be overarching goals that MCAB holds itself to and revisits annually.</p> <p>Dr. Kelly shared that she and Mark Foraker, MCAB vice chair, met with Dr Rogers and DHHS staff to gain the Department's insight and input for defining success for MCAB.</p> <p>Preliminary priorities for MCAB and from the Department were verbally introduced during the meeting.</p> <p>MCAB will work to begin working on definition of success for MCAB in subsequent meetings.</p>			
8.	<p>Board Representative Updates MCAB</p> <p>Time is allocated for Board members that serve s representatives for other groups to provide any relevant updates.</p> <p>No updates were reported by MCAB member.</p>	MCAB share updates	MCAB members	Before or during February 2025 meeting
9.	<p>February 26, 2024 Agenda and Next Steps Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025 and will be held virtually.</p>			

10	Meeting Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM Moved by Mark Foraker Seconded by Yuchi Huang	Dr. Kathryn Kelly		
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Respectfully submitted,

Beth Barrows
Beth Barrows (Feb 27, 2025 09:44 EST)

Beth Barrows
 Montgomery Cares Advisory Board