

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

April 23, 2025 Meeting Notes

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

MCAB Members Absent: Vahe Hovian, Dr. Kisha Davis

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

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Dr. Veronica Vela, Marisol Ortiz, Kristine Gallagher Sargsyan, Ana Maria Espinoza

Guest: Kathy Stevens, Sonya Bruton, Isha Misra, Charlotte Jenkins, Susan Emery

Dr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Meeting was held via video/teleconference.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2025 meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made to approve the March MCAB meeting minutes and there was no further discussion or comments.</p> <p><i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Khalfani Walker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>TROIKA Update: Dr. Kelly reported on the advocacy progress on the MCAB priorities for the FY26 County budget. She confirmed that the County Council HHS committee voted 2—1 to approve the CE’s reimbursement rate recommendation as detailed in the County Executives budget. Dr. Kelly gave a general overview of the conversations with the County Council members and their staff to date and the approximate next steps for the upcoming meetings.</p> <p>MCAB Members – brainstorm panelists for September Retreat – share at May meeting: Dr. Kelly also reminded MCAB members of the annual retreat scheduled for this fall and to share any thoughts on topics, guest speakers, etc. with herself, Mark Foraker an Ashley Miller</p>	Email Dr. Kelly, Mark Foraker and Ashley Miller with recommendations for Annual Retreat items/speakers	MCAB members	Prior to the May 2025 MCA B meeting.

3.	Health Officer Update Dr. Kisha Davis Dr Kelly stated that Dr. Davis was unable to make the meeting. No questions were posed during the meeting. Dr. Kelly directed MCAB member to send any questions regarding the Health Officer Report to Ashley Miller. Noting, it was emphasized and affirmed from Dr. Kisha Davis' April 2025 Health Officer Report vaccines do not cause autism!	Email Ashley Miller with questions/comments on the April 2025 Health Officer Report	MCAB Members	Prior to the May 2025 MCAB meeting.
4.	Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A DHHS Staff DHHS staff gave an overview of the Healthcare for the Uninsured Report highlighting the slight drop in Montgomery Perinatal Program participation and an ongoing discussion to determine if external impacts are driving down utilization. Continued increases to Care for Kids program participation was also highlighted.			
5.	MCares Quarterly Update Dr. Veronica Vela See Presentation Dr Vela gave an overview of the Montgomery Cares program quarterly report. Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant increase in encounters for Montgomery Cares and Care For Kids compared to the budgeted totals for FY25 to date. Billable encounters are approximately 85% of the total budgeted amount for FY25 at the close of the third quarter showing a significant increase in utilization compared to the past few fiscal years. Dr. Vela noted the diverse capabilities, strengths and core competencies of the participating clinics. MCAB member, Mark Foraker pointed out that the growth is not necessarily uniform across all participating clinics. Mark Foraker raised concerns about the need to increase telehealth utilization and suggested clinics consider the need for patient education regarding telehealth utilization. Dr. Vela gave an update on the Specialty Care Improvement project and gave updates on initial findings and the stages remaining for the information gathering phase of the project. Other items covered include capacity limitations for the behavioral health program related to staffing changes and an increase in requests for utilization and a pilot program to test implementing check-in kiosks at some clinic locations that participate in the Montgomery Cares Program. 			
6.	Feedback on County Council Letter – MCAB Vote MCAB Dr. Kelly gave an overview of the discussions that informed the advocacy priorities and resulting draft letter as well as the revision process for the final version detailing the FY26 MCAB priorities. Dr. Kelly solicited additional input regarding the priority letter to the County Council and with no further discussion from the group, she requested a motion to approve the current. Once approved, the letter will be finalized and sent by Ashley Miller to County Council for consideration for the FY26 Budget. <i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i>			

	<p><i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i></p> <p><i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
7.	<p>MCAB Definition of Success Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>Dr. Kelly gave a brief review of the process that has taken place to define success for MCAB over the past few months. The draft document provides a definition of success for MCAB and how success can be measured for this advisory board. She asked for feedback on the draft document. No feedback or further discussion was provided by MCAB members at the meeting. Ashley Miller will share the draft with the BCC Office to get further feedback before MCAB will vote to finalize the document.</p>	Feedback on the Definition of Success Draft from BCC Office	Ashley Miller	Update will be provided at May 2025 Meeting.
8.	<p>Board Representatives Update MCAB</p> <p>MCAB member Beth Barrows gave an update from the Commission on Health acknowledging their annual retreat in May 2025. Beth shared that she is stepping down from the Commission on Health and a new representative will be appointed from the Commission on Health in the near future.</p> <p>MCAB member Mark Foraker noted the schedule and timing of subcommittee meetings in lead up to prioritization and budget planning for FY27 and the MCAB retreat. Dr. Kelly recommended that the subcommittees may need to consider meeting earlier in summer 2025.</p>	Update on new COH representative	Beth Barrows/ Ashley Miller	Update will be provided at May 2025 Meeting.
9.	<p>May 28, 2025 Agenda and Next Steps Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 28th, 2025.</p>			
10.	<p>Meeting Adjournment Dr. Kathryn Kelly</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM <i>Moved by: Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by: Dr. Yuchi Huang</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Foraker
Mark Foraker (Jun 3, 2025 10:26 EDT)

Mark Foraker,
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board