

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

January 28, 2026 Meeting Notes

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

MCAB Members Absent: Kisha Davis

DHHS Staff: Magda Brown, Melinda Fredericks, Ashley Miller, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Kelly Velazquez Urmana, Dr. Tricia Boyce, Rebecca Smith

County Council Staff: None

Primary Care Coalition: Annice Cody, Yasmin Cespedes-Zaman, Ogechukwu Okeke

Guest: Jess Fuchs, Nadia Washington, Dr. Steven Kariya

Dr. Kelly, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2026 (Dr. Kathryn Kelly) <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Troy Jacobs</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			
2.	Board Chair/Vice Chair Report (Dr. Kathryn Kelly) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCAB was introduced to Kelly Velasquez Urmana, Program Specialist II, Office of Community Health Office working directly with Dr. Davis. Kelly has experience as a community health worker and in non-for profit organizations and is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. Kelly will join Dr. Davis for MCAB meetings moving forward. Welcome Kelly! • TROIKA FY27 priorities update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TROIKA is meeting with the County Executive’s Office this week regarding FY27 Priorities. TROIKA is working to show the impact of the work being done around the FY27 priorities, what is needed to support the priorities and the impact of not supporting the FY27 priorities in the budget. MCAB has submitted advocacy priorities for FY27 for the five Healthcare For the Uninsured programs. TROIKA has incorporated some of these priorities into the FY27 priorities and advocacy work. • Update on MCAB in-person schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to MCAB members for responding to the Doodle Poll! ○ February, April, and June meetings will be in person with a virtual option ○ March and May meetings will be virtual 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More information will be shared in the coming months regarding the specifics of the monthly MCAB meetings ● Update on nominating committee’s progress for selecting new board members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nominating Committee members include: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Karen Crist, Dr, Troy Jacobs, and Vahe Hovian. Many thanks to our board members for volunteering their time! ○ The committee met in January and is working towards the next phase of the process, which is applicant interviews. ● April 2026 ADA compliance requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State of Maryland passed legislation during the 2025 cycle that requires new guidelines for public-facing documents for BCCs; MCAB will update both the minutes and agenda templates as of 04/04/26; new templates will be shared by Ashley Miller with plans to implement in March 2026. 			
3.	<p>Health Officer Update (Dr. Kisha Davis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Davis was unable to be present at the January MCAB meeting. The Health Officer Report was shared as part of the January Meeting materials. Please send any questions about the report directly to Ashley Miller. ● Information on the County’s cancer screening program was shared as part of the January meeting materials packet. Please pay special attention to the cervical cancer screening and share with providers in celebration of cervical cancer awareness month. 	Email Ashley Miller with questions on the January Health Officer Report	MCAB	Prior to the February 25 MCAB meeting
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A (DHHS Staff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Point in Time (PIT) count been rescheduled to February 4, 2026 (originally scheduled for January 28, 2026). Volunteers are still needed. Ashley Miller will follow up with more information and resources on the rescheduled PIT count following the meeting. ● Care for Kids and Montgomery Cares will need additional supplemental funding support for FY26 to keep up with current utilization rates. DHHS is working with the Primary Care Coalition to put together a request that will go to the County Executive and County Council to support remainder of fiscal year. 			
5.	<p>CERB report update and definition of success progress and planning (Dr. Kathryn Kelly and Ashley Miller)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The final report was shared as part of the January meeting materials. ● The Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) was appointed on May 22, 2024, to conduct the first comprehensive review of Montgomery County's advisory boards, committees, and commissions (BCCs) in over a decade. This Final Report fulfills the mandate established under Montgomery County Code Article XI, Section 2-146, to evaluate both the BCC system as a whole and individual advisory bodies. ● The board did not identify any changes to scope or function of MCAB, however, noted that MCAB should emphasize focused recruitment of members for greater representation of Montgomery Cares beneficiaries, i.e. recipients of Healthcare for the Uninsured program services. ● Diversification is already a strategy of consideration in the MCAB definition of success document; noting that the current election period has received a record number of applications as well as retention of current members. Both are measurable indicators of success. A copy of the MCAB Definition of Success document was included with the January meeting materials. 			

6.	<p>Board representative updates (MCAB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate McGrail shared the status of the Montgomery County Regional Collaborative Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP); the report will be formally published no earlier than April 2026 pending additional board approvals. Currently, the hospitals are in the planning stages of developing the Health Priority Action Teams (HPATs) for each of the priority health domains (Easy Access to Comprehensive Care, Promotion of Healthy Living and Well-Being, and Support for Essential Community Services). If you are interested in serving on any of these workgroups, contact Kate McGrail and Ashley Miller. • Dr. Kariya (private practice pulmonologist) new host of the Montgomery County “House Calls” show, joined this month’s meeting as a member of the public. He is looking for public health topics to discuss and believes it may be beneficial to attend the monthly MCAB meetings as a member of the public to hear what is going on within the county and gather ideas. • 			
7.	<p>February 25, 2026 Agenda and Next Steps (Dr. Kathryn Kelly)</p> <p>Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 25 and will be held in-person. Next meeting will have two presentations: County Dental Program and Montgomery Cares updates.</p>			
8.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. <i>Moved by Wayne Swann</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Kate McGrail

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