



Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

February 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

401 Hungerford Drive,
Rockville, MD 20850

Virtual option was available via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

MCAB Members Present (In-person and remote)

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

MCAB Members Not Present

- Dr. Kisha Davis

Proof of Quorum

The meeting was called to order when 7 members joined the meeting.

DHHS Staff Present

- Ashley Miller, BCC Liaison
- Magda Brown
- Dr. Christopher Rogers
- Melinda Fredericks
- Rebecca Smith
- Dr. Tricia Boyce

- Kelly Velazquez Umana

County Council Staff Present

- None

Primary Care Coalition Staff Present:

- Dr. Veronica Vela
- Yasmin Cespedes
- Annice Cody
- Ogechukwu Okeke

Guests Present:

- Nadia Washington
- Jess Fuchs
- Dr. Steven Kariya

Call To Order

Mark Foraker, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair, Mark Foraker welcomed the Board to the meeting.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the February 25, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Dr. Deborah Miller-Young and Seconded by Karen Crist. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

1. Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair/Vice Chair Report – Mark Foraker, Vice Chair
 - a. TROIKA Update
 - i. Not much progress this month as TROIKA awaits to release of the County Executive’s FY27 Budget Recommendations in March. Once released, the County Executive’s budget recommendations will be used to help define next steps and shape meetings with the County Council President and the HHS Committee.
 - ii. MCAB priorities remain focused on the Healthcare for the Uninsured Programs.
 - b. Meeting Minutes Sign Up
 - i. A Doodle Poll sign-up for MCAB to take the monthly meeting minutes has been sent out to board members.
 - ii. Members have signed up for the following months:
 1. Karen Crist – February (in-person)
 2. Dr. Troy Jacobs – March (virtual)
 3. Mark Foraker – April (in-person)
 4. Kate Lu – May – (virtual)

5. TBD – June (in-person)
 - iii. The updated in-person/virtual monthly meeting schedule was shared as part of the February meeting packet email and is included in the monthly meeting invite invitation.
2. Health Officer Update – Dr. Kisha Davis, County Health Officer
 - a. Dr. Davis' February Health Officer Report was provided with the February Meeting Packet. Key highlights:
 - i. Black History Month recognition and community events.
 - ii. Emphasis on health equity and culturally responsive public health.
 - iii. American Heart Month awareness.
 - iv. Reminder that residents cannot be denied healthcare due to immigration status.
 - v. Update regarding Maryland's Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (SB 828).
 - b. Dr. Davis was unable to attend the February MCAB meeting. Members were asked to submit questions to Ashley Miller, BCC Liaison for follow up. No questions were posed during the meeting.
3. Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A – DHHS Staff
 - a. MCAB members were asked to review the monthly Healthcare for the Uninsured Report ahead of the meeting and bring questions. No questions were posed on this month's Report.
 - b. Dr. Rogers provided an update on the Montgomery Cares program. A supplemental budget request has been submitted for the FY26 Montgomery Cares program. Currently, the program is budgeted for 78,000 encounters. PCC projects the program will reach 81,000 encounters. The supplemental budget request has been submitted to County Council to increase the encounters cap/funding for encounters based on these projections. An update will be provided as soon as County Council has made a final determination.
 - c. A question was raised by the board about a possible new Montgomery County Schools policy which disenrolls students after 10 consecutive days of absences. Board members are interested in learning more about the policy and any relationship between unenrollment and lower number of school wellness center visits and possible impacts on Care For Kids. Can students go to a Health center even if no longer enrolled at a Montgomery County Public School?
 - d. Ashley Miler recommended that the Board identify questions/data requests on this topic and work to submit a data inquiry form. The form can be completed by the MCAB Chair/Vice Chair and submitted to Dr. Rogers and Ashley. Dr. Rogers will share the questions with Dr. Davis and MCPS for feedback once received.
 - e. Questions/data requests from MCAB:
 - i. Please provide clarification on the new Montgomery County Schools policy of disenrollment following 10 consecutive days of absences.
 - ii. Is data available for the number of children that have been disenrolled to-date since the policy was enacted?

- iii. Is any data available on the impact of students not attending school and utilization of health care services in the School Based Health and Wellness Centers?
 - iv. Who specifically is impacted by the disenrollment? Please provide data by assigned school, grade, gender, demographics, geographical, number of CFK students disenrolled, and number of students disenrolled that participate in the School Based Health and Wellness Centers.
 - v. What percentage of CFK students and what percentage of School Based Health and Wellness Center students are impacted by the disenrollment policy?
 - vi. What is the current number of children enrolled and attending School Based Health and Wellness Centers?
 - f. A motion was made to approve the questions/data requests and for the Chair and Vice Chair to complete a data request form to be submitted to DHHS. Motion was moved by Dr. Troy Jacobs and seconded by Dr. Deborah Miller-Young.
 - g. Dr. Rogers raised finding of the CERB Report and whether the practice of including a stipend for community members and past consumers of MCares may be needed to increase engagement/membership. Ashley Miller will gather more information from the BCC Office regarding timeline for feedback submission. Dr Rogers noted that this type of change may require an amendment to the MCAB Charter/Legislation. Dr. Rogers recommended MCAB further discuss and develop a statement that can be submitted to the BCC Office/CE's Office for consideration. An item on this will be added to the March agenda.
 - h. Ashley Miller provided an update on behalf of the Healthcare for the Homeless Program on the Medical Respite Workgroup Session that was held in December 2025. Update provided an overview of the meeting, findings and next steps.
- 4. County Dental Programs Update – Dr. Tricia Boyce, Dental Director, Public Health Dental Services
 - a. A copy of the presentation was sent as part of the February MCAB meeting packet.
 - b. Due to timing, the question and answer portion of the presentation was reduced. MCAB members are requested to email Ashley Miller with any questions on the presentation. An agenda item will be added to the March agenda to address any questions received.
- 5. MCares Program Q2 Updates – PCC Staff
 - a. A copy of the presentation was sent as part of the February MCAB meeting packet.
 - b. Due to timing, the question and answer portion of the presentation was reduced. MCAB members are requested to email Ashley Miller with any questions on the presentation. An agenda item will be added to the March agenda to address any questions received.
- 6. Board Representative Updates – MCAB
 - a. Dr. Jacobs shared that the Commission on Health will be holding their annual retreat in March. As part of the meeting the Commission review current priorities as well as begin discussion for future priorities. Dr. Jacobs will share any outcomes r updates from the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 2026 from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Dr. Deborah Miller-Young and seconded by Karen Crist. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Crist

Karen Crist, Montgomery Cares Advisory Board