



Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Teams
Monday, May 4, 2020 ■ 6:00PM-8:00PM

Members and Alternates Present:

Jackie DeCarlo, Crystal DeVance-Wilson, Monika Driver, Travis Gayles, Leslie Graham, Michelle Hawkins, Amy Lindsey, Marilyn Lynk, Dairy Marroquin, Gina Maxham, Kimberley McBride, Kathy McCallum, Kate McGrail, Stephanie McKay, Beatrice Miller, Nguyen K. Nguyen, Elizabeth Rathbone, Jade-Ann Rennie, Monique Sanfuentes, Cristina Sasaki, Jacquelyn Williams

Healthy Montgomery Staff: Rita Deng, Vanessa Kachipande, Diana Tato-Niktash, Karen Thompkins

Guests: Anne Langley, Chunfu Liu, Helen Lettlow, Patricia Maclay, Faizal Ouedraogo, Sanjana Quasem, Chris Rogers, Anna Shao, Meghan Sontag, Patrice Tucker, Arlee Wallace

Topic/Presenter	Key Points	Action Item/ Responsible Person
Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Ms. DeCarlo & Dr. Gayles</i>	Ms. DeCarlo welcomed the group and provided short review on Teams virtual meeting procedures.	N/A
Approval of Minutes <i>Ms. DeCarlo</i> Health Officer Updates <i>Dr. Gayles</i>	The March meeting minutes were approved with no edits. Dr. Gayles provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Christopher Rogers was introduced who will help to oversee Healthy Montgomery, Montgomery Cares, and other Public Health Services programs. • An update on COVID efforts and activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 5/000 cases in the county and over 30,000 cases statewide 	Finalize March meeting minutes. HM Staff N/A



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several indicators are being reviewed to determine COVID status. A large-scale testing effort will be announced in the near future. The county is encouraging sheltering in place to curb additional community spread ○ COVID has exposed many health disparities related to housing security, food insecurity, access to care/treatment, chronic care treatment. Social determinants of health remain to be a big area of focus. Race plays a big role in the health disparities that are coming to the forefront during COVID ○ Healthy Montgomery in tandem with other community partners, has the platform to drive and leverage the conversation to guide us through the process of addressing COVID issues moving forward 	
<p>Post COVID-19 Recovery & HMSC Opportunities</p> <p><i>HMSC Members</i></p>	<p>Create a vision for how Healthy Montgomery will intervene and work with partners to improve health disparities.</p> <p>Dr Gayles addressed 4 key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health in all policies response ● Rapid response teams-working with various agencies to assist families in crisis to determine need, food, cover testing, PCP access, transportation, and basic family needs. ● Covering language barriers (health literacy). Working collectively to come up with solutions. Healthy Montgomery can leverage relationships with community partners to ensure that the messaging is culturally appropriate and makes sense for the audience. Horowitz Center could assist with health literacy and communication needs. ● Elaborate on the data/trends on health disparities. Race is missing on 65-70% of lab forms, attempting to present geographical representations of COVID cases in the interim. Looking into ways to get more accurate reporting of race. Death data from vital records has more complete 	<p>Summarize meeting notes and send out with COVID19 next steps</p> <p><i>HM Staff</i></p> <p>Email chat room conversations to members</p> <p><i>HM Staff</i></p>



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reporting (race, gender, age, sometimes occupation). This has helped determine difference that are arising due to race. Data broken down by rate shows that minorities (Black, Latino, Asian) have higher rates of COVID morbidity.

What are current gaps in care that are barriers to delivering adequate care to residents?

Dr. Gayles noted the following gaps in care:

- Testing capacity (biggest gap in care) supply and equipment issue
- Limited criteria for testing that is ever expanding
- Continue to advocate for individuals to get tested, encouraging people to seek medical care regardless of insurance, immigration. Provide clear patient health education (related to sheltering in place, social distancing, face coverings etc.)
- Access to PCP providers is a care gap for many with no PCP. Testing stations have been set up around the county (VEIP Center, Wheaton etc.)

What should we be doing regarding contract tracing?

- Dr Gayles noted that the County is using the interview method following a positive test result. Geo mapping apps using cell phone data is an opportunity for more advanced contact tracing.

The food security task force is working on putting together a script to address food security concerns. Ms. DeCarlo will share with group once this is available.

The County is using social media to reach residents, especially minorities.

- Communications team focused on COVID and a special populations group meets regularly to talk about different strategies
- DHHS PIO and Healthy Montgomery are using twitter



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- Social issues and stigma related to black males wearing masks are present, there is a need communicate regarding social issues. Need for improvements with disseminating information to resonate with different groups.
- Minority Health Initiatives and Programs (MHIP) are using social media. At AAHI, they are working with County partners to develop multilingual education videos
- MHIP are a part of the special populations team - important messages, graphics, and videos are sent to all members to share through their communication channels.
- Social media communications need to lend consideration to a generational approach to direct messaging appropriately. Young people not as present on some platforms as others (younger people use Instagram; older groups use Twitter and Facebook).

Detailed mapping available in terms of exposure to PM 2.5 to indicate severity of COVID cases?

- Extended exposure to PM (particulate matter) could lead to an increase in severity of cases. Individuals with underlying conditions and elderly are especially at risk.
- Cristina Sasaki to share additional mapping resources/information directly with Leslie Graham

When businesses reopen, businesses should be required to present a COVID prevention policy to ease consumer concerns. What can health department do to help monitor cleanliness of businesses?

- Some health and safety measures are already in place. Stores are currently being fined for lack of cleanliness.

Preparations for reopening schools for the fall:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCPS offices are having discussions in the coming days to plan for reopening. Plan to review what needs to be in place for schools to reopen. • MCPS offices are looking at mental health supports for students, staff, community, etc. but also what practices need to remain (social distancing). • Additional focus on how students will be assisted during the closures. If schools don't reopen this year, students and teachers will have to go back to school to close out school year 	
<p>Hospital Workgroup Update <i>Ms. Gina Maxham</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital staff are considering community health and wellness concerns to see what areas can be converted to virtual platforms • Focus for this year is on mental health and wellness addressing stress, anxiety, depression for different populations. Initial events are directed to children and parents. • Documentary screening and panel discussion of <i>Angst</i> hosted in collaboration with EveryMind and MCPS. Meeting was well received and attended by 400 individuals (900 registered). An additional 170 individuals watched the screening and panel discussion via weblink following the live event. • Feedback from attendees was positive, individuals requested additional tools and strategies for kids. In the future, smaller sessions will be held to allow more Q&A. Another meeting is planned for June using a similar format. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and welcome to Ann Langley-New director for Center of Population Health at the Maryland Department of Health • Dairy Marroquin shared the following via chat: "Medstar Health is offering EVisits for free for a limited time to manage the threat of COVID-19 and 	<p>Email Medstar's events post meeting <i>HM Staff</i></p>



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	<p>as a service to the community. Anyone can sign up and use MedStar Evisit regardless of being insured or uninsured. It should be used for primary care visits". Flyers in 3 different languages will be shared with the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cristina Sasaki shared Montgomery Parks COVID-19 update via chat: Locations of more remote trails and opened parkways to maintain social distance link: https://www.montgomeryparks.org/covid-19/	
Wrap-Up/Adjourn	The next Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee meeting will be held on July 13, 2020.	N/A