



**Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee Meeting  
Virtual via Zoom Meeting  
July 12, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Amy Lindsey, Andrea Mocca, Cristina Sasaki, Gina Maxham, Jackie DeCarlo, Jade-Ann Rennie, Jessica Laigle, Kate McGrail, Kathy McCallum, Kimberley McBride, Leslie Graham, Lynn Mejia, Monika Clark Driver, Patricia Reed, Travis Gayles, Victoria Thompson

**Healthy Montgomery Staff:** Brittany Foushee, Chris Rogers, Diana Tato-Niktash, Karen Thompkins, Rita Deng, Vanessa Kachipande

**Guests:** Anna Shao, Chunfu Liu, Jessica Laigle, Karen Gutierrez, Katya Moemi Kaplow, Linda McMillan, Meghan Sontag, Muhammad Hasan, Patricia Maclay, Patricia Swanson, Rya Griffis, Sara E. Zarzecki, Tiffany Basdeo, T’Kia Pearson

Topic/Presenter	Key Points	Action Item/ Responsible Person
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>Dr. Travis Gayles &amp; Ms. Jackie DeCarlo</i>	The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. Dr. Travis Gayles welcomed the group and Ms. Jackie DeCarlo invited new attendees to introduce themselves.	N/A
<b>Approval of Minutes</b> <i>Dr. Travis Gayles &amp; Ms. Jackie DeCarlo</i>	The May meeting minutes were approved at 6:09 PM by unanimous consent, with no edits or objections.	Finalize the May meeting minutes. <i>HM Staff</i>
<b>MCDHHS Health Officer’s Comments</b> <i>Dr. Travis Gayles</i>	Dr. Travis Gayles shared the following COVID-19 updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 vaccinations in Montgomery County continue.</li> <li>• Montgomery County remains one of the leading jurisdictions in the nation for the percentage of residents vaccinated in jurisdictions that are over 300,000 people per population. This is largely due to the extensive</li> </ul>	N/A

community partnerships, health system partners, non-profit partnerships, and willingness of community members to get vaccinated.

- MCDHHS continues to work to close the gap in vaccinating adolescents and young adults age 21-30. To learn more about the percentage of people vaccinated by state, jurisdiction, and age visit the [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#). In Montgomery County, 98% of people in the 65+ population have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.
- The Maryland Department of Health released information showing that 100% of COVID-19 fatalities and 97% of COVID-19 cases in June were all from people who were not vaccinated. An even smaller percentage of cases were from those who were not completely vaccinated.
- There are 3 sites in Montgomery County where people can receive COVID-19 vaccines and testing. Visit the [Montgomery County COVID-19 information portal](#) for more details.

Additional Public Health updates:

- MCDHHS has made key hires to support the Type II diabetes program.
- The Chief Policy Officer is working to consolidate the prevention programs into a population health unit to allow for seamless transition and better coordination of resources.
- The *Ending the HIV Epidemic* program hosted an event in June called Pride in the Plaza. The program is currently working on a campaign to encourage community members to get tested and to raise awareness about the [Test-at-Home program](#).
- The Maternal and Infant Health programs continue to expand under the *Babies Born Healthy* grant. These programs are working to increase the provisions in services available within the maternal partnership programs.
- MCDHHS is investing in work force development to modernize public health infrastructure and increase capacity for the epidemiology branch.
- Healthy Montgomery continues to work with the Montgomery Cares program to increase the integration of telehealth services and opportunities to implement more prevention strategies that are consistent with the other population health efforts.

<p><b>Status of Health Report Update</b>  <i>Ms. Rita Deng, DHHS</i></p>	<p>Ms. Rita Deng presented highlights from the Surveillance Report on Population Health, representing health data in Montgomery County from 2010-2019. Please refer to the presentation slides for details.</p> <p>Questions:  When will the slides be available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An email with materials presented will be shared after the meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Has there been any correlation of the health data to the equity emphasis areas and is there a way to tie these together when discussing geographies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes. We are looking to overlap this information with the equity work. We attempted to put out an equity report last year and the same framework will be utilized as the work continues. There is a huge overlap when discussing how to correct issues and equity in housing, health, transportation, education, job opportunities, and food insecurity.</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Surveillance Report</b>  <i>Ms. Sara Zarzecki, DHHS</i></p>	<p>Ms. Sara Zarzecki presented highlights and findings from the draft COVID-19 Surveillance Report which includes data from March 2020 to May 2021. Please refer to the presentation slides for details.</p> <p>Questions:  When is this report going to be available?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both presentations will be sent out after the meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Has any data been collected on living circumstances? One of the comments we heard as a recurring theme in the Planning Department, during outreach for the County General Plan, was that cities caused COVID-19 to be worse and our vanity was blamed as a reason for high rates of transmission in certain areas. Do we have any further data on this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(<i>Ms. Sara Zarzecki</i>) I have seen a few articles that mention urban density and evaluate mental health and the closure of such. There is research going on with density but that is very nuanced so I will need to investigate it more and get back to you.</li> <li>(<i>Dr. Gayles</i>) Yes, we know that density within multifamily households did contribute to the spread. I remember anecdotally from the early stages of the pandemic when we had an operation to do testing in homes. We would go to a site where there were 10-12 people in a home and one person had</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>tested positive but was unable to quarantine in that particular setting. It will be tricky to break that down based upon the data that was collected from a surveillance perspective. The State receives reports of a positive test but there is not an opportunity to show how many people lived in that individual's household and how many common contacts came from the same address. We do know, anecdotally, that increased people in a household, more so than the type of household, increased the spread of transmission.</p> <p>The data presented earlier was up to 2019 - are you planning to combine the data during the pandemic? When? Curious to see how some of the traditional diseases responsible for deaths changed during the pandemic. thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>(Ms. Rita Deng)</i> We receive the vital statistics and hospitalization data around November of each year. The 2020 data will likely be messy, so we will be looking at this data very carefully. For example, you will see changes in the ICD-10 code for COVID and how many people were actually using that reporting during that time. There are a lot of variables in the 2020 data that may trend a difference in what we have been looking at for the past decade.</li> <li>• <i>(Dr. Gayles)</i> When using large data sets for surveillance purposes, there is at least a year to 2-year delay in reporting the clean data. We probably won't have access to the same level and specificity for 2020 data until next year. As we report the information, we will continue to look at those nuances. We could look at some of the preliminary data that has been released but the large data sets seen at the State and Federal level take at least a year to use at the local level.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Montgomery County's Cancer Control Program</b>  <i>Ms. T'Kia Pearson, DHHS</i></p>	<p>Ms. T'Kia Pearson presented on the services in the Cancer Prevention and Tobacco program. Please refer to the presentation slides for details.</p> <p>Comments:  Ms. Andrea Mocca shared her contact information with Ms. T'Kia Pearson to serve as a reference and share her relevant work experience to support the program.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Minority Health Initiatives &amp; Programs Updates</b></p>	<p><i>Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) – Muhammad Hasan</i>  The AAHI has hosted a few community events regarding anti-Asian hate crimes, bias reporting around COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among the Asian community, and teen mental health concerns. The AAHI also hosted a mental health first aid training.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>Additionally, the AAHI partnered with the Chinese Culture Community Service Center and the Chinese Bible Church to host the F.E.M.A Strike Team for COVID-19 vaccinations in May. Currently, the AAHI is conducting a survey with community and faith-based organizations to evaluate their needs in serving the AAPI community and assess existing programs. The AAHI plans to launch an echo project in August with a grants-101 information session and parental education workshops surrounding teen mental health issues.</p> <p><i>African American Health Program (AAHP) – Dr. Travis Gayles</i> The AAHP has been working to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines and has collaborated with State and Federal partners to identify venues for pop-up vaccination sites, in order to address the gaps in vaccine uptake throughout the County.</p> <p><i>Latino Health Initiative (LHI) – Dr. Travis Gayles</i> The LHI has been active in the <a href="#">Salud y Bienestar</a> initiative to increase COVID-19 testing and vaccination in the community. The LHI <a href="#">Abuelita</a> public relations outreach campaign won a local Emmy.</p>	
<p><b>Hospital Workgroup Updates</b> <i>Gina Maxham, Adventist HealthCare</i></p>	<p>The hospital groups continue to work together on a collaborative CHNA for the 2022-2024 timeline. The community survey has been finalized and will be shared with community partners to help promote the survey. The hospital groups look forward to utilizing the data from the Healthy Montgomery CHNA to supplement information gathered on their end. The hospital groups are also working with the behavioral health workgroup to develop a program for mental health professionals to gather continued education credits around PTSD as it relates to unaccompanied minors, post-pandemic grief, and trauma. This training is still in its early planning stages so more information will follow as plans develop. The behavioral health workgroup is composed of representatives from each of the Montgomery County hospitals and collaborates with Every-mind to develop a topic area with events and programs each year.</p>	N/A
<p><b>CHNA Update</b> <i>Dr. Christopher Rogers</i></p>	<p>Dr. Christopher Rogers provided updates on the CHNA qualitative and quantitative assessments. Please refer to the presentation slides for details.</p> <p>Questions: When will the Oral Health Survey be shared with providers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 1</li> </ul>	N/A

	<p>Comment:</p> <p>Montgomery Parks is updating our 5-year Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. As part of it, we started a <a href="#">Community Survey</a>. The questions were created to understand the underlying reasons people go or don't go to our parks. The answers might reveal lifestyle trends that can also help us to create healthier places to live, play, and work.</p> <p>If anyone has contacts with doctors and health professionals at the National Institute of Health, please share with Ms. Cristina Sasaki so the community survey can be widely distributed amongst partners.</p>	
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>The Montgomery County Parks Department is hosting a series of events for <i>Latino Week</i>. Ms. Cristina Sasaki will email information for the event. View the <a href="#">event schedule</a> for details.</p>	N/A
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. The next Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee meeting will be on September 13, 2021 via Teams.</p>	N/A