

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

April 26, 2023 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Viviana Azar, Betsy Ballard, Dr. Kisha Davis, Mark Foraker, Melinda Hite, Yuchi Huang, Denise Kishel, Peter Lowet, Diana Saladini, Dr. Langston Smith, Wayne Swann

MCAB Members Absent: Melanie Bunting, Sharron Holquin, Helaine Resnick,

DHHS Staff: Dr. Tricia Boyce, Magda Brown, Sean Gibson, Robert Morrow, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Becky Smith

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Leslie Graham, Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Robinson, Hillery Tsumba

Guest: Dr. Sonya Bruton, Crystal Townsend, Sean Wright

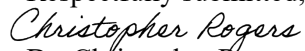
Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2023 Wayne Swann</p> <p><i>Moved by Peter Lowet</i> <i>Seconded by Betsy Ballard</i></p> <p><i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chair, Wayne Swann highlighted the agenda• Wayne Swann announced that the board will be responsible for the minutes starting July 2023. He would like the options to be discussed at the May 2023 meeting. He noted that members could volunteer, or they could take turns• Wayne Swann discussed the proposed in-person/virtual schedule and noted that if approved, the first in-person meeting would take place June 2023 <p><u>A MOTION</u> was made by Diana Saladini to approve the proposed MCAB in-person/virtual schedule. The motion was seconded by Mark Foraker. The motion was approved unanimously</p>			

3.	<p>County Health Officer Update Dr. Kisha Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis provided an update on COVID-19 followed by a Q&A session • Celebrated milestone last week. 1st day in 3 years with no patients in an ICU bed in the County • Covid numbers continue to decrease, the public health emergency will end in a few weeks • Vaccines continue to be available for free for anyone with insurance. The County has funds available to help cover the cost of the vaccine for those without coverage • Test kits remain available, they will continue to be available at libraries and other distribution centers • FDA and CDC have updated guidance on the Bivalent booster. The Monovalent booster is no longer approved, and everyone is now to get the Bivalent booster. The initial series of shots are going away. For people over 65 FDA and CDC have said that they can receive an additional booster if it has been over 4 months from the previous one. For immunocompromised individuals, FDA and CDC have said that they can receive an additional booster if it has been over 2 months from the previous booster. Boosters have not been approved for anyone else • There is a new booster in the works that may be available in the fall. There is a possibility that it will be combined with the Flu shot • Another hot topic for the department is fentanyl and opioids. Overall decreased number of overdoses and deaths in the 18-44 age group. However, there is a dramatic increase of use and overdose in the youth under 18. Increasing opportunities for outpatient treatment. Inpatient treatment facilities are not available for youth in the State • CHNA will be ready within the next 4 to 6 weeks 			
4.	<p>Health Care for the Uninsured Report Dr. Christopher Rogers See Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers presented an overview of the programs updates followed by a Q&A session • The County Council Hearing for Public Health Services is scheduled for April 27th. Montgomery Cares, Cares for Kids, County Dental, Maternity Partnership, and Health Care for the Homeless may be discussed during the budget work session. The packet for the hearing was publicly released • Council staff are prioritizing increases that the CE has recommended to the budget. Everything is going on the reconciliation list, and they are prioritizing items into tiers. Tier 1 is high priority and Tier 2 is priority • The County Council staff has recommended the following as high priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ \$2 million increase in the Montgomery Cares Clinic reimbursement rate ➢ \$30,000 anticipated rate increase for the Behavioral Health Psychiatric Consultation vendor • County Council staff noted the recommendation from the MCAB to increase the primary care reimbursement rate for Care for Kids • County Council staff highlighted the unprecedented advocacy request from the MCAB and TROIKA for \$ 9mil. Council staff noted that the focus of any Council actions should be around increasing the primary care reimbursement rate 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Rogers explained that as the County transitions to FY24, eligibility remains a number one priority. He noted that the department is engaged in strategic conversations regarding alignment of the 5-health care for the uninsured programs. The MCAB will be included in the conversations before any final decisions are made 			
5.	Board Development (structure) <div style="text-align: right;">Diana Saladini</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne discussed the MCAB organizational chart and provided a summary of the stakeholders structure Wayne highlighted the MCAB's mission and reminded members that the role is to advice and recommend policies Diana and Wayne asked members to share their specific interests and or perspectives as well as any potential conflicts of interest Yuchi wanted clarification on the organizational chart and the Board's mission to make recommendations to the County Executive and what DHHS's role is in the MCAB mission. Wayne clarified 			
6.	Montgomery Cares Quarterly Report See Presentation <div style="text-align: right;">Primary Care Coalition</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aisha Robinson presented an overview of the Montgomery Cares Quarterly Report followed by a Q&A, and highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benchmark for the third quarter is 75% and clinics reached 62% of the FY23 budgeted number of encounters, and 68% of projected unduplicated patients Apart from Catholic Charities, all clinics are accepting new patients The average wait time for a new patient appointment range from 1 day to 21 days Most clinics have capacity to see established patients within 7 days The Montgomery Cares Program is budgeted for 72,000 encounters in FY23 and at the close of Q3, the projections are showing approx. 57,718 encounters Regarding behavioral health, Aisha discussed the current collaborations, outreach efforts, quality improvement, as well as the challenges Project Access (PA) received 1,103 referrals (21 more than FY23 Q2), representing 478 new unduplicated patients for the quarter PA accommodated 71% of requested referrals and a total of 783 appointments scheduled The total Community Pharmacy spending for FY23 Q1-Q3 has increased to 68%. This percentage has been steadily climbing in the past two fiscal years (54% in FY21 Q1-Q3 then 59% in FY22 Q1-Q3) FY23 Q3 Medbank activity remains consistent with first 2 quarters of the fiscal year, with a 78% increase in new client referrals (Q2 vs. Q3) 			
7.	Committee Chairs Report Out Brainstorm FY25 Priorities <div style="text-align: right;">MCAB</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter wants to know how eligibility will be handled for people who qualify for a qualified health plan. He wanted to know what will happen during Medicare redetermination since it is estimated that about 10% of people will lose 			

	<p>eligibility. He wanted to know what the policy plan regarding the impact of redetermination is, and if MCAB wanted to advise on the implications of the policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers went over the recommended policy. MCAB was asked to support the FY24 advocacy recommendation of \$1.2Mil to build out a data system that would support implementation of the policy and process MCAB recommended. The council staff noted in their report that the focus is on increasing reimbursement rates as a priority. Currently the department doesn't have any other policy positions until the FY24 budget is finalized. Dr. Rogers added that anyone who is on Medicaid that will no longer be eligible for Medicaid is able to enroll into a County Health Care for the Uninsured program as long as all requirements are met. For individuals who are enrolled in Montgomery Cares who are QHP eligible is a broader question the department continues to engage with stakeholders on. Dr. Rogers noted that the same issue has come up across other access to care programs and highlighted that the County Executive is interested and would like to see how the County can support with this issue • Health Care for the Homeless committee asked to wait until LaSonya meets with new leadership to find out what their priorities are • The Dental committee needs more time before meeting. Needs time to first meet with DHHS to determine stakeholder's needs • Montgomery Cares also needs additional time and would like to see the final budget first • Langston wanted to know if there was feedback outside of MCAB and DHHS. Wayne noted that would be up to each committee and if they wanted to hear from other sources, they could set something up 			
8.	<p>May 24, 2023 Agenda and Next Steps</p> <p>Next meeting is on Wednesday, May 24th and will be held virtually.</p>	Wayne Swann		
9.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM</p> <p><i>Moved by Langston</i> <i>Seconded by Peter Lowet</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christopher Rogers
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board