

# Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

## May 24, 2023 Meeting Notes

**MCAB Members Present:** Viviana Azar, Melanie Bunting, Dr. Kisha Davis, Mark Foraker, Melinda Hite, Dr. Helaine Resnick, Diana Saladini, Wayne Swann

**MCAB Members Absent:** Betsy Ballard, Sharron Holquin, Yuchi Huang, Denise Kishel, Peter Lowet, Dr. Langston Smith

**DHHS Staff:** Dr. Tricia Boyce, Magda Brown, Sean Gibson, Yvonne Iscandari, Ashley Miller, 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, Susan Emery,

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Meeting held via video/teleconference

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<b>Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2023</b>  <b>Moved to the June meeting due to lack of quorum</b>			
2.	<b>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report</b> Taking minutes start July 1, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair, Wayne Swann welcomed all members and highlighted the agenda</li><li>• Wayne reminded members that the board will be responsible for taking the meeting minutes starting July 2023</li><li>• Wayne suggested that all members take turns writing the minutes and asked for volunteers</li></ul>			
3.	<b>County Health Officer Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Davis provided an update on COVID-19 followed by a Q&amp;A session</li><li>• Dr. Davis announced that the Public Health Emergency has officially ended</li><li>• The CDC shut down some reporting areas of their site and Maryland changed the frequency of their updates</li><li>• Test and vaccines continue to be available free of charge</li><li>• The opioid intervention task force met earlier today to review the most recent numbers. The data currently shows that the total number of deaths and overdoses in adults over 18 has declined about 30% compared to last year, however, the total number of deaths and overdoses in youth under 18 has doubled or even tripled compared to</li></ul>			

	last year. This is a troubling trend and the strategy for the opioid restitution money is a PHS response focused on prevention, harm reduction, and opioid reversal			
4.	<p><b>Health Care for the Uninsured Report</b></p> <p><b>See Report</b></p> <p>DHHS - MCAB Process and Communications timeline for Advocacy and Policy Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Rogers presented an overview of program updates followed by a Q&amp;A session</li> <li>• Dr. Rogers explained that given the end of the public health emergency and noting that utilization is trending in the right direction, the department is assessing in determining to move the MCares reimbursement from the current block payment to fee for service. Conversations have been taking place with the County Council as well as the executive directors from the organizations that participate in Montgomery Cares. The department is planning to return to fee for service in FY24</li> <li>• Council final approval of the FY24 budget will take place May 25, 2023. The new reimbursement rate for MCares will be \$102.15</li> <li>• Montgomery Cares served a total of 20,329 unduplicated patients through April 2023 with a total of 50,222 patient visits (in-patient and telehealth) at the ten participating clinics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A 5% increase in unduplicated patients and 19% increase in encounters compared to this same time in FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• April 2023: The split of encounters for FY23 is 94% in-person and 6% telehealth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Note: March 2023 was at 6% telehealth</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Care For Kids served a total of 4,718 patients through April 2023 with a total of 5,738 patient visits at the participating clinics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A 42% increase in patients and 58% increase in encounters compared to this same time in FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The State has published the details on the Healthy Babies Equity Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All pregnant women, at or below 250% FPL will be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of immigration status.</li> <li>○ As a result, all women who have been eligible for the Maternity Partnership Program, will be eligible for Medicaid.</li> <li>○ DHHS is working on restructuring our Maternal Child Health programs. Currently 90% of the work is providing case management to uninsured pregnant women.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maternity Partnership Program served a total of 1,378 patients through April 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An increase of 3 patients compared to this same time in FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The dental program has added a volunteer oral surgeon, he will provide services half-day once per month.</li> <li>• The dental program has been participating in community outreach events with MCPS schools, MOU is in its final stages of being signed.</li> <li>• The dental collaborative bid continues to be processed by CMT.</li> <li>• County Dental served a total of 4,575 patients through April 2023 with a total of 9,048 patient visits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A 14% increase in patients and 1% increase in encounters compared to this same time in FY22.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Healthcare for the Homeless served a total of 309 patients with a total of 992 patient visits through March 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A 101% increase in patients and 72% increase in encounters compared to March in FY22.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Dr. Christopher Rogers		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rogers announced that Dr. Helaine Resnick had volunteered to be the MCAB lead for working with DHHS to make sure that all parties are communicating and are held accountable to the timeline listed on the DHHS - MCAB Process and Communications timeline for Advocacy and Policy Priorities document</li> </ul>			
5.	<b>Maternity Partnership Program Update</b> <b>See Presentation</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Becky presented an overview of the Maternity Partnership program and a summary of the Healthy Babies Equity Act followed by a Q&amp;A session</li> <li>Becky highlighted the benefits, the eligibility requirements, and how to apply. She also explained how things will be different and how the Maternity Partnership Program will continue to help</li> </ul>	<b>Rebecca Smith</b>		
6.	<b>Board Development</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diana asked the members to please let her know what they wanted to learn more about. She noted that board development would be added to the agenda every month, she highlighted this would be a great opportunity to raise any questions or concerns</li> </ul>	<b>Diana Saladini</b>		
7.	<b>Care For Kids Update</b> <b>See Presentation</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marisol presented an update on the Care for Kids program followed by a Q&amp;A session</li> <li>Marisol explained that the number of newcomers was 1,963 children and highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74% of newcomers were from 6 to 18 years of age</li> <li>Most newcomers arrived from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras</li> <li>Some children came from other 15 countries</li> <li>83% of new enrollees were identified has newcomers</li> <li>72% of newcomers enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>The US Office of Refugee and Resettlement has released the following number of unaccompanied children to sponsors in Montgomery County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY23 (Oct 2022 – Mar 2023): 601</li> <li>FY22 (Oct 2021 – Mar 2022): 702</li> </ul> </li> <li>She noted that the newcomers' population represents most new children in CFK</li> <li>Marisol also discussed the Point of Entry Project (PEP) and explained that it is a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)</li> <li>The Point of Entry (PEP)'s community health coordinator and two community health workers are in the Welcome Center at the MCPS International Enrollment and Admissions Office known as the Rocking Horse office, to assess referred families on healthcare needs and food insecurity</li> </ul>	<b>Marisol Ortiz</b>		

8.	<p><b>Committee Chairs Report Out</b> <b>Brainstorm FY25 Priorities</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MCAB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wayne asked for the committee chairs to present their priorities. The committees will meet separately at the June meeting</li> <li>Mark went over the priorities the MCares Committee had come up with and noted the following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reimbursement rate</li> <li>Policy Issues – Eligibility and Affordability                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding solution/answers to the system transformation + other past unresolved issues from before Covid-19 that had to be placed on hold due to the pandemic                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility</li> </ul> </li> <li>To come up with a philosophy or guiding principle or goal for what to do when a patient doesn't want to sign up for a program for various reasons, but they are otherwise eligible. Should that person be turned away?</li> <li>The need to ensure that clinics are addressing diverse patient population while maintaining minimum standards</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>			
9.	<p><b>June 28, 2023 Agenda and Next Steps</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wayne Swann</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rogers introduced Ashley Miller as the new Health Care for the Uninsured Program Manager</li> <li>Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 28th and will be held in-person at 401 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD 20850</li> </ul>			
10.	<p><b>Meeting Adjournment</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM</p> <p><i>Moved by Dr. Helaine Resnick</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,  
*Christopher Rogers*  
 Dr. Christopher Rogers  
 Montgomery Cares Advisory Board