

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

September 27, 2023 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Viviana Azar, Dr. Katherine Kelly, Susan Emery, Dr. Kisha Davis, Mark Foraker, Melinda Hite, Yuchi Huang, Denise Kishel, Peter Lowet, Diana Saladini, Melanie Bunting, Wayne Swann, Dr. Helaine Resnick

MCAB Members Absent: Sharron Holquin

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

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson, Gabe Albornoz, Beth Shuman

Primary Care Coalition: Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Robinson, Hillery Tumba, Sara Woods, Sean Wright, Sarah Frazell, Leslie Graham

Guest: Crystal Townsend

Wayne Swann called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm. Meeting held in person at Tan Conference Room in 401 Hungerford.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2023 <i>Moved by: Diana Saladini</i> <i>Seconded by: Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			
2.	Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report-Wayne Swann Wayne Swann confirmed that the board is responsible for the minutes starting July 2023. He would take the minutes for the July and September meetings and seek volunteers for the balance of the year. Mark Foraker volunteered to take the minutes for the October meeting. Future responsibility for taking minutes will be assigned on a rotating basis starting with the December meeting. Orientation was held for the three newest MCAB Board members on September 14, 2023 and September 18, 2023. Two identical sessions were held to accommodate schedules. The orientation was open to all board members and was held virtually on Microsoft Teams.	September minutes October minutes	Wayne Swann Mark Foraker	

	<p>The Chair, Wayne Swann highlighted the agenda noting that as part of the normal schedule there was no meeting in August. The chairs of the subcommittees were directed to meet with their subcommittees in either August or September to refine their respective advocacy priorities for consideration by the full board.</p> <p>Wayne Swann shared that he and Diana met with the DHHS Director’s Office on September 21, 2023 and will meet with the County Council on October 11, 2023. Wayne shared a summary of MCAB’s priority statement identifying two key priorities for FY24. The full statement was included with the materials shared with Board members for the September meeting.</p> <p>Wayne Swann asked for Board member volunteers for the nominating committee. The nominating committee manages the annual selection process for board leadership (Chair/Vice Chair) and interviews/nominates new Board members. Melinda Hite, Denise Kishel and Wayne Swann volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.</p>			
3.	<p>County Health Officer Update-Dr. Kisha Davis</p> <p>Dr. Davis shared that this year instead of multiple points of distribution, COVID-19 vaccines will be offered through the MCAB partners, Mobile Med, Mary’s Center and CCI. The federal government website Vaccine.gov provides information on what is available and the various locations and the process to get test kits and vaccines. The federal government is also providing up to 4 free COVID-19 test kits per family. Vaccines will be offered through the Bridge Access program which includes CVS and Walgreens. The Bridge Access program was created to enable uninsured adults to get vaccinated. The Health department is focusing on the uninsured and vulnerable populations in the County. Test kits continue to be available at the libraries and on line on covidtest.gov.</p> <p>Dr. Davis noted that COVID is here to stay. This year’s vaccine production will include RSV, COVID-19 and the flu. COVID-19 numbers are anticipated to be lower this fall compared to fall 2022.</p> <p>Mark Foraker asked what the COVID-19 vaccine allotment will be for the clinics. Dr. Davis allotments are still being determined. The County received fewer vaccines than anticipated. More vaccine are scheduled to arrive, but the arrival date has not been specified. Information will be released as soon as it is available. Dr. Davis also noted that the RSV vaccine is not included in the Bridge Access program.</p> <p>Yuchi Huang asked if the substance abuse (of opioids) is the basis for the rising crime rate in the County? Dr. Davis stated yes and that further discussion is needed on this topic.</p> <p>Wayne Swann asked if there has been any discussion about reinstating the mask requirement indoors? Dr. Davis responded yes and no but the current policy states if transmission occurs above the community level within a classroom, then the students in that classroom may be required to wear masks for a short period of time, though the likelihood of a</p>			

	full mask mandate remains low. Dr. Davis also recommended disposing of cloth masks, as they have been proven to be ineffective and instead recommended the N-95 masks.			
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Panel Discussion- Diana Saladini (Moderator), Gabe Albornoz, Crystal Townsend, Mark Foraker</p> <p>To further engage discussion among the subcommittees the Board is held a 30-minute panel discussion for panelists to share their insights as healthcare thought leaders and to share their perspectives in addressing the healthcare needs of the uninsured and low income residents of the county. The information helped to further support the clarification of advocacy needs and priorities for FY25. The presenters included Gabe Abornoz, Montgomery County Councilmember, Mark Foraker, Executive Director of the Mercy Health Center and Crystal Townsend, President and CEO of the Healthcare Initiative Foundation.</p> <p>Panelists addressed questions on what they felt were the major needs and challenges facing the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs, what impact patient literacy could have on treatment of the patient populations served by the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs and what the impact of limited availability of specialty care providers will have on treating the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs patient population.</p>			
5.	<p>Questions on the Health Care for the Uninsured Report-Dr. Christopher Rogers</p> <p>See Report</p> <p>Board members were asked prior to the meeting to review the Healthcare for the Uninsured Report and bring any questions to the meeting. No questions were noted for the Q&A session. The written copy of the healthcare for the uninsured report is incorporated as part of the minutes by reference herein.</p>			
6.	<p>MCAB Subcommittees Meet and Report Out (FY25 Priorities)-MCAB</p> <p>The Committee Chairs met with their respective subcommittees to finalize and report out their advocacy priorities. The final set of priorities with input from TROIKA will be incorporated into a letter to be sent to the County Executive.</p>			
7.	<p>Agenda and Next Steps</p> <p>Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 25- 2023 and will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM</p> <p><i>Moved by Diana Saladini</i></p> <p><i>Seconded by Yuchi Huang</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Swann

Wayne Swann
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board