

**TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH FOR BILL 43
– 21, HEALTH – ADVISORY BOARD FOR MONTGOMERY CARES PROGRAM**

BY CRISTOPHER ROGERS

Good Afternoon Council President Hucker, Council Vice President Albornoz, and members of the County Council. My name is Dr. Christopher Rogers, Policy & Strategy Officer of the Montgomery County Public Health Services, and I am here to provide testimony on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich on [Expedited Bill 43-21, Health - Advisory Board for Montgomery Cares Program](#).

The County Executive supports Expedited Bill 43-21, with the following recommended amendments.

- First, the County Executive recommends adding the Chief of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) or designee as an Ex Officio member of the Board, given that the eligibility units for the Montgomery Cares Program and other key programs for the underinsured and uninsured are housed under CYF.
- The County Executive supports increasing the number of board members of the public from 3-5 and suggests changing “*members of the public*” to “*individuals served by Health Care for the Uninsured programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services.*” This would enhance diversity and inclusion as well as empower patients/clients to have more meaningful representation in matters that impact their quality of care and overall health and wellbeing.
- For members of the public/clients serving on the board, the County Executive recommends establishing a flat fee for attending meetings of the Board and eliminating “Expenses” category. This would eliminate unnecessary paperwork/ administrative burden on public/clients as well as staff and will enhance participation of those being served by addressing financial barriers to attendance. He recommends following the same compensation guidelines as the County’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee.
- Finally, the County Executive recommends that the County, working with HHS, develop a definition of underinsured that can be utilized by MCAB, other boards and commissions, and County programs and services as applicable.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the County Executive.