



March 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Sheppard Pratt firmly supports the effort to stand up a Mobile Pediatric Clinic in Montgomery County.

If we have learned anything from the last two years of pandemic, it is that there are grave disparities in our residents' access to care and to vaccinations. The pandemic took a disproportionate toll on our poor, our communities of color, and our front-line service workers in part because many had underlying health conditions that compounded their ability to fight off the virus.

It should not be this way. We should build a network of primary care in Montgomery County to address common health conditions and provide easy access to COVID-19 vaccination.

Many of our youth in Montgomery County do not have access to school-based health centers, and their parents must work several jobs, making it difficult to take off work to attend pediatricians' appointments.

The idea of a mobile pediatric service is an idea whose time has come. The threat of another wave of COVID-19, through the BA2 lineage, is enough to prompt us to seriously consider expanding primary care at a time when this is critically needed.

Sincerely,

*Karla*

Karla Hoffman, MA, Service Chief,

Families and Communities Service Line