

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

June 26, 2024 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Dr. Kisha Davis, Viviana Azar, Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Dr. Yuchi Huang, Wayne Swann, Dr. Helaine Resnick, Huixing (Kate) Lu, Leslie Richin, Kate McGrail, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Denise Kishel, Mark Foraker, Melanie Bunting

MCAB Members Absent: Sharron Holquin, Susan Emery

DHHS Staff: Magda Brown, Ashley Miller, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Sean Gibson, Yvonne Iscandari

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Marisol Ortiz, Dr. Veronica Vela, Leslie Graham

Guest: Peter Lowet, Beth Barrows

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm. Meeting held in-person in the A&B Conference Room at 401 Hungerford, Rockville

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2024</p> <p><i>Approval of minutes was deferred to the July 24, 2024 Meeting</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melinda Fredricks provided an introduction. Melinda is the new Manager III for Public Health Services. In her role, Melinda will serve as an administrator for the Montgomery Cares, Care for Kids, County Dental and other programs within Public Health Services. She is also a former MCAB members. Following Melinda’s introduction there was an introduction of all attending Board members. • Chair, Wayne Swann noted with the end of FY24, this is a good time to evaluate the format of meetings for FY25. Currently, MCAB meets in-person 4 times per year (September, December, April and June). All in-person meetings have a hybrid option. Given past in-person attendance, Wayne suggested moving meetings to fully virtual or reducing the number of in-person meetings. • Viviana Azar recommended to skip the April meeting as it is typically a busy time volunteers with children. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denise Kishel questioned the need for the in-person December meeting as it is typically a busy time in terms of holidays and end of year deliverables. Dr. Rogers noted that the December meeting is valuable as it is a typically when the Board meets to reconcile any advocacy and policy priorities for the next fiscal year. Following discussion the Board voted to update the schedule for in-person meetings to three occurrences per year (September, December and June). <p>Approval to update the MCAB meeting calendar to three in-person meetings per year: <i>Moved by Denise Kishel</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley Miller stated that the December MCAB meeting is adjusted due to the holidays and will be held on December 11, 2024 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm MCAB members Dr. Helaine Resnick and Susan Emory have reached the end of their current terms and will be stepping down from their positions following the June MCAB meeting. Board members recognized their contributions to MCAB. New representative have been identified by the PCC Board which Dr. Resnick represents and the Commission on Health which Susan represents. Ashley will provide an update once the new members are confirmed. Wayne Swann announced that during the July 2024 MCAB meeting, members that serve as representative for other groups (Montgomery County Medical Society, Hospitals, Commission on Health, PCC Board) will be asked to provide an update on the group they represent. These updates were previously included in past years agendas to inform MCAB of the work of other groups as well as identify collaboration opportunities and is something the Chair would like to reincorporate periodically into the agendas moving forward. 			
3.	<p>Health Officer Update – Dr. Kisha Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kisha Davis shared key points and opened the floor to questions from the Board based on the document of this month’s Health Officer Update was sent out prior to the meeting. Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kisha Davis noted that the Board of Health recently presented to County Council. During the presentation the Board of Health highlighted the rise in Syphilis cases in the County. The Board is currently looking at how the County compares to the rest of the state for Syphilis cases. Recently, there has been a decrease in the number of cases amongst 0-24 year olds, but a rise in the senior population. To address this the County is increasing community-based testing events as well as ensuring staff are trained at point of care rapid testing. 50% of County Syphilis cases are treated at the DHHS clinics. Dr. Helaine Resnick inquired if the Board of Health was overseeing the PACE program? Ashley Miller noted this item was shared by OESS and referred her to the information that was included with the email that went out with the June meeting materials. 			

4.	<p>Health Care for the Uninsured Report Q&A – DHHS Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Christopher Rodgers notified the Board that starting July 1, 2024, the eligibility requirements for specialty care will be lifted and OESS will no longer be processing specialty care applications. Once a patient has been screened and approved for Montgomery Cares they will also be eligible for specialty care services. This will speed up access to specialty care for Montgomery Cares patients. • Individuals that are eligible for qualified health plans will remain eligible for Montgomery Cares through December 31, 2024 • DHHS will continue suspending eligibility processing for Montgomery Cares through December 31, 2024. Screening for Montgomery Cares and special circumstances such as specialty care will take place through the clinics that participate in Montgomery Cares. • Dr. Rogers noted there is a need for more specialty care providers for the Healthcare for the Uninsured Programs. Dr. Rogers is working with Dr. Davis to recruit more specialty care providers through the County hospitals. • Ashley Miller noted that DHHS will be launching the new Community Connect portal in the coming weeks. The portal will make it easier for County residents to apply for county services. Senior Dental and Care for Kids will be the first two Health Care for the Uninsured Programs included with Phase I. Other programs will be added as part of Phase II. • Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Foraker noted that Mercy clinic has been seeing an increase of senior patients ages 65 + with Chronic conditions. He wondered if this has been observed at other clinics that participate in Montgomery Cares? - Dr. Veronica Vela noted this is something they will keep an eye on as they are preparing and review the FY24 reports on the Montgomery Cares program. - Kate Lu noted that she has observed a lack of awareness of the Montgomery Cares program in the community and wondered what strategies are in place to increase visibility. - Dr. Rogers noted that the lack of awareness of the Montgomery Cares program was also noted amongst Mobile Health Clinic clients. This will be included as part of the discussion with the FY25 workgroup that was referenced during the May meeting. - Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired if additional administrative burden would be placed on the clinics now that OESS is no longer process specialty care applications? - Dr. Rogers noted that the current process in place for eligibility screening will not change or add additional work for the clinics now that eligibility screening for specialty care will be lifted. Dr. Rogers met with 8 of the 11 clinics that participate in Montgomery Cares; all were in full support of this change. - Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired what challenges PCC is facing to recruit more specialty care providers and if additional funding was needed? - Dr. Veronica Vela noted that the current funding provided for specialty care is sufficient. PCC is currently facing staffing challenges as the position for the Director of Specialty Care and Medicine Access is vacant. This role is currently being covered by other staff members who also have other full-time positions. The program is in need of more culturally competent specialty care providers. In addition, no show rates, transportation and coordination of visits also continue to pose challenges. - Dr. Kathryn Kelly currently represents the Montgomery County Medical Society. She will work with PCC to 			
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	<p>see what specialties the program is seeking and will bring this information back to the group to try to recruit specialty care providers from the Medical Society.</p>			
5.	<p>Next Steps: MCAB Response to FY25 Budget – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne Swann noted that TROIKA is working to develop a plan to explore supplemental funding options in regards to the recent release of the FY25 Budget by County Council. 			
6.	<p>Vice Chair Election Process – Wayne Swann and Ashley Miller</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne Swann noted that the Vice Chair position is currently vacant. In order to maintain the MCAB legislation and updated BCC guidance, the Board will begin the election process for a new Vice Chair. Ashley Miller shared that a Nominating Committee will need to be formed to oversee and create the process to receive nomination. Ashley noted the Nominating Committee is typically made up of the current Chair and 2-3 Board members. Board members Denise Kishel, Dr. Kathryn Kelly and Wayne Swann volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Wayne Swann stated that role of the Vice Chair is to support the Chair with Board meetings, subcommittees and other Board related functions and serve as facilitator in the case the Chair is unable to attend a meeting. Dr. Helaine Resnick inquired what the legislation currently includes for Chair and Vice Chair elections and terms. Ashley Miller noted the MCAB legislation states that a Chair and Vice Chair must be elected to serve a 1-year term. Wayne Swann noted the Chair position should also be included for the election. <p>Vote to confirm Wayne Swann, Denise Kishel and Dr. Kathryn Kelly to the Nominating Committee and to amend the election to the Chair and Vice Chair positions:</p> <p><i>Moved by Viviana Azar</i> <i>Seconded by Kate McGrail</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
7.	<p>Finalize September Strategic Planning Meeting Details (Sept. 25, 2024) – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MCAB Annual Retreat will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm in conference room A&B at the 401 Hungerford Building. Wayne Swann noted that a request for Board member input on panelists for the panel discussion was noted at the last meeting. Wayne noted that the Board will need to finalize panelists at this month’s meeting to ensure availability of panelists. Ashley Miller shared with the Board the list of panelists from the 2023 Annual Retreat. Panelists included: Montgomery County Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Crystal Townsend – former President and CEO of 			

	<p>Healthcare Initiative Foundation and Mark Foraker – Executive Director of Mercy Clinic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Foraker inquired if it would be possible to include the Chairs of all three County Council subcommittees on the panel for the September meeting as a way to discuss and better understanding priorities for FY26 in light of the FY25 Budget. • Tara Clemons Johnson shared that only two members can be present/speak otherwise it is considered a Council meeting. • Tara Clemons Johnson noted that if inviting member of Council, it may be beneficial to inquire or get input on how to educate other Council members • Board members were in favor of requesting Councilmembers Albornoz and Stewart and Mark Foraker serve as panelists for the September Annual Retreat. <p>Vote to request that Council Member Albornoz, Councilmember Stewart and Mark Foraker serve as panelists for the September MCAB Annual Retreat: <i>Moved by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Kathryn Kelly</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
8.	<p>July 24, 2024 Agenda and Next Steps – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. The meeting will be held virtually at 6:00 pm • Items for July meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board will review current subcommittee composition at the July meeting in preparation of setting FY26 priorities. - The Montgomery Perinatal will provide a program update - PCC anticipates presenting the Network Adequacy Study results at the September MCAB meeting. Initial results from the study were shared in the June meeting packet for members to review ahead of the meeting. <p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,



Khalfani Walker (Jul 25, 2024 22:27 EDT)

Khalfani Walker, DMD
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board