

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

May 22, 2024 Meeting Notes

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

MCAB Members Absent: Sharron Holquin, Melanie Bunting, Denise Kishel, Mark Foraker

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

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Mason (Robinson), Sarah Frazell, Tabitha Gingerich, Dr. Veronica Vela, Leslie Graham, Dr. Ana Maria Espanoza

Guest: Kristin Cummings, Lynn Arndt, Peter Lowet, Sonya Bruton

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – April 24, 2024</p> <p><i>Moved by Helaine Resnick</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>			
2.	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Wayne Swann and TROIKA members met with County Council members to discuss FY25 policy and advocacy priorities. TROIKA felt discussions with County Council members were positive and Council members were receptive to points raised. The HCLC and PCC supported by MCAB developed a Healthcare for the Uninsured Advocacy Packet, which was shared with County Council members. A copy of the packet was included with this month’s meeting materials. Wayne Swann made a motion to reaffirm the vote taken last month to finalize and submit the FY25 MCAB Advocacy and Policy Priorities Letter to County Council. At the April meeting, MCAB had voted in favor of approving the Letter with additional edits. The edits were made following the meeting and the Letter was submitted to County Council on April 30, 2024. Members voted to reaffirm the final version of the letter. 			


	<p>Approval to reaffirm the FY25 MCAB Letter to County Council: <i>Moved by Dr. Kathryn Kelly</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Helaine Resnick</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayne Swann provided a subcommittee update. New MCAB members were asked to join one of the four MCAB subcommittees. New member selection are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kate McGrail: MCares Subcommittee - Kate Lu: MCares Subcommittee - Dr. Deborah Miller-Young: Dental Subcommittee - Dr. Khalfani Walker: Dental Subcommittee - Leslie Richin: Healthcare for the Homeless Subcommittee 			
3.	<p>Health Officer Update – Dr. Kisha Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis took 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. Helaine Resnick inquired about what is contributing to the reduction in overdose deaths in the County. - Dr. Kisha Davis noted the efforts taking place to raise awareness and for prevention that are taking place within the County. There have also been significant efforts to get fentanyl off the streets and disrupt the supply chain. Fentanyl continues to be a persistent problem. - Dr. Helaine Resnick noted the possible bias on reporting and numbers related to Narcan use from the April meeting and asked if there was an update on this? - Dr. Kisha Davis noted there has been a reduction in calls to fire and rescue and Narcan administration. At this time it is hard to say if there is truly less overdoses or if it is due to Narcan being more readily available. The County is continuing to monitor and look into this. - Dr. Yuchi Huang asked what County efforts are in place to disrupt the supply chain for fentanyl - Dr. Kisha Davis discussed prevention efforts to ensure that fentanyl does not end up in the hands of youth. The police department are conducting investigations to track the supply chain. - Wayne Swann asked if there will be another recommendation in fall 2024 for another Covid-19 booster shot - Dr. Kisha Davis recommended individuals check with the primary care physicians, especially those over the age of 65. Likely recommendation will come out in August/September. Hospitalizations from Covid-19 are at an all-time low. 			
4.	<p>Health Care for the Uninsured Report Q&A – DHHS Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Christopher Rodgers provided an update on the County Council’s FY25 Budget. The Council removed the majority of the CE’s recommended FY25 budget items for MCAB. The requested additional positions for the County Dental Program – Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon, General Dentist and Dental Assistant positions – were the only items funded from MCAB’s FY25 Policy and Advocacy Priorities Letter. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wayne Swann commented that the outcome was unexpected given the tone and previous conversation with County Council members and inquired if any additional information was available regarding the decision. Are there any additional efforts or strategies for FY26 that the Board should consider? - Tara Clemons Johnson shared that it was an unprecedented year for the County Budget. County Council faced many challenges when developing the FY25 budget. The County has had to dip into its reserves more than anticipated. The budget is based on the tax revenue and utilization of reserves. - Wayne Swann inquired if any additional efforts or outreach can be made by the Board in response to the FY25 County Council final budget? - Tara Clemons Johnson noted that it was possible for BCCs to develop a letter in response to the FY25 Budget. - Dr. Nina Ashford noted that if pursuing a letter it may be valuable to consider the impact that the funding decisions will have on the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs and vulnerable populations. - Dr. Yuchi Huang noted that the amount allocated by County Council to Montgomery County Public Schools exceeded the request and requested clarity into this decision to guide future requests. - Tara Clemons Johnson responded that MCAB does an exceptional job advocating for the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs. This was an exceptionally tough year for the budget and not much could be done to impact the outcome. - Wayne Swann noted that MCAB will continue to work to refine its advocacy process to ensure lockstep with TROIKA for FY26 priorities. 			
5.	<p>Update on New Legislation – Health Insurance – Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act) – Dr. Christopher Rogers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rogers spoke briefly on the new legislation at the last meeting. The Board requested additional time for this item during this month’s meeting as there was a difficulty with the connection that made it challenging to hear Dr. Roger’s at the April meeting. Members also requested additional time for questions. • Dr. Rogers shared that the Health Insurance Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act) among other things, will provide undocumented immigrants with the opportunity to apply for health benefits through the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange. This legislation, if passed, will go into effect January 2026. • DHHS will be developing a workgroup of community stakeholders to provide input on the impacts of this legislation as well as develop recommendations for County Council regarding the future of the Healthcare for the Uninsured programs. • Currently, in order to be eligible for the Montgomery Cares program an individual cannot be eligible for a QHP or any other type of health insurance. If this legislation goes into effect a significant number of Montgomery Cares clients will not longer be eligible for the program. • Updates will be shared at future meetings and via email. 	Board members to email Wayne and Ashley with panelists suggestions for the MCAB 2024 Annual Retreat	MCAB	Prior to the June 2024 MCAB meeting

6.	<p>MCares Quarterly Report – PCC See Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County provided a quarter 3 update on the Montgomery Cares, Behavioral Health Program, Project Access/Specialty Care, and Pharmacy programs. • Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Yuchi Huang noted the reduction in referrals requests, patients and scheduled appointments compared to FY23 and requested additional clarity regarding this. - Tabitha Gingrich noted that the reductions are a result of reduced specialties/providers in the program. The program is actively working to recruit additional specialties, but due to organization staffing shortages this has been challenging. - Dr. Yuchi Huang inquired what efforts are in place to improve wait times at the clinics? - Aisha Mason noted PCC is working with the clinics to try to encourage communication between clinics to refer clients when possible to other clinics that may have shorter wait times and increase providers. - Wayne Swann inquired when the results of the Network Adequacy Study would be available and could be shared with the Board? - Aisha Mason stated that initial results will be shared with DHHS and the Montgomery Cares clinic directors in June. An update will be provided at the next meeting regarding timing of the presentation for MCAB. 			
7.	<p>September Strategic Planning Meeting (Sept. 25, 2024) – Annual Retreat – 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. Board members discussed topics and planning details for the meeting. • Wayne Swann shared that the meeting will held in-person and will feature a panel discussion as well as time for the MCAB subcommittees to meeting to discuss priorities for the FY26 County Executive Letter. • Ashley Miller noted that it advisable to identify panel members as soon as possible as some Councilmembers and DHHS leadership have requested 2-3 months notice in order to ensure attendance. Ashley also 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 Healthcare Initiative Foundation and Mark Foraker – Executive Director of Mercy Clinic. • Board members provided suggestions such as Councilmember Albornoz and Council President Friedson, but did not come to a consensus. • Wayne Swann suggested Board members take the time between this meeting and the June meeting provide recommendations for panelists. The Board will aim to finalize their selection for panelists at the June meeting. 			
8.	<p>June 26, 2024, Agenda and Next Steps – Wayne Swann</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. The meeting will be held <u>in-person</u> at 401 Hungerford, Rockville, A&B Conference Room at 6:00 pm. More information on the meeting and location will be sent via email.</p> <p>Meeting Adjournment</p>			

	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM <i>Moved by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Helaine Resnick</i></p>			
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Respectfully submitted,


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

Khalifani Walker, DMD
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board