

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

April 24, 2024 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Susan Emery, Dr. Kisha Davis, Dr. Yuchi Huang, Mark Foraker, Denise Kishel, Wayne Swann, Viviana Azar, Sharron Holquin, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Kate Lu, Leslie Richin, Kate McGrail

MCAB Members Absent: Melanie Bunting, Dr. Helaine Resnick

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

County Council Staff:

Primary Care Coalition: Leslie Graham, Aisha Mason (Robinson), Sarah Frazell

Guest: Kristin Cummings, Beth Barrows, Peter Lowet, Luke

Wayne Swann called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1	Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2024 <i>Moved by Yucchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i>			

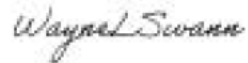
2	<p>Montgomery Cares Advisory Board Chair Report – Wayne Swann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayne welcomed our honored guests and the advisory board members. Introduction of new Board members – New and current Board members provided a brief Introduction describing their background and why they pursued membership on MCAB. Each board member also shared a fun fact about themselves. Welcome to the Board the newest members: Leslie Richin, Kate McGrail, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Huixing (Kate) Lu and Dr. Deborah Miller. We wish to thank Susan Emery and Dr. Yuchi Huang for serving on the Nominating Committee and for their efforts interviewing candidates. Update: TROIKA meetings with County Council - TROIKA meetings with Council members and their respective staff in regards to FY25 priorities is coming to a close with only 2 remaining meetings. The meetings were welcomed by the County Council and along with the presentations a written summary document prepared by PCC was presented. Volunteer for May Minutes – Seeking a Board member to take minutes for the May 22,2024 meeting. Email Ashley and Wayne if able to record minutes. 	Email Wayne and Ashley if able to take May Meeting Minutes	Board Members	05/22 /2024
3	<p>Health Officer Update – Dr. Kisha Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Davis introduced Dr. Nina Ashford, the new Chief Public Health Services. Dr. Davis reminded us that April was Minority Health Awareness Month. The first week of April is National Public Health Month and the second week of April is Black Maternal Health week. COVID respiratory virus and RSV influenza season is ending. They all seem to be starting to trend down. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHHS continues working on increasing nursing home vaccination rates. Communication and vaccine campaigns will ramp up once again in the fall. • DHHS continues to work with the behavioral health team on the opioid crisis in youth. There is an early trend in decreased EMS calls for Narcan. It may be because the message got through or Narcan is more widely available in the community, so people aren't calling EMS. Current Narcan use data comes from EMS calls for overdose from fire and rescue services. The County also is looking data from hospitalizations, fatalities and waste water treatment. • There is an increase in opioid overdose cases for 60 and 70 year-olds, especially in African Americans in their sixties. • DHHS will continue to work on better integrating behavioral health and primary care and take a public health approach to addressing youth violence. <p>Q&A Susan Emery shared that the Commission on Health will be advocating for public health issues, 1) behavioral health support for those experiencing homelessness in shelter and in supportive housing, 2) lactation support as part of maternal/infant care and the 3) mobile health clinic.</p>			
4	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report Q&A – DHHS Staff See Report (attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley provided an introduction and background for new members on the monthly Health Care for the Uninsured Report. • Ashley noted that the Healthcare for the Homeless Updates for March and April would be included with the May Health Care for the Uninsured Report. LaSonya is currently on medical leave. • Clarification was provided by Ashley for the Montgomery Cares Reimbursement Rate recommended by the County Executive for FY25. The recommended rate is \$124.83. • The County Council will take a vote towards the end of May to approve the FY25 budget. An update will be provided to the Board following County Council’s vote in May. <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Emery inquired why there was a decrease in dental visits and patients for the County Dental Program. • Dr. Boyce noted that some of the clinics were experiencing a reduction in staff and that additional staffing positions were recommended for consideration for the FY25 budget. 			

5	<p>Update on new legislation – Health Insurance – Dr. Christopher Rogers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Christopher Rogers provided an update on new proposed legislation – the Health Insurance Qualified Resident Enrollment Program (Access to Care Act). The legislation will provide undocumented immigrants with the opportunity to apply for health benefits through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. If passed, the legislation will go into effect in January 2026. • This legislation, if passed, would have a significant impact on the Health Care for the Uninsured Programs. • If the legislation is passed, DHHS will be seeking community and stakeholder input to discuss the impacts of this legislation as well as developing recommendations for County Council and the Health Care for the Uninsured Program moving forward. • Updates will be shared at future meetings and via email. <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Foraker noted if the legislation is passed it will be to understand the impact and to develop a strategy to ensure the highest quality of care during this transition. It will be important to understand how the programs can be responsive and how they will change. • Huixing Lu noted that there are challenges for some in accessing the Maryland Health Exchange. It will be important to identify the potential issues and barriers. • Dr. Davis shared that the legislation will create access and additional comprehensive coverage for County residents. The legislation provides an exciting opportunity for the State. If passed, Maryland would be one of three other states across the nation to have this legislation. 			
6	<p>MCAB FY25 County Council Letter – Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley sent a draft of the MCAB FY25 Policy and Advocacy Priorities Letter to County Council for feedback from the Board. The letter was drafted based on discussion held at the March 27, 2024 MCAB meeting. • Board members were in support of the draft. Members were in support of taking a vote at the meeting and to ratify the vote at the May 22, 2024 meeting. <p>Vote to submit the FY25 MCAB Policy and Advocacy Priorities Letter to County Council <i>Moved by Yucchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i></p>	Letter to County Council President	Ashley Miller	4/30/2024

7	<p>May 22, 2024, Agenda and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting is on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, and will be held virtually. During the May meeting MCAB will work to confirm date and time for September Planning Meeting and identify and schedule speakers. <p>Meeting Adjournment <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Without objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.</i></p>	Identify and schedule speakers	MCAB	5/22/2024

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Swann
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board