

Montgomery Cares Advisory Board

September 25, 2024 Meeting Notes

MCAB Members Present: Denise Kishel, Leslie Richin, Mark Foraker, Kate Lu, Kate McGrail, Dr. Yuchi Huang, Vahe Hovian, Dr. Deborah Miller-Young, Dr. Kathryn Kelly, Wayne Swann, Beth Barrows, Dr. Khalfani Walker, Dr. Kisha Davis

MCAB Members Absent: Melanie Bunting

DHHS Staff: Ashley Miller, Magda Brown, Dr. Christopher Rogers, Melinda Fredericks, Rebecca Smith, Sean Gibson, Dr. Tricia Boyce, Dr. Nina Ashford, Karen Crist, Julia Mandeville

County Council Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson

Primary Care Coalition: Dr. Veronica Vela, Sara Frazell, Aisha Mason, Marisol Ortiz, Tabitha Gingrich, Ogechukwu Okeke, Leslie Graham, Wenjing Zhang

Guest: Charlotte Jenkins, Gabe Albornoz, Marc Elrich, BB Otero, Sonia Mora, Peter Lowet, Beth Shuman

Wayne Swann, called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m. Meeting held in person in Conference Room A&B at 401 Hungerford Drive Rockville, with virtual option.

Item		Action Follow-up	Person Assigned	Due Date
1.	<p>Approval of Minutes – July 24, 2024 Wayne Swann</p> <p><i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Denise Kishel</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"> - BCC Meeting with HHS Committee – BCC Chairs have been invited to a meeting with the HHS Committee on October 17, 2024. At the meeting, Chair, Wayne Swann will provide a brief statement on MCAB’s FY25 priorities. BCC Meeting with HHS Committee priority statement accepted without edit. <i>Moved by Mark Foraker</i> <i>Seconded by Denise Kishel</i> <i>The motion was passed unanimously.</i> - MCAB Vacancy Notice Update – The BCC Office anticipates releasing the MCAB Vacancy Notice to recruit new members by the end of fall 2024. Ashley Miller will provide additional updates at the October 23 MCAB meeting as well as details of position titles, descriptions, and qualifications. MCAB has 5 vacancies. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCAB Subcommittees Update – New MCAB members Beth Barrows and Vahe Hovian have joined the MCAB Subcommittees. Beth Barrows has joined the Care For Kids/ Montgomery Partnership Program Subcommittee and Vahe Hovian has joined the Montgomery Cares Subcommittee. 				
3.	<p>Health Officer Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Davis unable to attend. - No questions re: September Health Officer report 	Dr. Kisha Davis	Email any questions on the September Report.	Board	Prior to the October MCA B meeting
4.	<p>Healthcare for the Uninsured Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No questions for DHHS Staff re: September Healthcare for the Uninsured Report 	DHHS Staff	Email any questions on the September Report.	Board	Prior to the October MCA B meeting
5.	<p>Health Care for the Uninsured Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCAB held a 60-minute panel discussion for panelists to share their insight as health care thought leaders and to share their perspectives in addressing health care needs of uninsured residents of Montgomery County. Responses will be used to inform MCAB priorities for FY26. - Moderated by Mark Foraker, panelists included Dr. Kisha Davis, MCAB member and County Health Officer, Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, and County Executive Marc Elrich. - Mark Foraker provided introductions and asked a series of three questions, with each panelist having an opportunity to respond. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>What are major needs and challenges for those serving the uninsured for the next 3-5 years?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panelists noted challenges in funding and resources, such as a need for increase reimbursement rates for providers as well as a lack of providers; will need increased recruitment and retention in the face of burnout and unreimbursed costs. County Executive noted FEMA funding is expected, though timeline and amount still to be determined. The Access to Care Act has potential provided that there is supplemental funding. ▪ Another potential challenge is the viability and sustainability of the safety net healthcare system in light of an administration change. ▪ Panelists noted positive impact from investment in oral health and behavioral health, but still require more investment in behavioral health providers. o <i>What do you envision as the new normal for MCAB due to the statewide policy change?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panelists noted that while the Access to Care Act creates additional access to the exchange, only a small subset will be able to afford the insurance; DHHS is looking at other alternatives, such as tiers and buy-in programs to help individuals and families obtain full access to insurance 	Mark Foraker			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panelists noted that navigators have been successful at linking individuals and families to insurance and that the existing Hubs will continue to leverage trusted, local community voices to inform needs ▪ The County Executive is exploring the leveraging of payor rates to include nonprofit organizations much like it has benefitted MCPS. He also noted a desire to work with the hospitals to help support the local system ○ <i>What is your vision for the safety net of the healthcare system, and how do you include SDOH in that vision?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systematic racism was noted by all panelists as a root of health inequities ▪ All were in agreement that social determinants must be addressed by all community stakeholders, not just healthcare providers. Healthy communities lead to healthy people, not simply an abundance of healthcare providers; County must continue to invest in education, health literacy, food insecurity, transportation systems, strong labor and fair pay. Navigators are also needed to build healthy communities. ▪ Montgomery County is abundant in resources but lacking a comprehensive catalogue of the resource network. Navigators can support the linking of resources with an emphasis on prevention and primary care. ▪ Panelists noted recent successes such as the 4-year blueprint to end childhood hunger and successful partnership with Instacart and a Food as Medicine initiative. Transportation plans have been made to increase the east to west transit options for residents, and a new housing model was featured in New York Times. 			
6.	<p>High-Level Overview – Network Adequacy Study Presentation PCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented by Dr. Veronica Vela from Primary Care Coalition, the report was conducted with colleagues Marisol Ortiz, Aisha Mason, Sarah Frazell in partnership with NORC at the University of Chicago and funded by Montgomery County DHHS. - The data informing the report came from the health centers that participate in the Montgomery Cares program. - <i>Network Adequacy</i> is a term used to describe the ability of a system to provide enough capacity to meet the needs without undue burden; where possible, access criteria was leveraged from Maryland Medicaid Standards. - The report assessed four research questions (see slides). - Key take aways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health centers are well located ○ Public transit creates an undue burden in seeking care ○ Patients feel welcomed, cared for, and listened to by providers ○ Patient’s definition of primary care includes ancillary and preventive care ○ Specialty care access is inadequate and does not meet wait-time standards - Questions were taken from MCAB members and addressed by Dr. Vela. - PCC has plans to survey all clinics and catalogue their days and hours of operations, languages offered, and services available to aid in improved system navigation. 	Distribute slides	Ashley Miller	October meeting materials packet
7.	<p>Nominating Committee: FY25 Announcement of Chair and Vice Chair Nominees Nominating Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denise Kishel outlined the process for the selection and voting for MCAB Chair and Vice Chair positions. 	Instruction on voting process for	Ashley Miller/No minating	Prior to the Octob

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 25 meeting is to present and vote to accept the nominees; October 23 meeting will be to vote to select the nominees; <u>Board members must be present in October in order to cast their vote.</u> ○ The Chair and Vice Chair term is one year from October 2024 to October 2025. ○ Dr. Kathryn Kelly is nominated for Chair. ○ Mark Foraker is nominated for Vice Chair. ○ Nominees provided a brief introduction and reasons why they are interested in running for the position. ○ A vote was held to confirm the slate of nominees: <p><i>Moved by Dr. Khalfani Walker</i> <i>Seconded by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>All members voted in favor of nominations.</i></p> <p>- Wayne Swann was acknowledged by the Board for his many years of service as Chair of MCAB.</p>	October meeting	Committee	er MCA B meeting
8.	<p>Committees meet and report out on FY26 priorities Ashley Miller</p> <p>- Due to lack of time, Ashley Miller recommend that this item be tabled. Recommend subcommittees meet ahead of the October 23, 2024 meeting to review and revise priorities.</p>	Schedule subcommittee meetings	Ashley Miller/Magda Brown	Prior to October MCA B meeting
9.	<p>October 23 Agenda and Next Steps Ashley Miller</p> <p>- Ashley noted that MCAB received a survey response request from the Montgomery County Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) which is due by October 30.</p> <p>- The October 23, 2024 agenda will include time to review and discuss report responses; Wayne Swann, Ashley Miller, and other County staff will draft initial responses to be shared with MCAB in advance of the October 23, 2024 meeting.</p> <p>- Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 23 and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.</p>	Distribute Draft CERB Report responses	Ashley Miller/Wayne Swann	Prior to October MCA B meeting
10.	<p>Meeting Adjournment Wayne Swann</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. <i>Moved by Dr. Yuchi Huang</i> <i>Seconded by Mark Foraker</i></p>			

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine R. McGrail
Katherine R. McGrail (Oct 24, 2024 11:39 EDT)

Kate McGrail
Montgomery Cares Advisory Board