

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 21, 2021**

**4:00 P.M.**

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 7/21/21, beginning at 4:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Backley  
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN  
Jonathan Dayton  
Jennifer Eastman  
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.  
Gary Gerstenblith, M.D.  
Roger Harrel  
Jessica Kiel, RDN  
Linda Kline  
Namisa Kramer  
Julie Maneen  
Seth Martin, M.D.  
Titilayo Ogunmakinwa  
Rachel Pigott  
Cameron Pollock  
Erika Prolifi  
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.  
Vivienne Rose, M.D.  
Jason Semanoff  
Afton Thomas, M.D.  
Teresa Titus-Howard, Ph.D.  
Pamela Williams  
Vanina Wolf  
Pamela Xenakis, RDN

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Lois A. Freeman  
Geeta Sharma  
Salliann Alborn  
Summit Bassi, M.D.  
Angela Deal  
Aruna Nathan, M.D.  
Sara Vazer, M.D.  
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.

**MDH STAFF PRESENT**

Olubukola Alonge  
Kathleen Graham  
Amanda Klein  
Christine Lord  
Brian Mattingly  
Sadie Peters  
Kristi Pier  
Emily Tolbert  
Sue Vaeth

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

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**I. Meeting Opening**

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.

## **II. Welcome and Business**

Welcome and Agenda Review: Ms. Kiel reviewed the meeting agenda

Roll Call: Kristi Pier took roll call. A quorum was present.

Consideration/Approval of October Minutes: Pam Xenakis moved to approve. Namisa Kramer seconded. The motion was passed.

New Member Introduction: Ms. Kiel welcomed new members Titilayo (Titi) Ogunmakinwa and Erika Prolifi.

## **III. Increasing HPV Vaccination Through Collaboration**

Brian Mattingly, Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs at Maryland Department of Health, provided a presentation on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine efforts in Maryland. Mr. Mattingly's presentation covered the types of cancer caused by HPV and vaccination trends and improved acceptance in the US over time. Vaccination rates and acceptance were improved with the collaboration of several groups such as the HPV Task Force, the HPV Workgroup, and the Maryland Cancer Collaborative. The Workgroup's activities included the HPV Catch Up Project at local colleges and universities, awareness campaigns, symposiums, encouragement letters to health professionals and the development of a fact sheet on HPV-related cancers. Combined Workgroup and Taskforce activities included a Health Systems Leadership Meeting and developing quality improvement projects with the help of resources from Indiana and MOC. Mr. Mattingly also recommended the use of "The 9 Habits of Successful Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions," collaboration toolkit and offered additional advice on creating successful collaborations.

Mychelle Farmer requested details on what the diversified funding aspect of the "9 Habits" looks like. Mr. Mattingly noted that Maryland Cancer Coalition's leadership representation provided in-kind support and that sometimes MDH Centers/Offices are able to make money available for certain coalition activities.

## **IV. Member Update**

Mary Backley, CEO of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC), provided a presentation on MDAC's purpose, history, partnerships, and activities. MDAC is a non-profit that engages partners statewide to improve oral health equity. Ms. Backley presented the Maryland Oral Health Plan 2018-2023 which outlines the goals of providing access to oral health care, preventing oral disease and injury, and improving oral health literacy and education. An example of a successful MDAC campaign: "Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids," which creates awareness, builds understanding of the connection between oral health and overall health, shapes attitudes, and changes behavior by promoting good oral habits. Ms. Backley stressed that COVID, which has further limited oral health access through HeadStart and other programs, has led an

increased need for innovative ways to provide access to oral health care and greater education among parents.

Ms. Backley also described successful initiatives that target at-risk adults and pregnant/postpartum individuals who lack access due to several barriers to care. These successes have led to taking steps to expand efforts further through clinician engagement, collaborations, and integration of oral health.

Ms. Backley will share her presentation with the Council.

#### **V. Committee Updates**

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver very brief reports, in the interest of time:

- Arthritis Committee (Rachel Pigott): The Committee is working on communications and opportunities for collaboration on accessing physicians, as well as with Healthy Athletes-Special Olympics. The Council was well represented in the May 16 “WALK for the Cure.”
- Diabetes Committee (Pamela Xenakis & Vivienne Rose): The Committee is working on reviewing diabetes-related websites. Feedback on these will be given to the Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention and Control group, they plan to update their diabetes website later this year. They are also looking at ways to implement the Diabetes Action Plan.
- Fitness Committee (Amanda Klein on behalf of Dr. Aruna Nathan): The Committee is preparing to conduct a landscape analysis of available fitness-related activities around the state to determine if/what gaps exist in certain communities. They are also working to engage physicians and provide resources for improving patient’s physical activities.
- Heart Disease and Stroke Committee (Kathleen Graham): The Committee has been working on oral health and hypertension (past and future opportunities), and a letter to Medicaid to request home-based blood pressure monitoring. The Committee has also been looking at supporting the development of a Maryland State Hypertension Plan.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

Ms. Kiel opened the meeting for public comments; no member of the public provided comment.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Ms. Kiel adjourned the Council meeting at 5:07 P.M.

**2021 Quarterly Council Meetings—April 21; July 21; October 20, 2021 4:00-6:00 P.M.**