

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 19, 2022**

**4:00 - 6:00 PM**

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 1/19/2022, called to order at 4:02 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Salliann Alborn  
Crystal N. Bell  
Mary Pat Bertacchi  
Felicia Brannon  
Jonathan Dayton  
Jennifer Eastman  
Mychelle Y. Farmer  
Gary Gerstenblith  
Roger L. Harrell  
Jessica Kiel  
Julie Maneen  
Seth S. Martin  
Rachel M. Pigott  
Cameron J. Pollock  
Vaple I. Robinson  
Vivienne A. Rose  
Jason Semanoff  
Afton Thomas  
Teresa Titus-Howard  
Kristin Watson  
Pamela R. Williams  
Vanina Wolf  
Pamela Xenakis

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mary Backley  
Sumit Bassi  
Lois Freeman  
Namisa K. Kramer  
Aruna Nathan  
Geeta Sharma  
Sara Vazer

**MDH STAFF PRESENT**

Olubukola Alonge  
Susannah Beckerman  
Erin Bugoski  
Kathleen Graham  
Amanda Klein  
Christine Lord  
Kristi Pier  
Jessica Rose-Malm  
Jen Schindler

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

None.

**I. Meeting Opening**

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

**II. Welcome and Business**

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

Roll Call: Kristi Pier took roll call. A quorum was not present at the time of the initial roll call, however several members joined later and a quorum was noted at 5:15pm.

New Member and Staff Introductions: Ms. Kiel welcomed Felicia Brannon as a new Council member and Jessica Rose-Malm as a new MDH staff member who will support the Council during the legislative session.

Consideration/Approval of October 2021 Minutes: A quorum was not present at the time of this agenda item and a vote could not be taken. Ms. Kiel recognized that a quorum of members were in attendance at 5:15pm and presented the October 2021

minutes for approval at that time. Salliann Alborn moved to approve the minutes. Vanina Wolf seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### **III. Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Project Highlight—Sexual Violence**

Erin Boguski, Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Program Coordinator, MDH Center for Injury and Violence Prevention

Ms. Boguski shared statistics on the prevalence of sexual assault and unwanted sexual violence in Maryland and highlighted the association between past experience of sexual violence and higher rates of chronic pain, asthma, and other chronic disease risk factors. The CDC-funded Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program works toward state-level outcomes in Maryland by focusing on primary prevention strategies, coalition-building (RISE Maryland Alliance), evaluation, and training/technical assistance. The MDH Center for Injury and Violence Prevention works with subrecipients such as colleges, the state sexual assault coalition, and rape crisis centers to implement 14 prevention strategies. PHHS funds extend direct services and survivor services that RPE funds do not cover, as well as supporting the health care response to sexual violence. Recently PHHS funds have been used to support victim-centered advocacy services at the University of Maryland Hospital, a domestic violence prevention campaign in Frederick County, and forensic nurse examiner training.

Dr. Farmer asked about the availability of sexual violence data for adolescents and young adults. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) has questions about sexual violence and teen dating violence. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) has ACEs data from 2020 and will field the ACEs module again in 2023. The Maryland Department of Education has civil rights data (e.g., arrests) and the Maryland Higher Ed. Commission recommends colleges and universities collect and report sexual violence data.

### **IV. Member Highlight**

Jennifer Eastman, Director of Community Living Policy, MD Department of Disabilities

Ms. Eastman provided an overview of the Department of Disabilities (DoD) and highlighted several recent and ongoing projects. Ms. Eastman described the State Disabilities Plan 2020-2023, which guides statewide efforts to ensure people with disabilities have choice and control over their lives, financial wellbeing, competitive opportunities for employment in the community, accessible communications, and improved health and wellness. The Department supports people with disabilities through programs, constituent services, and policy work on issues including accessible facilities, caregiver support, emergency preparedness, employment, housing, health and behavioral health, technology, and transportation. Ms. Eastman also noted collaboration with the MDH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control to develop an [Accessibility and Accommodations Toolkit for Public Health Professionals](#).

### **V. Legislative Session Preparation**

Jessica Rose-Malm, Health Policy Analyst, MDH

Ms. Rose-Malm updated members on the Council's process for taking positions on pending state legislation. Ad-Hoc Legislative Workgroup members recommend positions

on pending legislation for full Council consideration. Council legislative meetings are scheduled every Tuesday at 9:00 AM during Legislative Session to vote on the Workgroup's recommendations. Members who cannot attend may be asked to vote via an electronic survey within 24 hours of the Council meeting.

## **VI. Council Updates**

Ms. Kiel provided updates on two ongoing Council activities:

Bylaws Biennial Review Update: Ms. Kiel thanked Dr. Rose and Dr. Nathan for participating in the biennial review of the Council bylaws. Ms. Kiel summarized the proposed changes and will bring a clean version of the revised bylaws to the Council's April meeting for a final vote. Jason Semanoff asked about whether the abbreviated name, "the Health and Wellness Council" aligns with the Council's authorizing statute. MDH staff will consult with the Office of Support Services to determine the appropriate abbreviated name to use in the bylaws.

Awareness Messaging– Progress: Ms. Kiel described the Council's ongoing project to develop a full calendar of consistent messages for members to post on social media and share with professional groups. The Heart Disease and Stroke Committee successfully released messages in December. Council members expressed challenges with posting hyperlinks, using Basecamp as a repository for messages, and using Google Docs for shared drafts. Council members also asked about whether there should be a readability standard for messages, which MDH staff will look into. Kristin Watson recommended using more common hashtags (e.g., #Maryland, #HeartDisease) in addition to #MDHWC to help the posts gain traction.

## **VII. Committee Updates**

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver brief reports.

- Arthritis (Rachel Pigott): The Arthritis Committee has developed a communication plan for the next year and is interested in ensuring communications are accessible and meet readability standards.
- Heart Disease and Stroke (Kristin Watson)- The Heart Disease and Stroke Committee is developing social media messages for February. Committee members are working with MDH on several projects, including developing a hypertension and cardiovascular disease training plan for community health workers and updating the state hypertension data and website. The Committee also wrote a letter to CMS asking for changes to make ambulatory care blood pressure monitors more accessible.
- Diabetes (Pamela Xenakis and Dr. Vivienne Rose): The Diabetes Committee is developing social media messages and supporting Diabetes Action Plan implementation. Committee members are working with MDH to develop a diabetes curriculum for community health workers and update the MDH diabetes website.
- Physical Fitness (Amanda Klein): The Fitness Committee is determining the best way to share physical activity events, programs, and resources by county on the CCDPC website. The Committee is developing social media messages and updating their action plan to accurately reflect current goals.

**VIII. Public Comment**

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

**IX. Adjournment**

Ms. Kiel adjourned the meeting at 5:55 PM.

**2022 Council Meetings— April 20; July 20; October 19, 2022 4:00-6:00 PM**