

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 18, 2023**

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

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 1/18/2023, called to order at 4:01 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Salliann Alborn  
Crystal Bell  
Felicia Brannon  
Jonathan Dayton  
Jennifer Eastman  
Gary Gerstenblith  
Katie Hall  
Jessica Kiel  
Julie Maneen  
Seth Martin  
Jared Meacham  
Aruna Nathan  
Vaple Robinson  
Vivienne Rose  
Marsha Seidelman  
Jason Semanoff  
Afton Thomas  
Teresa Titus-Howard  
Kristin Watson  
Pamela Williams  
Pamela Xenakis

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mary Backley  
Mychelle Farmer  
Roger Harrell  
Namisa Kramer  
Rachel Pigott  
Sarah Vazer

**MDH STAFF PRESENT**

Kathy Graham  
Miranda Ouellette  
Kristi Pier  
Lisa Marr  
Brian Mattingly  
Jessica Rose-Malm  
Christa Thornton  
Jen Schindler

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

Dawn Berkowitz, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission

**I. Meeting Opening**

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Kristi Pier took roll call; quorum was present.

**II. Welcome and Business**

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

New member Introduction: Ms. Kiel introduced Dr. Marsha Seidelman, who joined the Council in January 2023. Dr. Seidelman is an internal medicine and integrative medicine physician and she will join the Fitness Committee.

Consideration/Approval of October 2022 Minutes: Dr. Aruna Nathan moved to approve the minutes from the Council's October 19, 2022 meeting; Teresa Titus-Howard seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **III. PHS Partner Highlight: Using PHS Funds to Promote Collaboration and Address Burden of Cancer in Maryland**

Ms. Kiel introduced Brian Mattingly, Director of Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs in the MDH Center for Cancer Prevention and Control. Mr. Mattingly presented on the burden of cancer in Maryland and associated disparities in incidence, prevalence, and mortality across the state. Mr. Mattingly described the ways in which PHS funds were used to support stakeholder engagement, cancer prevention and screening awareness, and increase cancer screening. PHS funds support the annual State Cancer Conference (recordings and information available [here](#)); the Maryland Lung Cancer Screening Collaborative for public health professionals, providers, and advocates; screening and prevention ad campaigns; and grants for community-clinical linkages and patient navigation.

### **IV. Update on Cannabis Legalization Efforts in Maryland**

Ms. Kiel introduced Dawn Berkowitz, Deputy Executive Director, Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, to provide an update on cannabis legalization in Maryland. Maryland voters passed a ballot referendum in 2023 approving legal adult use of cannabis, which triggered additional steps for establishing and regulating a legal adult use cannabis market on or after July 1, 2023. In 2023, the Medical Cannabis Commission office will merge with the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to license and regulate the cannabis market. Ms. Berkowitz described the provisions of the adult use cannabis law, including possession limits, establishment of special funds from cannabis revenues, establishment of a Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council, and required studies of youth and adult cannabis use. Data from other states with legal adult use cannabis is inconclusive about the effects on youth use, however Ms. Berkowitz noted several areas where lessons from tobacco regulation could inform cannabis regulation, including marketing, point-of-sale, smoke-free, and zoning controls. Additionally, Ms. Berkowitz described issues related to cannabis potency and synthetic cannabinoids that Maryland regulators and public health officials will need to address.

### **IV. Legislative Session Preparation**

Ms. Kiel invited Jessica Rose-Malm, Health Policy Analyst with the MDH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, to update Council members on the Council's process for taking positions on pending state legislation. The Council's ad hoc legislative workgroup members will recommend positions on pending legislation for full Council consideration. Council legislative meetings are scheduled every Tuesday at 9:00 AM during the 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.

### **I. Committee Updates**

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver brief reports.

- Arthritis (Miranda Ouellette): The Arthritis Committee developed a timeline for 2023 social media messaging and identified high level topics to cover with messages. The Committee is also looking into what can be done to increase the spread of messages among arthritis providers.
- Diabetes (Pamela Williams): The Diabetes Committee reviewed the new MDH diabetes webpage and is interested in adding more nutrition content to the page. CRISP, Maryland's health information exchange, presented at a recent Committee meeting and described prediabetes notifications for providers and information on accessing CRISP tools. The Committee is also working with the Fitness Committee to develop a one-pager for students promoting nutrition and physical activity.
- Heart Disease and Stroke (Kristin Watson): The Heart Disease and Stroke Committee is developing a new Cardiovascular Disease State Plan and determining the next steps in their update process. The committee is working with the Center to finalize a heart disease surveillance brief.
- Physical Fitness (Dr. Aruna Nathan): The Fitness Committee finalized a one-pager to increase awareness of health care providers of physical activity guidelines and promote easy ways for everyone to be more physically active. The Committee will send the one-pager to Maryland Primary Care Program and identify other key dissemination points to distribute the one-pager widely.

**I. Public Comment**

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

**II. Adjournment**

Ms. Kiel adjourned the meeting at 5:26 PM.

**Next Council Meeting: April 19, 2023 4:00-6:00 PM**