



Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness Council
Minutes
January 15, 2025, 4-6:00 PM
Virtual

Members Present

Pamela R. Williams
Andrew Baker
Jennifer Eastman
Lindsay Lotter
Roger L. Harrell
Darryl Heggans
Gary Gerstenblith
Aruna Nathan
Esa Davis
Mychelle Y. Farmer
Vaple I. Robinson
Lusi Martin-Braswell
Mary Backley
Jared Meacham
Crystal N. Bell
Sam Zisow-McClean
Jonathan Dayton
Tara Clemons Johnson
Leigh Ann Eagle
Teresa Titus-Howard

Members Absent

Jason Semanoff
Seth S. Martin
Tomika Coleman
Salliann Albhorn
Jeffrey Duong Le
Afton Thomas
Marsha Seidelman
Jonas Nguh
Mallory Mouradjian
Pamela Xenakis

MDH Staff Present

Olivia Craig
Kate Natafgi
Nkeiruka Ashiedu
Emily Grauel
Debony Hughes
Christa Thornton
Brittany Wilson

Members of the Public Present

Camren Pollock
Monica Billger

I. Open Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness

Teresa Titus-Howard, Council Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. A virtual roll call was performed by having attendees enter their name in the meeting chat. Dr. Titus-Howard provided an overview of the meeting agenda and noted there were no new members to introduce. Dr. Titus-Howard briefly reviewed the minutes from the November meeting for the group. Citing no edits to the meeting minutes, Aruna Nathan motioned to approve the November minutes, Gary Gerstenblith seconded the motion.

II. Presentation - American Diabetes Association Advocacy Survey

Monica Billger, State Government Affairs Director, Mid-Atlantic States, from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) presented an overview of the results from the 2024 ADA Access and Affordability Survey for Maryland.

III. Presentation -Oral Health Presentation

Dr. Debonny Hughes, Director of MDH's Office of Oral Health, presented information about the connection between oral health and cardiovascular health. Dr. Hughes also shared information about Hypertension Screening in the Dental Setting pilot program.

IV. Presentation- “BRFSS” Communications Projects in 2025

Brittany Wilson, BRFSS Coordinator and Data/Evaluation Manager at MDH presented information about new marketing efforts to engage underserved communities. Council members interested in attending BRFSS coffee sessions should contact Ms. Wilson.

V. Public Comment Period

- There were no members of the public present.

VI. Adjournment

Teresa Titus-Howard, Council Chair adjourned the main meeting at 5:10 PM and council members transitioned to their respective subcommittee meetings.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2025, 4:00 - 6:00 pm