



Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness Council
Minutes
March 19, 2025, 4-6:00 PM
Virtual

Members Present

Pamela R. Williams
Jason Semanoff
Jennifer Eastman
Lindsay Lotter
Roger L. Harrell
Darryl Heggans
Mychelle Y. Farmer
Lusi Martin-Braswell
Mary Backley
Jared Meacham
Crystal N. Bell
Sam Zisow-McClean
Jonathan Dayton
Marsha Seidelman
Leigh Ann Eagle
Teresa Titus-Howard
Amarachi Uzosike

Members of the Public Present

Camren Pollock

Members Absent

Andrew Baker
Seth S. Martin
Gary Gerstenblith
Aruna Nathan
Esa Davis
Vaple I. Robinson
Jeffrey Duong Le
Jonas Nguh
Tara Clemons Johnson

MDH Staff Present

Olivia Craig
Kate Natafgi
Emily Grauel
Christa Thornton
Muftau Shinaba
Evan Gombert
Ilene Cervantes del Toro
Michelle George

I. Open Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness

Teresa Titus-Howard, Council Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 introduced a new council member, Amarachi Uzosik. Dr. Titus-Howard briefly reviewed the minutes from the January meeting for the group. Citing no edits to the meeting minutes, Jonathan Dayton motioned to approve the January minutes, Cameron Pollock seconded the motion.

II. Presentation - Maryland Rural Health Association

Jonathan Dayton of the Maryland Rural Health Association presented an overview of the Maryland Rural Health Association and an overview of the organization's 2025 legislative and policy priorities. Additionally, Mr. Dayton shared information about several upcoming events sponsored by the Maryland Rural Health Association, highlighting the annual Maryland Rural Health Conference on October 19- 21 and the Mid-Atlantic Rural Health Innovation Symposium in Bethesda on May 16.

III. Presentation – Legislative Updates 2025 Session

Kate Natafqi, Health Policy Analyst from the MDH Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Bureau presented an overview of legislation supported by the council during the 2025 Maryland legislative session. The presentation also included overviews of legislation dealing with topics such as abortion, health insurance coverage, childhood oral health, Alzheimer's disease, and health education.

IV. Committee Updates

- Diabetes:
 - i. Reviewed work plan to emphasize increasing awareness of the costs associated with the disease and promote evidence based programs.
 - ii. Revisions to Diabetes web page continue.
- Heart Disease and Stroke
 - i. Revisions to Heart disease and stroke web page.
- Physical Fitness
 - i. Updated work plan.
 - ii. Website review and revisions.

V. Public Comment Period

- There were no comments from the public.

VI. Adjournment

Teresa Titus-Howard, Council Chair adjourned the main meeting at 4:43 PM and council members transitioned to their respective subcommittee meetings.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2025, 4:00 - 6:00 pm