



Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness Council
Minutes
May 21, 2025, 4-6:00 PM
Virtual

Members Present

Pamela R. Williams
Jason Semanoff
Kirsten Bosak
Lindsay Lotter
Casey Scott
Darryl Heggans
Aruna Nathan
Esa Davis
Mychelle Y. Farmer
Vaple I. Robinson
Mary Backley
Jared Meacham
Crystal N. Bell
Sam Zisow-McClean
Jonathan Dayton
Jeffrey Duong Le
Jonas Ngu
Tara Clemons Johnson
Leigh Ann Eagle
Teresa Titus-Howard
Camren Pollock
Amarachi Uzosike

Members Absent

Seth S. Martin
Gary Gerstenblith
Lusi Martin-Braswell
Marsha Seidelman

MDH Staff Present

Kate Natafgi
Christa Thornton
Muftau Shinaba
Evan Gombert
Ilene Cervantes del Toro
Ali MacStudy
Brian Mattingly
Matthew Kinney

Members of the Public Present

Jocelyn Collins

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 reviewed the minutes from the March meeting for the group. Citing no edits to the meeting minutes, JMary Backley motioned to approve the March minutes, Jared Meachum seconded the motion.

Pamela Williams of MDH provided a brief update about the federal budget outlook for 2026 and beyond. The council expressed interest in drafting a letter of concern to federal lawmakers to advocate for the PHHS block grant. MDH staff will circulate a PHHS block grant fact sheet prepared by the Department.

II. Presentation – Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant Annual Advisory Committee

Ali MacStudy, MPH, Community Prevention Team Manager, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, MDH described the role of the Health and Wellness Council in the PHHS Block grant, provided an update on FY2025 PHHS activities, and provided an overview of the funding objectives, allocations, and activities proposed for FY2025 (see presentation). MDH expressed uncertainty regarding funding levels in FY2026 and will not add any new objectives to the PHHS workplan in FY2026.

III. Presentation - Excessive Alcohol Use Data

Matthew Kenney, MPH, Epidemiologist, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, MDH presented information collected through BRFSS regarding excessive alcohol usage in the state.

IV. Presentation- Cancer Team Updates

Brian Mattingly, Director, Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs, presented an overview of the Center's efforts to reduce the cancer burden across Maryland through data-driven initiatives, screening programs, and collaborative partnerships. Key updates included clinical service data for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers; innovations like the firefighter and pediatric cancer screening programs; and workgroup efforts targeting tobacco cessation, HPV vaccination, and advance care planning.

V. Committee Updates

- Diabetes
 - i. Met in march to discuss work plan for the year.
 - ii. Webpage review and recommendations project continues.
- Heart Disease and Stroke
 - i. Website review and recommendations continue.
- Physical Fitness
 - i. The subcommittee is reviewing and making recommendations for the informational flyer on physical fitness.

VI. Public Comment

- No public comments.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM to allow for work group meetings.

VIII. Transition to Committee Meetings

Next Meeting: July 16, 2025, 4:00 - 6:00 pm