

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS
MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2021
4:00 - 6:00 PM

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 10/21/21, beginning at 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Salliann Alborn
Mary Backley
Summit Bassi, M.D.
Crystal Bell
Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN
Jonathan Dayton
Jennifer Eastman
Mychelle Farmer, M.D.
Gary Gerstenblith, M.D.
Roger Harrel
Jessica Kiel, RDN
Namisa Kramer
Julie Maneen
Seth Martin, M.D.
Aruna Nathan, M.D.
Rachel Pigott
Cameron Pollock
Erika Prolifi-Reymann
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.
Vivienne Rose, M.D.
Jason Semanoff
Teresa Titus-Howard, Ph.D.
Sara Vazer, M.D.
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.
Pamela Williams
Pamela Xenakis, RDN

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Lois Freeman
Titilayo Ogunmakinwa
Geeta Sharma
Afton Thomas, M.D.
Vanina Wolf

MDH STAFF PRESENT

Olubukola Alonge
Katie Cleffi
Kathleen Graham
Amanda Klein
Christine Lord
Kristi Pier
Emily Tolbert
Patricia Vaults

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Katie Hall
Linda Kline
Quincy Samus

I. Open Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

II. Welcome and Business

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

Roll Call: Kristi Pier took roll call. A quorum was present.

Consideration/Approval of July 2021 Minutes: Gary Gerstenblith moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2021 meeting; Jonathan Dayton seconded. The motion was passed.

New and Transitioning Members: Crystal Bell was welcomed as a new member. Ms. Kiel acknowledged service of members Angela Deal and Linda Kline, who chose not to return for another term on the Council; she welcomed those who choose to renew for another term, including Mary Pat Bertacchi, Mychelle Farmer, Lois Freeman, Gary Gerstenblith, Aruna Nathan, and Seth Martin.

III. Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant FFY20/21 Update

Olubukola Alonge, M.D., Program Team Manager for the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, reported the FFY21 application was approved at the July 2021 Council meeting to begin activities on October 1, 2021. Dr. Alonge provided a report on the FY20 PHHS Block Grant activities. Dr. Alonge introduced potential priority areas for the FFY22 workplan. Dr. Watson asked a question about access to the data collected by the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (CCDCP) for PHHS and other chronic disease projects, including Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. Council members were encouraged to reach out to CCDPC's epidemiology and data team through Amanda Klein to address any related data needs or questions.

IV. PHHS Project Highlight—Listeria

Ms. Patricia Vauls, Chief of the Office of Food Protection in MDH's Environmental Health Bureau, provided an update on the Listeria safety and awareness activities supported by the PHHS block grant funding. Project activities included education (e.g. fact sheets), outreach and training, and strengthening of inspections and responses to outbreaks. Ms. Vauls presented results from annual surveys. Guidance for Listeria safety, including a training video on the "3 C's of Listeria: Characteristics, Contamination and Control," can be found online [here](#).

V. Maryland Alzheimer's and Dementia State Plan

Dr. Quincy Samus, the Chair of the Virginia I Jones Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Council, provided an update on the development of the State Plan's progress, which is expected to be delivered to Maryland's legislative session in February 2022. Dr. Samus presented the draft plan goals and objectives.

VI. Communication Tools—Basecamp review

Kristi Pier provided a live demonstration of the Basecamp communication platform, which will serve as a platform for the Council to share and store documents and communicate between and among members. Ms. Pier added all members to the platform, if someone is not on the platform, please let her know.

VII. Council Updates

Legislative and Bylaws review: Ms. Kiel called for Committee members to volunteer to participate in the 2022 Legislative Ad Hoc workgroup and the Bylaws review workgroup. Ideally, each Committee would put forth at least one volunteer. Mary Pat Bertacchi, Mychelle Farmer, Saliann Alborn, and Vivienne Rose volunteered for the Legislative Ad Hoc workgroup. Dr. Nathan and Dr. Rose volunteered to be on the Bylaws workgroup.

Awareness Messaging: Ms. Kiel detailed the process for development of messages for monthly awareness events. The goal is to ensure consistent messaging as well as increase the number of messages going out to the community. The protocols for posting of the messages will be subject to the individual entity's social media policies within the parameters of their organization. The process is in the Communication folder in Basecamp.

VIII. Committee Updates

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver brief reports

Arthritis (Rachel Pigott): The Committee plans to develop messaging for the selected monthly calendar event at their next meeting. In a recent meeting, the Maryland Special Olympics provided a presentation. Ms. Pigott will share a summary document of their presentation in a Basecamp folder, as some Special Olympics activities may align with those of the other committees.

Diabetes (Pamela Xenakis): The Committee is completing the community guide for groups/workplaces that meet, aligning with the Diabetes Action Plan. They have messages for the messaging calendar. The website for the Diabetes Resource Center is almost ready to go live.

Heart Disease and Stroke (Kristin Watson): The Committee will work with the Center to develop a brief/factsheet on hypertension based on BRFSS data. They continue to work on blood pressure monitoring activities and will soon send the letter to Medicaid to address monitoring devices for hypertension.

Physical Fitness (Aruna Nathan): The Committee is focusing on building online resources, creating a one-pager resource guide, making resources available at provider offices, and exploring pilot project for health care providers to emphasize physical activities to their patients. Additionally, the Committee is collaborating with the Center, University of Maryland Pediatrics, University of Maryland SNAP program, and Maryland Family network to complete a Nemours technical assistance project on for early childcare projects in Maryland.

IX. Public Comment

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

X. Adjournment

Ms. Kiel adjourned the meeting at 6:01 P.M.

2022 Council Meetings— January 19, 2022 4:00-6:00 PM