

**MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 20, 2022**

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

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 4/20/2022, called to order at 4:01 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Backley  
Crystal Bell  
Felicia Brannon  
Jonathan Dayton  
Jennifer Eastman  
Gary Gerstenblith  
Katie Hall  
Darryl Heggans  
Jessica Kiel  
Namisa Kramer  
Julie Maneen  
Jared Meacham  
Aruna Nathan  
Rachel Pigott  
Cameron Pollock  
Vaple Robinson  
Vivienne Rose  
Jason Semanoff  
Teresa Titus-Howard  
Sara Vazer  
Pamela Williams  
Vanina Wolf  
Pamela Xenakis

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Salliann Alborn  
Mary Pat Bertacchi  
Mychelle Farmer  
Roger Harrell  
Seth Martin  
Afton Thomas  
Kristin Watson

**MDH STAFF PRESENT**

Olubukola Alonge  
Susannah Beckerman  
Kathleen Graham  
Kristi Pier  
Jessica Rose-Malm  
Jen Schindler

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

Sharon Harriston

**I. Meeting Opening**

Jessica Kiel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

**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.

PHHS FFY22 Workplan Update: Ms. Kiel explained the role of the Health and Wellness Council as the Advisory Committee for the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant. Due to a delay in receiving FFY22 state allocations, the PHHS workplan and budget review meeting will be postponed until a special meeting in mid-May. Ms. Kiel encouraged members to attend the special meeting, as a quorum is necessary to approve the PHHS FFY22 Workplan and budget.

New Member Introductions: Ms. Kiel welcomed Katie Hall, Darryl Heggans, and Jared Meacham as new Council members.

Consideration/Approval of January 2022 Minutes: Namisa Kramer moved to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes; Vaple Robinson seconded and the motion passed.

### III. **Legislative Session Update**

Jessica Rose-Malm from the MDH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control presented a summary of the Health and Wellness Council's activities during the Legislative Session. The Council submitted 13 position statements on bills related to chronic disease during the session, seven of which passed the General Assembly. The Governor has until the end of May to sign, veto, or allow the bills to go into effect unsigned. Ms. Kiel thanked the legislative ad hoc committee and the entire Council for their contributions throughout the 2022 Legislative Session.

### IV. **Council Updates**

Bylaws Biennial Review Update: Ms. Kiel thanked Dr. Rose and Dr. Nathan for participating in the biennial review of the Council bylaws. The proposed changes were presented at the Council's January meeting and Council members did not make any additional changes. Dr. Gerstenblith moved to approve the bylaws; Julie Maneen seconded the motion and the bylaws were approved.

### V. **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant FFY21 Update**

Dr. Olubukola Alonge, Program Team Manager at the MDH Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control and coordinator for the PHHS Block grant, provided a detailed summary of program activities in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 (October 1, 2021-present; fiscal year ends September 30). In FFY21, Maryland is funding program activities addressing ten Healthy People 2030 objectives.

Crystal Bell shared several activities the Worcester County Health Department is involved in that align with the PHHS work, including supporting local businesses through the Healthiest Maryland Businesses program and a new farm-to-library program.

### VI. **Committee Updates**

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver brief reports.

- Arthritis (Rachel Pigott): The Arthritis Committee submitted May social media messages that will be posted in Basecamp upon approval. The Walk to Cure Arthritis will be held in person at UMBC on May 21, 2022. Members may sign up to join the Health and Wellness Council team using a link in Basecamp.
- Heart Disease and Stroke (Mary Backley): The Heart Disease and Stroke Committee is developing a state cardiovascular disease action plan. The Committee is reviewing action plans from 11 other states and aims to finalize an action plan for Maryland by early 2023. Committee members are also providing subject matter expertise for MDH's community health worker training on cardiovascular disease.
- Diabetes (Dr. Vivienne Rose): The Diabetes Committee developed social media messages for April. The Committee is reviewing the Diabetes Action Plan to identify remaining priorities, particularly around prediabetes.

- Physical Fitness (Dr. Aruna Nathan): The Fitness Committee updated its action plan with more specific objectives and activities to promote physical activity across the state. The Committee drafted a one-pager describing the benefits and types of physical activity with links to resources. Once approved, the one-pager will be distributed to community groups, schools, and healthcare providers.

**VII. Public Comment**

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

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Kiel adjourned the meeting at 5:19 PM.

**2022 Council Meetings— July 20; October 19, 2022 4:00-6:00 PM**