

**THE FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023**

The Five Hundred Sixty-Seventh meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held May 26 at 9:30 a.m. via WebEx.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Adelsberger, Katie McElroy, Dr. Samuel Havrilak, and Camille Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Kistner, Winona Matthews

OTHERS PRESENT, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer and Secretary Pro Tem, Carrie McCloskey; Director, Animal Services, Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary and Renee Youngfellow; Acting Chief, Quality Improvement.

Dr. Havrilak opened the meeting. Should it be necessary to close the meeting, the Chair will conduct a recorded vote on a motion to close. A closing statement will also be prepared that cites the part of the Open Meetings Act that contains the applicable exception, lists the topics to be discussed in the closed session and give the public body's reason for excluding the public.

I. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of April 28, 2023.

Motion: Ms. McElroy
Second: Mr. Adelsberger
Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. BALTIMORE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES (BCAS) 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. McCloskey presented the 2022 Baltimore County Animal Services Annual Report (see attached Power Point presentation).

Baltimore County Animal Services operates the County's only open admission, municipal shelter providing sheltering, care to the stray and lost, surrendered, abused, and neglected animals in our community, and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's animals and communities.

Programs:

- Field Services
 - Bites and Rabies
- Shelter
 - Volunteer and Events
 - TNR
 - Rescue
 - Foster
- Medical

On August 20, 2022, BCAS began defining service hours. This has helped to achieve a more regular flow of services and stay within our capacity for care. This change was made with the increasing animal population and current staffing in mind, and to ensure standards of care are maintained. This includes client communication, outreach, and appropriate animal enrichment and socialization.

- Operational hour changes:
 - Adoption Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 12:00pm-5:00pm, Closed Monday
 - Building Closed at 5:00pm daily
 - Surrender Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Dr. Havrilak inquired about staff resources with the increase of the animal population and if additional funds were allocated for Animal Services. Additional funds/resources were not allocated in the new fiscal year budget.

III. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Ms. Youngfellow and Ms. Allen are reviewing areas of focus that were slightly demonstrated to place in the annual report. Two areas that will be included are the All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan and information provided to the public on protecting their health.

IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

COVID

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ended the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, May 11, 2023.

With the ending of the Public Health Emergency on May 11, there are challenges for a number of administration and fiscal items. Medicaid programs are required to do all redeterminations. This requirement was waived during the public health emergency. Clients are being informed that redeterminations will once again be required. This has caused an incredible backlog and an increase in workload for MCHP. Staff are working to ensure that all redeterminations are completed.

- COVID 19 response continues and has moved to the clinics.
- The COVID testing site in Randallstown will end in June. The Dundalk site will remain. The current trailer at Dundalk is due to be removed and replaced with a new permanent trailer.
- Self test kits are available at all our health centers.
- The masking policy for clinics has been revised. Masks are no longer required in common areas.

Dr. Havrilak inquired about updated COVID numbers on positive cases in the County. Case rates for the County is 1.14%. There have been 2,819 Baltimore County deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. The department continues to hold bi-weekly COVID meetings. We have seven outbreaks at congregate housing/LTC facilities.

BUDGET

On May 9, Health and Human Services had its budget work session with the County Council. Health, Department of Social Services and the Local Management Board were hearing agencies. The council can cut the budget but cannot add to our budget.

Yesterday was the adoption of the budget, Ms. Leister, Mr. Richardson and Dr. Branch attended. There were no cuts to HHS.

PROGRAM UPDATES

- Animal Services hosted an adoption and press event with the County Executive the weekend of April 29. 38 animals were adopted. The adoption event had great press with coverage from all four of the local stations and the Baltimore Sun. A news anchor had one of our dogs in the studio while reporting on the event at the news station.
- In addition to the adoption event, Animal Services had their first rabies clinic of the season. 170 vaccinations were administered.
- A Chicken Pox outbreak was experienced in some areas of the County and is now under control.
- Baltimore County is in possession of the mobile van. The department procured a 2021 van with 14K miles. The County has accepted possession from the out of state vendor. Currently it is in the process of being titled and tagged. The van design has been decided. We hope to have the ready for use in June though it may not be ready until July.

Site Visits

- The cancer program had an unofficial site visit the last week of April. Discussion focused on contract and staffing issues. The State is taking the program in a different direction. They want more community outreach and bilingual staff.
- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) also had a site visit with no significant findings.

PERSONNEL

- Dr. Branch, Ms. Leister and Dr. Donatelli attended Dr. McLean's funeral mass. Her nephew spoke on work in her career and as a very trusted member of the church. She will be missed.
- Dena Trail passed away April 27. Dena was with the department for 24 years. Her most recent position was as a Human Services Program Supervisor.

- Debbie Peterson passed away on May 10. Debbie worked in Community Health Services and was with department for about 24 years.
- Losses have hit staff personally. We are checking in with staff and asking if they need anything to let us know.
- Ari Blum has been selected as the Bureau Director for Behavioral Health
- Elise Andrews was named as the new Opioid Coordinator for Baltimore County.

HHS Superstar Awards

Paty Calvillo - Community Health Services

For the past six months, Paty has assisted the Cancer Prevention Program by completing intakes for Spanish speaking clients and providing translation services upon request, to help link clients to much needed screening, diagnostic and treatment for cancer. She is a team player and always willing to go the extra mile to help others. Paty continues to maintain her job duties as she contributes to the success of other programs within the department. Ms. Leister has worked with Paty at events. Paty always goes the extra mile.

Colleen Wilmoth - ACE - Chronic Disease/EID

Colleen is always willing to assist her co-workers or answer any questions that may arise. She has served as a mentor to many, helping them grow to reach their full potential. Colleen offers professional leadership and knows how to lead a team. She actively demonstrates what it means to be a team player and embraces and adapts to change. Colleen showed great leadership during her temporary assignment to the Emerging Infectious Disease unit. She embodies a positive attitude that permeates among others. Under her leadership, she has nurtured the growth of many rising stars. Her professionalism, dedication and leadership are very much appreciated. Ms. Wilmoth is a professional leader, mentor to many and knows how to lead a team.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- The County will provide training on “*First Amendment Audits*” for members of the senior leadership team (SLT), all departmental leadership teams, public safety staff members, security staff, and front-line staff responsible for covering reception areas. The purpose of the training is ensure that members of the staff are aware of the potential for First Amendment Audits to occur and are trained to appropriately handle these incidents.
- Dr. Branch provided Naloxone/CPR training on May 17 at the Maryland Association of Elected Officials Annual Meeting.
- The County is starting a New Americans workgroup. Ms. Leister will participate on that workgroup. A summit is scheduled to be held a week from today.
- National Nurses Week was celebrated May 6-12.

- The Maternal Child Health Division held a symposium on May 9th for resources and information sharing. Dr. Branch gave opening remarks.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

The Board will need to fill the vacancy created by Dr. McLean's passing. Individuals who are interested in participating on a Board(s) can apply online via the County website. As in the past, board members will be involved in the process.

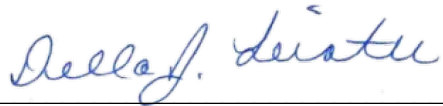
VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dr. Havrilak thanked members for attending. The next meeting of the Board is June 23..The Board is in recess for July and August unless an emergency meeting is called.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:35AM.

Motion: Ms. McElroy
Second: Ms. Smith
Decision: Unanimous Approval



Della J. Leister, RN