

**THE FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

The Five Hundred Seventy-Eighth meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held September 27 at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Adelsberger, Dr. Samuel Havrilak, Katie McElroy and Winona Matthews

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Kistner, Camille Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Della Leister; Acting Interim Director and Secretary Pro Tem. Dr. Sohail Qarni; Acting Deputy Health Officer, Ari Blum; Bureau Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Renee Youngfellow; Chief, Quality Improvement, and Kathy Wynn; Executive Secretary to the Director.

I. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of June 28, 2024

Motion: Ms. Matthews
Second: Ms. McElroy
Decision: Minutes approved as written.

II. BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND’S FUTURE-MARYLAND CONSORTIUM ON COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Mr. Blum provided an overview of the Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports (see attached Power Point).

The Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports was added as an amendment to HB1300 of the 2020 legislative session. The Consortium consists of 24 members and is chaired by David Rudolph. The Consortium is a new entity responsible for developing a statewide framework to expand access to comprehensive behavioral health and wraparound services for Maryland students and families.

- Improve student wellbeing and readiness to learn
- Foster positive classroom environments
- Promote sustainability through revenues from insurance, hospital community benefits and other sources

III. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

QI’s Accreditation Coordinator, Ms. Samantha Allen, is working with DEI on a 22-month program regarding a county-wide equity assessment. It is helpful for the department as this is an important core value of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

Dr. Lucy Wilson has been selected as the new Health Officer and Director of Health and Human Services. She has an extensive background in public health. Both the State and the County must concur on Dr. Wilson's appointment prior to confirmation.

Super Saturday Flu Campaign:

Super Saturday is scheduled for October 5. We do not have high dose flu vaccine. Clinics will be held at Drumcastle Government Center, Liberty Family Resource Center, Middle River Middle School and Sisters Academy of Baltimore. Two additional clinics will be held: October 15 at the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company and the second on October 19 at Padonia International Elementary. Clinic locations were strategically chosen. Walk ins are welcome for all clinics. The mobile clinic will most likely go out to locations with hard-to-reach populations.

Two of our four hospitals have major flu campaigns. The Department of Aging has a vendor that offers vaccine at the senior centers. Due to this, the department decreased our doses this year, ordering 4000. The department provide vaccine to Fire and Police departments, 911 operators and Detention Center employees.

PH WINS Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey:

The department is participating in the 2024 PH WINS Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (What is PH WINS? - de Beaumont Foundation). The web-based survey will ask questions on key workplace topics such as workplace culture and morale, satisfaction, and training needs, as well as demographic characteristics. The survey is sent individually to each employee. If there are a certain number of responses, the department receives detailed information from the survey. Information is confidential. Manager questions are different from front line worker questions. The survey takes an estimated 20-25 minutes to complete.

Program Updates:

Annual Rabies clinics will be held on October 6 from 9-11AM at BCAS Spay/Neuter Clinic-Dundalk and on October 27 at BCAS Baldwin. Vaccination is \$9 per pet and includes free microchipping with lifetime registration and an initial Baltimore County pet license (if applicable). Microchipping service is available without a rabies vaccine for \$10 per pet. Dogs, cats and ferrets at least 12 weeks of age are eligible.

Animal Services received renewed funding for the trap, neuter, release program.

Clinical Services is very busy with the back-to-school campaign. This year, 3000 youth were out of compliance with immunization requirements. Clinical Services worked with the schools to hold a number of clinics. In a five-week time period, starting before school and the week after, over 5000 immunizations were given to 2000 students.

Free walk-in COVID testing is available through rapid in-home testing kits distributed at County Health Centers. PCR-COVID walk in testing is available at the COVID trailer located at Dundalk Health Center.

Numerous tobacco sales to minor enforcement are being done by the Community Health Services bureau. When a fine is issued, it goes to the administrative court. At a certain point, fines are reported to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission. Starting today, Baltimore County has eight retail establishments that will not be permitted to sell tobacco products for twenty days. The State enforces closure. The department continues enforcement and education.

With a grant from the Department of Agriculture, the department is working with the Department of Economic and Workforce Development to expand access to farmers markets for individuals and families who need fresh vegetables.

The Chronic Disease unit started a new bi-lingual Taking off Pounds Sensibly chapter in Essex.

At the request of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS), we are partnering on an effort to improve the health of residents, while also improving the health of our environment. This effort focuses on promoting smoking cessation and available supports, and providing information and tools to help reduce the number of discarded cigarette butts across the County.

The Bureau of Behavioral Health contracted with a vendor on a crisis stabilization assessment of the County. Edits are being made to the draft report. The report was presented to the County Executive. The recommendations are detailed and significant. The final report is due in December hopefully with a recommendation for funding.

The Harm Reduction program is currently in the process of placing naloxone distribution boxes across the County to further increase access. These boxes will be similar to the ones used to hold free newspapers and magazines. Two boxes that are for external use have been placed at Eastern Family Resource Center and Liberty Family Resource Center. A schedule is being developed to ensure they stay filled.

Maryland Department of Health now has an opioid data dashboard where you may filter by County. Baltimore County will most likely discontinue their dashboard now that the State's is operational.

Environmental Health Services is working to convert electronic medical record to Accella by the end of the year to allow for licensing to be done starting in January.

A recall was issued for ready-to-eat meat and poultry products distributed by Boar's Head and Old Country Brands due to possible Listeria contamination. An initial three cases have been reported in Baltimore County. Nationally, there were 57 cases with nine deaths reported. It was Baltimore' County's initial investigation that led to the recall.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, is being discussed due to recent regulations for assessing the values in public buildings. Baltimore County public schools has an excellent website explaining the regulations, their results and plans to address any issues.

Personnel

As part of a department reorganization, Animal Services is now a bureau. Rene Varela, MS, VMD, MPH has joined the department as the Bureau Director. In addition to being Bureau Director, Dr. Varela will also be working in surgery.

This department participated in the video “The Face of Public Health” along with Anne Arundel County and a department in Kentucky many years ago. For our centennial this year, this video is being updated and created again with our personnel.

Rosemary Burrell, RN, Chief of Population Health, is representing Health in the 2025 Leadership Baltimore County (LBC) program. LBC prepares individuals for leadership roles, fostering a more diverse leadership in the County

Facility Issues/Updates:

The department experienced a Run Hide, Fight incident on Friday, July 19. At 3:10PM, the Run, Hide, Fight button was activated at Drumcastle by someone on the first floor.

The County paid for negative pressure rooms at Eastern Family Resource Center (EFRC) and Woodlawn. Inspection was completed and passed at the Woodlawn.

Site Visits:

July CDC OD2A – there were no findings/no written report from this site visit.

MDH Privacy Office Onsite Privacy Risk Assessment - This is a new project the State is doing. There is no prescribed check off list. MDH is accessing facilities and health departments. They want to learn from each other and share best practices among like faculties.

The department recently had an Office of the Inspector General Maryland Department of Health audit.

Trainings/Events

The County Executive held a leadership retreat. Ms. Leister and Mr. Millsbaugh; Baltimore County Social Services Director, attended. The retreat was well planned.

On Thursday, July 25th, the Department held the second in a series of Community Engagement Forums planned to help address issues highlighted in the public health needs assessment survey conducted in 2023. This latest forum was held at the Randallstown Community Center. The goal of these forums includes opportunities to discuss health disparities, access to health care, mental health and other topics of interest to the community.

September 25 at Lansdowne Library – Lansdowne Community Engagement Forum topic for discussion – health disparities, access to healthcare. Community leaders in attendance wanted to engage on topics and partnerships with the department on how to serve their community.

Two significant events were held related to recovery and substance use. On August 27 at CCBC Dundalk, our Bureau of Behavioral Health held an overdose memorial event to honor the memory of individuals lost to overdose. The event was an intimate gathering that also served as an opportunity to increase overdose awareness. It was very well done.

On September 21 at the Heritage Park in Dundalk, the Bureau of Behavioral Health hosted Recovery in the Park. The event was well attended by vendors and the public. Event was uplifting. This is the second year for this event.

The department, in conjunction with Emergency Management, sponsored a H5N1 tabletop exercise with representatives from every agency. H5N1 is the newest virus being seen in the mid-west with poultry and dairy.

The department will have an all staff meeting on October 9 and celebrate our 100th anniversary. Former Health Officer, Dr. Michelle Gourdine will be our guest speaker. There will also be a presentation on the public health impact of cannabis legislation from the Maryland Legal Resource Center. The County Executive will be in attendance. Employee awards will also be presented.

Next Wednesday is Maryland Walk Day. The department started a walk group last year. The group continues to meet and walk every Wednesday and Friday.

In recognition of September as National Suicide Prevention Month, Baltimore County marked the observance with a Historic Courthouse Dome Lighting in yellow. HHS staff were encouraged to submit selfies wearing yellow in observance of September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day, and Baltimore County Public Schools produced a Suicide Prevention Awareness video for students and families.

V. OLD BUSINESS

New Board Member Status

Ms. Leister will follow up with the CE's office to inquire regarding promoting the need for new members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Havrilak inquired regarding the county's position on cell phones in schools. The topic of banning cell phones during school hours has been in the news. Ms. Leister replied the topic is being discussed at the Board of Education. Baltimore County also has several upcoming public meetings to discuss school safety. There was a meeting last night or before and cell phones were debated. Ms. Leister is aware there is discussion.

There is a volunteer project going on in 16 middle and high schools where students start each class by tucking their cellphones away in clear pouches. Participating schools volunteered to be a part of this project. Teachers will share what the impact has been of not having cellphones as a distraction.

Dr. Havrilak also inquired regarding a grant the County had to hire athletic trainers for every school. Dr. Havrilak spoke to the person. At that time, he was having a difficult time hiring athletic trainers. Have positions been filled and are they available for events? Younger trainers did not wish to work weekends. Ms. Leister will follow up regarding this topic.

Ms. Leister reported the State appointed Mark Millsbaugh the Director of Baltimore County Department of Social Services. The new Health Officer will be Director of Health and Human Services which covers the administration portion for the departments. It is important for the Health Officer's schedule be aligned to attend meetings/engage with this Board.

At the Board's October meeting, will be a dedication of the boardroom in honor of former employee and Board of Health member. Members of Dr. McLean's family will be in attendance.

VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 25.

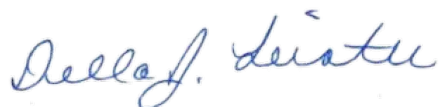
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting 10:45AM

Motion: Ms. McElroy

Second: Ms. Matthews

Decision: Unanimous Approval



Della J. Leister, RN