

Chairperson: Jason Bashura
 Vice Chairperson: Audra Nixon
 Executive Secretary: Maura Rossman, M.D., Antigone Vickery
 Recorded By: Kandyce Hopkins

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
 January 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 26, 2021
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Virtual - WebEx

Members Present: Jason Bashura, Judith Chernoff, Audra Nixon, Emily Greenberger, Paul Nagy, Erica Martin, Matt Reber, Jill RachBeisel, Mindy Kansiper, Stacey Bisnette
Members Excused:
Staff: Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer
Guest:
Public:

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by J. Bashura at 6:05 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	J. Bashura proposed November’s minutes for approval. Motion to accept November’s minutes by J. RachBeisel, second by M. Reber. Motion of approval was unanimous.	
Introductions	Dr. Mindy Kansiper and Stacey Bisnette were introduced as the newest members of the Board.	
Committee Reports	N/A	
The Health Officer’s Report	COVID cases have exponentially increased in the state of Maryland. Efforts are continuing regarding COVID testing, contact tracing and enforcement. HCHD received the first shipment of vaccine on 12/23/20. Per Governor Hogan, the state will be receiving 75,000 doses per week, on average. The Board assisted the Health Department by developing a priority list for the distribution of vaccine in Howard County, knowing the limited availability of vaccine. The list was used to create a single priority list to be used by Health Officers throughout Maryland. As of January 26, HCHD has vaccinated 10,500 people, with 80,000 on the waiting list. The health department is also	

	<p>providing guidance to county officials in regard to reopening schools. The Board of Education is working with the health department to scale up vaccination efforts. They have approximately three times more nurses than HCHD. There are school nurses who have volunteered to work with us, and part of that role was when vaccine would become available in sufficient quantities to vaccinate the public school staff, of which there's about 10,000. They then would be able to vaccinate the school staff while the health department vaccinated the rest of the priority groups. There is some hesitancy, particularly in our communities of color, to receive the vaccine because of lack of vaccine confidence, fear and mistrust. The Health Department receives aggregate data related to Howard County residents being vaccinated and is able to track via Immunet the percentage of residents being vaccinated. This data can be viewed at the Maryland Department of Health website.</p> <p>Dr. Rossman has advocated for increases to public health funding including presenting to the HoCo Spending Affordability Committee. With respect to public health funding, for the past 15 years there has been episodic crisis driven funding. Chronic underfunding creates an infrastructure that is unable to sustain high performance and makes it impossible to be the premier institution that we would like in Howard County.</p> <p>BOH Strategic Plan and Retreat- The Board should consider a retreat and strategic planning session in Fall 2021. This is a relatively new Board that would greatly benefit from strategic planning.</p> <p>Open Meetings Act- There should always be at least 1 board member that's completed Open Meetings Act training.</p> <p>New Board Members- Stacey Bisnette- Mrs. Bisnette is originally from Massachusetts and has worked in many different roles in healthcare. She currently works at Holy Cross as a Health Education Specialist. She encounters many people who are hesitant about receiving the vaccine and she is pleased to be able to educate them.</p> <p>Dr. Mindy Kantsiper- Dr. Kantsiper is an internist who has been a resident of Howard County for 20 years. She has previously been employed with Baltimore Medical Systems, Bayview Hospital as a Hospitalist, and Howard County General Hospital. She has since transitioned back to teaching, research and academics just in time to be part of the convention center project.</p>	<p>A. Nixon will follow up via email with Kelly Kesler, who is the lead for Vulnerable Populations.</p> <p>A committee will be formed to research and plan for the Board to attend the retreat. J. Chernoff, E. Martin, and P. Nagy volunteered to assist.</p> <p>J. RachBeisel volunteered to complete OMA training.</p>
Old Business		
New Business		

<p>Board Chair's Report</p>	<p>School Health Council-</p> <p>J. Bashura proposed having a discussion with the School Health Council regarding the Board's roles and responsibilities and how the Board of Health can assist the Board of Education. E. Greenberger has some concerns about the education of our children and the intersection of mental and physical health and how their coping right now. E. Martin indicated the difficulty in communicating and collaborating with the school system, an issue which was brought to attention of the County Executive's office. J. RachBeisel suggested that the Board of Education does not want intrusions and is not open to partnering with the health department and questioned the efficacy of continuing talks. A. Nixon believes the issues should be highlighted and articulated with data in such a way that it cannot be overlooked. Dr. Kantsiper would like to strengthen the relationship between the Boards. E. Martin and J. RachBeisel are interested in assisting the Mental Health Committee in determining the best solution.</p> <p>J. Bashura was unable to attend the scheduled NALBOH meeting but has pledged to have all necessary information for the Board in time for February's meeting. He also recognized the prioritization vaccine committee for their efforts. J. Bashura referred to public health funding that Dr. Rossman has spoken of and he believes that is a measure that can be addressed by NALBOH, to develop, protect and ensure for the good of the health department and considering limited resource allocation. J. RachBeisel proposed drafting a formalized letter from the board signed by the Board advocating for bills and the budget. E. Greenberger questioned whether the Board is allowed to fundraise.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.</p> <p>Next meeting is February 23, 2021.</p>	<p>The Mental Health Committee will gather and E. Martin and J. RachBeisel are interested in assisting the Mental Health Committee in determining the best solution.</p> <p>Dr. Rossman will check with Office of Law if the Board is able to fundraise, E. Greenberger volunteered, if fundraising is allowed.</p>
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