

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

**HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
 October 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** October 27, 2020  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Virtual - WebEx

**Members Present:** Jason Bashura, Judith Chernoff, Audra Nixon, Emily Greenberger, Paul Nagy, Erica Martin, Jill RachBeisel  
**Members Excused:** Matt Reber  
**Staff:** Maura Rossman, Health Officer; Antigone Vickery, Deputy Health Officer  
**Public:** Skye Anderson

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Dr. Rossman at 6:08 p.m.	
<b>Introductions</b>  <b>Old Business</b>	<p>Dr. Rossman reintroduced Kandyce Hopkins, her new Executive Assistant, replacing Carolyn Lowe who retired in June.            Toni Eller was introduced as Antigone Vickery’s new Executive Assistant, replacing Gloria Whittington.            Nikki Highsmith Vernick and Glenn Schneider of Horizon Foundation were also introduced to the Board.</p> <p><b>Horizon Foundation Presentation- Nikki Highsmith/Glenn Schneider</b>            Horizon Foundation delivered a presentation regarding diabetes prevention (see attached Power Point). It was requested that the Board designate a member to serve Horizon’s Steering Committee/taskforce dedicated to diabetes. J. Bashura indicated that it should be clarified that the slides are referencing Type 2 Diabetes specifically. G. Schneider explained that 95% of diabetes diagnoses are Type 2 cases. P. Nagy inquired about the time-frame of the initiative. N. Vernick explained that is a multi-year effort done in conjunction with other agencies. J. RachBeisel requested examples of Horizon’s successes in tackling the challenges of effecting lifestyle changes in the populations that they serve. G. Schneider explained the Foundations steps to reduce sugary drink consumption through program, policy, media and outreach. A. Nixon is motivated by the fact that the state has made this initiative a priority. She is moved to create true impact in the community through a partnership with this program. E. Greenberger sought</p>	

understanding as to how to prioritize “an underlying, constant threat” against issues that are “more acutely terrifying”. N. Vernick acknowledged the various other issues that the community faces and the urgency of these problems, but also recognizes that attention must be paid to a chronic and preventable disease such as diabetes. Horizon’s goal is to bring about solutions by changing the trajectory of long-term goals and behaviors of the community environment. J. Bashura wanted the Horizon Foundation representatives to expound upon the actual benefits of an alliance between the steering committee, the Board and how it will elicit a response from the County Executive. G. Schneider believes that official endorsement from the Board of Health will prove valuable in communications with the County. P. Nagy thinks that this an appropriate role for the Board and it will allow for effective coordination of information and efforts. J. Chernoff inquired about the metrics of measuring success on short and mid-term basis. G. Schneider indicated that the purpose of forming the Steering Committee and partnership with the Board is to create the data dashboard to measure tangible impact. The Horizon Foundation is seeking a Board member who is passionate and will assist in forming other partnerships.

A. Nixon contacted the Horizon Foundation regarding insights on diabetes and discovered the existence of the taskforce. She was aware that the taskforce wanted to partner with the Board, but she was not aware that they would announce that request today. As head of the Health Disparities Committee, she is interested in being the representative. She was under the impression that intentions were made clear at the last Board meeting. J. Bashura is seeking clarity and transparency, as he was unclear on the matter of the Horizon Foundation seeking an individual to represent the Board. J. RachBeisel believes that the Board should decide the process in which the representative is chosen, in the event that more than one member is interested. Any individual wishing to be considered should express that interest before the next meeting. Dr. Rossman explained that a member can be formally or informally appointed. The Board will need an explicit description of the role and duties of this representative as it pertains to the Steering Committee. J. Chernoff suggested that the Board decide whether they are going to partner with the Horizon Foundation immediately and choose the representative at another time, with E. Martin in agreeance. A. Nixon raised the motion for the Board to be part of the Horizon Foundation’s taskforce on diabetes, second by E. Martin. All members, apart from M. Reber(absent) and P. Nagy (left prior to the vote), are in favor of the motion.

**Update: Difficult Conversations Video Series-**

Staff members are working with Dr. Evans on the series. The first video is completed, the second video is being edited based on recommendations from the Board, the third video is still in progress. The Health Department is determining potential partnerships and methods of how to disseminate the video series. The goal is to release the first video by Thanksgiving. Dr. Evans has agreed to facilitate the videos to provide context.

The Board of Health voted to be part of the Horizon Foundation’s Diabetes Taskforce/ Initiative. A representative from the Board will be chosen to serve on Horizon’s Steering Committee.

<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Motion to accept and approve June’s minutes by P. Nagy and second by J. Chernoff. Motion of approval was unanimous.</p>	
<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b>Committee “overview”</b>  J. Bashura seeks to define the duties and responsibilities of the committees and if the bylaws are clear in its descriptions.</p> <p><b>Nomination Committee</b>  J. Chernoff states that there is one brief mention of the Nominations Committee in the bylaws, but it is vague and non-specific about the manner in which nominations are received. The Board is unclear on the specific process. Dr. Rossman explains that the County Code specifies that the Board is to be comprised of 11 members. The bylaws state that the County Executive makes recommendations to the County Council based on the Board’s nominees. The County Council approves Board memberships. The bylaws were edited last winter and submitted to the County in April. They were never signed as a result of COVID. Dr. Rossman has provided an explanation of the substantive changes and they are currently being reviewed. E. Martin presented nominations directly to J. Bashura that were never brought forth for consideration. She requests clarification in the nominations process. J. RachBeisel explains that the nominations are to be presented to the Nominations Committee, where they are reviewed and vetted before being brought forth to the Board. Dr. Rossman describes the two methods of nomination submissions. A press release goes out &amp; the resulting resumes go to Kimberly Pruum. The Board can forward recommendations to the nominating committee and submit to Ms. Pruum. J. Chernoff proposed that E. Martin’s nomination suggestions be forwarded to the Nomination Committee to be considered to fill the remaining vacancy. Dr. Rossman updated the Board on the status of the nominees (Mindy Kansiper, Stacy Bisnette) that the Board forwarded to the County Executive. They will be reviewed by the County Council.</p> <p><b>Health Disparities Committee</b>  A. Nixon wants to determine how the Board representative for the Horizon Foundation Diabetes taskforce will be selected. J. Bashura suggested making the topic an agenda item for the next Board meeting. J. RachBeisel proposed that any member interested should express their interest to J. Bashura prior to the next meeting, submit a paragraph about why they are the best candidate, and have the Board take a vote. No other Board member has expressed interest. A. Nixon would like an expedited vote. It was agreed it would be revisited at the next meeting after clarifying the Horizon Foundation’s expectations of the Board representative.</p>	<p>A. Nixon will unofficially represent the Board at the Horizon Foundation taskforce meeting until such time that an official selection is made. She will obtain a detailed description of the</p>



**Next meeting is November 24.**

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