

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

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Dr. Rossman at 6:08 p.m.	
Introductions Old Business	<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>Horizon Foundation Presentation- Nikki Highsmith/Glenn Schneider 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 inquires about the time-frame of the initiative. N. Vernick explains 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 seeks understanding as to how to prioritize “an underlying, constant threat” against issues that are “more acutely terrifying”. N. Vernick acknowledges 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.</p>	

Horizon’s goal is to bring about solutions by changing the trajectory of long-term goals and behaviors of the community environment. J. Bashura wants 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. N. Vernick believes that the Board of Health underestimates it’s power and made a point to highlight the influence that the Board wields with the government. The Horizon Foundation is seeking a Board member who is passionate and will assist in forming other partnerships.

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 partner with the Horizon Foundation’s taskforce on Diabetes, second by E. Martin. All members, with the exception of M. Reber(absent) and P. Nagy (left prior to the vote), are in favor of the motion.

Update: Difficult Conversations Video Series-

Dr. Rossman is 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 partner with the Horizon Foundation’s Diabetes Taskforce/ Initiative. A representative from the Board will be chosen to serve on Horizon’s Steering Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept and approve June’s minutes by P. Nagy and second by J. Chernoff. Motion of approval was unanimous.

<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Committee “overview” J. Bashura seeks to define the duties and responsibilities of the committees and if the bylaws are clear in its descriptions.</p> <p>Nomination Committee J. Chernoff states that there is one brief mention of the Nomination’s 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 omit that the County Executive is not obligated to endorse the Board’s recommendations. 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.</p> <p>COVID-19 Updates by Dr. Rossman Dr. Rossman presented metrics measuring current Covid-19 data. The mortality rates are steady, with the deaths per week stabilizing. The testing average is approximately 1200 tests per day, with a turnaround time of 2.5 days. The 7-day hospital admission averages are less than 2 per day. The median and average age of Covid patients is decreasing. 25% of new cases are individuals under 25. Contact tracing has had a 98% efficiency rate; cases are being contacted within 24 hours. The role of vitamin D has been examined in cohort studies. Covid patients with low vitamin D levels may have poorer outcomes. Randomized studies should be conducted to support this theory.</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Recognitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of Kandyce Hopkins Kandyce is Dr. Rossman’s new Executive Assistant and will be Executive Support for the BOH, replacing Carolyn Lowe who retired in June. <p>Difficult Conversations About Race Series The Difficult Conversations About Race Series includes 3 videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult Conversations About Race with Adults 	

Board Chair's Report

- Difficult Conversations About Race Series with Children
- Cultural Humility

This video can potentially be used as a segway to promote these conversations in the community. The Health Department intends to market the video by Thanksgiving. A. Nixon suggested incorporating a facilitator with showing of the series. E. Greenberger advocates for engaging churches, synagogues and youth groups.

The Health Officer's Report

J. Bashura presented a video, How Racism Makes Us Sick, for the BOH's review. It is to be hoped that it can assist in bringing communities together to address racism.

Several community initiatives are in place for Howard County residents.

Covid related press event- Let's Talk About It

Youth suicide prevention program- Just Ask Campaign

Peer to Peer Group- to build resiliency among youth, converted from in-person to a virtual program

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting is October 27.

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