

**THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

The Five Hundred Fifty-Fifth Meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held February 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Adelsberger, Dr. Havrilak, Judy Kistner, Katie McElroy, Winona Matthews, Dr. Barbara McLean and Camille Smith.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Modupe Agueh; Bureau Chief, Clinical Services, James Gilbert; Statistical Analyst, Quality Improvement, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer/Secretary Pro Tem, and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary to the Director.

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 January 28, 2022 as presented.

<b>Motion:</b>	Ms. McElroy
<b>Second:</b>	Mr. Adelsberger
<b>Decision:</b>	Unanimous Approval

**II. TEEN PREGNANCY**

Dr. Agueh provided a review of teen pregnancy data, on social inequities in teen pregnancy, services provided by the Department of Health and national recommendations for improved outcomes.

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death globally for girls age 15-19 years. The United States has the second highest pregnancy rate of all industrialized nations, second only to New Zealand. In the United States, a glamorization has been allowed when talking about teen pregnancy. The difference between the *Teen Mom* series and Ethiopia's movie, *A Walk to Beautiful* are examples of the difference in the way this issue is addressed globally.

In Baltimore County, the 2018 youth risk behavior survey showed about 32% of our youth high school students reported being sexually active, 6% in middle school with 2% active at age 11. We are still seeing about one-third of teens being active. The rate of fatherhood in adolescent is low but present.

Overall, US birth rates for moms has decreased in ages 15-19. Since 1990, birth rates have been consistently decreasing. Maryland's overall birth rate is 13.9 per 1,000. The national average is 16.8 per 1,000. Baltimore County has remained below the national and state rate for adolescents and continues to decrease.

Any time you address an issue that has social determinants of health as the root cause, you need to look at the big picture to address improving outcomes. Examples of inequities are low education, low income, and high unemployment. Focus on equity, make sure teens that are the most vulnerable have increased services and that we are focusing on them at a higher rate.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends focusing on prevention.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

### Baltimore County's Maternal Child Health (MCH) receives referrals from:

- ACCU via the Maryland Prenatal Risk Assessment form
- Baltimore County Department of Health Center Based Services
- Baltimore County Public Schools Wellness Centers and school nurses

### Prenatal Enrichment Program (PEP)

After a prenatal risk assessment is completed, a series of services are offered:

- Case management and home visiting services
- Pregnant teens have two options to receive services from PEP, home or school
- If the teen's choice is home-based services, no prenatal or guardian consent is required
- If a teen opts to receive services at the school, parental consent is required and the school notifies the parent/guardian to obtain consent.

### Babies Born Healthy

This program offers support to moms who may have a risk to pregnancy. There is a virtual pregnancy support group to provide education and linkage to resources. Participants receive a free Pack 'N Play for viewing the sessions.

### Community Baby Shower

The community baby show is co-hosted by Baltimore County – Women' Commission, and multiple community collaborators. At this shower we connect our future families with other county services.

### School Based Wellness Centers

The school based wellness centers are supported by the Department of Health (DOH) and Baltimore County Public Schools. While we do not dispense contraceptives at the wellness centers, a general intake is done, counseling offered and students are referred to DOH centers. Most wellness centers are located relatively close to health centers.

## National Recommendations for Improved Outcomes:

The Federal government is:

- Supporting efforts to prevent teen pregnancy by providing affordable family planning services
- Developing clinical guidance for safe and effective use of birth control –
  - US Medical Eligibility Criteria (US MEC)
- Developing and evaluating programs in communities where teen births are highest

## III. ACCREDITATION

Mr. Gilbert reported that the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has assigned a reviewer for the department. All necessary documents have been submitted. We have been informed by PHAB we are “next in line”.

## IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

Della Leister, Deputy Health Officer/Secretary Pro Tem, provided the remarks of the Secretary.

### COVID Update

- Numbers continue to decrease
- We continue to promote vaccine clinics and testing sites.
- We continue to reach out to individuals that have been difficult to reach regarding vaccination
- 78% of Baltimore County’s population has been vaccinated
- The County lifted the indoor mask mandate for businesses on February 1
- The State of Emergency was lifted February 7
- As of Monday, the mask mandate ended for county buildings with the exception of the health centers, the detention center and homeless centers
- Baltimore County ride and Towson Circular fall under federal guidelines and must be masked
- Mandatory testing ends today for unvaccinated employees.
- Vaccine is being offered for anyone age five and older
- Testing continues. We will start to demobilize the larger sites.

### Program Updates

It is food permit season. Anyone who has a food service permit has to have it renewed by the end of March. All are being mailed out.

### Opioids

The department continues to provide opioid response. The County Executive has asked for an update on all things opioid. The opioid strategy coordinator is putting together a presentation. We continue our Naloxone training program.

### Budget

No new initiatives. Surplus funds are available for this year due to COVID and salary savings. One time purchases can be done with the approval of the Office of Budget and Finance. We continue to receive grant funds for many programs and COVID response. The budget will be

presented to the County Executive in three to four weeks. Budget is then finalized. The County Executive then presents to the County Council. They can only make cuts to the budget, no additions. We will be looking for a letter of support for the budget from the Board.

#### Employee of the Quarter

Departmental Bureaus have an opportunity to nominate their employees to receive an Employee of the Quarter award. Department of Health employees who received for this quarter:

#### Hinda Brooks – Behavioral Health and Community Services

Hinda was recognized for her passion for sharing her clinical experience with her colleagues and her talent for training new team members.

#### Tameka Jackson – Clinical Services

Tameka recognized for her hard work, she is the “go-to” person in ACCU for any issues that might arise. Tameka was also instrumental in our COVID response, working the hotline and vaccine clinics.

#### Gina Meyer – Animal Services, Communicable Disease and Environmental Health (A.C.E.)

Gina works in Communicable Disease as a disease investigator. Gina has done incredible work in managing COVID clinics.

#### Megan Phillabaum - Animal Services, Communicable Disease and Environmental Health (A.C.E)

When Animal Services' Foster and Rescue Coordinator, and Assistant Shelter Supervisor positions were vacant, Megan voluntarily took on tasks to assist with both job duties.

#### HB116 – Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment

We are working with the Detention Center to implement HB 116. All detention centers must offer all three versions of medication assisted therapy (MAT) to their detainees. We are looking at contracting with a community-based treatment provider. The Detention Center is preparing to put this service out for proposals.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Havrilak inquired on the status of HB 267, Criminal Law – Threats Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member. Ms. Leister listened to both hearings. Most testimony was very favorable, in support of the bill with one individual testifying in opposition to the bill.

### **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

None

### **VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN:**

The next virtual meeting of the board is scheduled for March 25.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

**Motion:** Ms. Matthews

**Second:** Ms. McElroy

**Decision:** Unanimous Approval

  
Della J. Leister, R.N.