

**THE FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022**

The Five Hundred Fifty-Seventh Meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. via Webex.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Adelsberger, Katie McElroy, Dr. Havrilak, Judy Kistner, and Camille Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Barbara McLean and Winona Matthews

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Alexander Chen; Chief, Division of Communicable Diseases, Jenny Bradenbaugh; Quality Management Coordinator, Dr. Gregory Branch; Health Officer and Secretary to the Board, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer, Laura Culbertson; Chief, Quality Improvement, Jim Gilbert; Quality Improvement 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 March 25, 2022 as corrected:

Page 4, first line, second sentence, revised to read "*There are small decreases in other areas based on projected spending for this year based on last year*".

Motion: Ms. Kistner
Second: Ms. McElroy
Decision: Unanimous Approval

II. HIV

Ms. Bradenbaugh presented via Power Point on HIV Case Management Services and Viral Suppression.

The HIV Case Management Services overview was presented to the Board. The Strategic Plan goal of 90% of clients achieving viral suppression was exceeded at 91.9 %. This was accomplished by various actions of the case managers over the last 3 years: Texting appointment reminders, PrEP resource connections, and the recruitment of 18-24 year olds into the program. The latter project is ongoing and based on U=U (what is U=U?) and the education of the benefits of suppression of viral load and identifying and bringing that age group into case management.

Baltimore County HIV Case Management Services currently serves approximately 500 Baltimore County residents who are living with HIV. The case management program includes six social workers, two nurses, and four non-medical case managers (one who is primarily a housing

specialist) as well as a program manager, fiscal staff administrative team, and a quality management coordinator.

The Housing Specialist has a small case load, assisting clients looking for housing. Ms. Bradenbaugh is the Quality Management Coordinator. Ms. Bradenbaugh's role is to facilitate activities that identify and reduce and/or eliminate gaps in HIV prevention services and health care.

Eligible for case management services are persons diagnosed with HIV who live within Baltimore County, have a household income less than 500% of the federal poverty level and are able to provide documentation to verify diagnosis, residency and income.

HIV/AIDS Case Management Services:

- Dental Services - Referral to dental providers
- Emergency Financial Services - Help to pay utility bills and for other emergencies
- Housing Assistance - Emergency help for rental assistance and a limited number of housing vouchers through HOPWA
- Medical Care - Care given by Johns Hopkins Hospital working with Baltimore County Department of Health or referral to other providers
- Mental Health Services - Referral to mental health or psychiatric providers
- Substance Abuse Treatment - Referral to assessment centers
- Horizons Support Group - Friendship and support given in the Horizons Support Group and Women's Group (meeting virtually since COVID).
- Transportation Services - Transportation provided for medical appointments and other support services
- Outreach Services - Counseling and referral services to help engage clients into care
- Housing – emergency rental and case management/HOPWA (clients receiving medical care)

HIV Prevention Services:

HIV Counseling and Testing

HIV testing at 6 BCDH sites

HIV testing at 6 Community Partner sites

Linkage to Care to Case Management and/or Medical Provider

Outreach

Baltimore County Detention Center

Colleges/Universities

Treatment Centers

Observances

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | February 7

Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | March 10

National HIV Testing Day | June 26

World AIDS Day | December 1

HIV prevention services works very closely with case management when there is a linkage to care. There is strong coordination between case management and prevention services when a positive HIV client is identified.

The National Ending the HIV Epidemic Strategy (EHE) has four key strategies that can end the HIV Epidemic in the United States:

- Diagnose all people with HIV as early as possible.
 - Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.
- Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe services programs (SSPs).
- Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get needed prevention and treatment services to people who need them.
- <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/national-hiv-aids-strategy/national-hiv-aids-strategy-2022-2025>

The National EHE drives our performance measures and what we do.

Viral Suppression:

Viral suppression is the percentage of people with diagnosed HIV who have less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood. It is important for persons to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. New medications are coming out all time. Most recently injectable is becoming more readily available.

- Getting and keeping an undetectable viral load is the best thing people with HIV can do to stay healthy.
- Another benefit of reducing the amount of virus in the body is that it helps prevent transmission to others through sex or syringe sharing, and from mother to child during pregnancy, birth, and breastfeeding. This is sometimes referred to as **treatment as prevention**.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/art/index.html>

Why is Viral Suppression important?

- Getting and keeping an undetectable viral load is the best thing people with HIV can do to stay healthy.
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<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/art/index.html>

Jim Gilbert presented on Performance Standards:

Standards may be set based on:

- National organizations – Healthy People 2020
 - Prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and related illness and death
- State organizations – State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

- Reduce the incidence of HIV
- Scientific research – Research Department of Infection and Population Health, University College London
 - Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and viral suppression

Another part of performance standards is to set goals and targets:

The focus of these performance management activities is to ensure that goals are consistently met in an effective and efficient manner by an organization, a department, or an employee.

Process of Identifying Baltimore County Goals:

- Assessment process occurs that identifies Baltimore County Public Health issues
- Identification of National, State, and Research indicators
- The strategic planning process identifies Baltimore County priorities
- Based on these priorities indicators and goals are developed

S.M.A.R.T. Objectives are utilized:

- S: Specific – What is to be done?
 M: Measurable – How will you know it is done?
 A: Attainable – Can it be done?
 R: Relevant – Should it be done?
 T: Timely – When will it be done?

Performance Measurement and Data:

It is important to set criteria and establish scope or data collection. Data should be available and show trends, reliable, related to new and growing initiatives and a good indicator that a program is working. Performance management should refine indicators and define measures.

We have a population scorecard, using Clear Impact to share the information publically. A requirement is that we share our data publically. We are currently trying to determine how on the website we can garner feedback on these measures. We are working with web services on that project.

Website address for Clear Impact:

<https://embed.clearimpact.com/Scorecard/Embed/73400>

Ms. Bradenbaugh stated our performance measure for viral suppression is 90% but we do need to look ahead to see what the next standard may be. The most recent EHE initiative goal being to increase the percentage of people with HIV in America who are virally suppressed to 95% by the year 2030. By tracking our progress towards achieving the goal we are better able to scale up their services and tailor those interventions

Viral Suppression Rates in Maryland:

- 31,676 people are living with HIV in Maryland,
- 77% are retained in medical care
- Of the 77% retained in medical care, 67% are virally suppressed

Viral Suppression rates in Baltimore County:

- 3,793 people are living with HIV
- 78.1% are retained in medical care
- Of the 78.1% retained in medical care, 68.4% are virally suppressed

People living with HIV and actively engaged in medical care have lab work at least once every six months. Lab work includes HIV viral load. The goal is to be undetectable. The case management program collects this data from clients' records twice annually.

Most recent program level data shows that the viral suppression rate is 91.9% for clients who receive case management services through the department. Case managers continually engage clients to focus on health and to remove barriers that impede their ability to do so.

Ms. McElroy inquired if the program had a waitlist. The program has never had a waitlist. Individuals may be engaged for years, others for a few months. We always provide our contact information if circumstances should change.

Contact Information for Ms. Bradenbaugh and Ms. Gooden who is the program supervisor:

Marva Gooden, RN, MSN
mgooden@baltimorecountymd.gov
410-887-1034

Jenny Bradenbaugh, BS
jbradenbaugh@baltimorecountymd.gov
410-887-4384

III. ACCREDITATION

The last communication Ms. Culbertson received from Carrie Thomas who is our PHAB contact was March 14. Ms. Thomas stated she would email Dr. Branch when the review of the preliminary documentation that was submitted May 21 is complete and will then provide next steps. Ms. Culbertson is continuing to collect what she feels are the gaps and things we really need to do. We had a PHABulous best practices meeting and took the ten essential services from the CDC that are tied to health equity that members saw in a previous meeting and developed where our services fall under each of these ten essential services. There will be a second meeting scheduled at a future date. They all have homework where they are to look at their individually crafted PHAB indicators where Ms. Culbertson highlighted everything they will be responsible for.

IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

Financial Disclosures:

A reminder for Board members who have not already done so, financial disclosures are due to the County Ethics office by April 30.

Updates:

WIC program update/recalled formula. WIC did have formulas that were recalled. Staff worked overtime to retrieve back the formula. Several samples were sent to the State. There were no adverse findings. Clients were assisted with other formula. We had to encourage clients not to make own formula.

SB956 and HB1409, for which the Board wrote a letter of support, that would make it a criminal act to threaten a health officer or other health official did not make it out of committee on either side of the house.

COVID Update:

- Hotline reached over 75K calls last week
- Completed Over 122K tests since April 2020
- Continue to have a robust response team, decreasing some testing based upon need
- Vaccination sites will be going to totally mobile with locations at the request of community organizations. Continue to work very closely with schools
- Offering boosters. Second booster is being offered for individuals who meet the criteria
- A team of community health workers canvas neighborhoods to inform people who live in the community know when a mobile clinic is scheduled to be in their neighborhood
- Monday will be the last day of testing at our Sears location which will close. The lease is over at the end of next week.
- Contact tracers not busy with contact tracing are phoning Baltimore County Public School parents regarding COVID vaccinations for their children. They are making thousands of cold calls each week.
- A celebration was held for two fire department staff on loan to the department since the pandemic. These two gentlemen, a Captain and Lieutenant, did anything we asked and were very preemptive at what was coming down the pike next. They were out in the cold winter weather and hot summer weather. They set up our mass testing drive through clinics and mass vaccination clinics. These two gentleman were incredible to work with.
- We are working to make sure the public has information on the Test to Treat program the State is promoting. Individuals who go to certain locations for testing and test positive, the pharmacy can provide the medication. MDH is trying to promote to get those eligible into treatment.

Public Health Week:

Public Health Week was two weeks ago. Ms. Leister visited every health site in two days. Staff were very welcoming. Public Health Week celebrates anyone who works in public health.

National Nurses' Week:

National Nurses' Week is in two weeks. A virtual celebration is being planned by a committee. The theme is connection, self-care and recovery. There is a virtual bulletin board where nurses can post pictures, comments and memories of how they connected over the past two years. A speaker will present on self-care. An open discussion on recovery will be held. We have all been changed by our work and our personal lives through the pandemic.

Ms. Leister is on the community advisory board at Stevenson University. She participated in their continuing accreditation for nursing education. It was interesting to have accreditors quiz us on our relationship with Stevenson. Ms. Leister was very glad she had the opportunity to participate.

EHS – all food permit renewals were due March 31. As of last week, we were at 78% received. We are working with establishments that have not renewed. Late fees begin this week.

MDH breach – the breach is still impacting our ability to do our work. MDH is trying to fix, provide a workaround. Our own IT department is trying to do the same. It is a challenge to disease investigations without having access to the reporting system.

The County is converting to a new platform, Work Day, for all financials and payroll. This will also affect Baltimore County retirees for their retirement benefits.

We are exploring an additional physician residency program with Hopkins. Residents will be with us a longer period of time working on projects and doing site visits. Dr. O'Dowd is taking the lead. The program will operate out of Dr. Branch's office as our residency programs do.

Ms. Leister recognized to the Board three employees who recently received Employee of the Quarter Awards:

Deborah Sanchez — Administration; Office of Quality Improvement

For going above and beyond in researching best practices related to vaccines and personal protective equipment for the Office of Quality Improvement. Her work has included updating licenses, writing standard operating procedures and standing orders, paying particular attention to clinical services sites and staff safety. In addition, Deborah communicated well with purchasing and the COVID response team. Because of her dedication and commitment, incidents have been prevented and employees and the public have been protected. Thank you for all you do!

Shelby Schultz — ACE; Animal Services

For her dedication toward expanding Animal Services relations with other county agencies and assisting them with training. Shelby volunteered and performed multiple trainings with the Baltimore County Fire Department, which has solidified a better relationship with their agency and allowed them to learn more about how Animal Services works as a whole. Shelby's professionalism, skills, and thorough knowledge of her job as an Animal Services Officer are an invaluable asset to the Animal Services Team.

Ciara Staten — Clinical Services

For going above and beyond the call of duty to provide excellent customer service to both clients and staff. She exhibits a true team work approach and willingness to help in any capacity to benefit the residents and Baltimore County staff and she does so with a pleasant demeanor and patience. She educates, trains staff and takes on additional tasks during staff shortages. No task is too great or too small for her. Ciara's suggestions to improve the flow of the Dundalk Health Center COVID clinic were successful and resulted in a flow where staff have a better visual of each other as well as the clients to lead them through the testing process. Her diligence is valuable to the success of the Center Based Team – Thank you!

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month – drinking went up significantly during the first several months of the pandemic. We are promoting to be aware of alcohol use and resources for individuals who need assistance.

National Minority Health Month - the theme focuses on the continued importance of COVID 19 vaccinations especially for our minority communities.

STD Awareness Month just ended– raising awareness of STD and how it impact our lives,

National Immunization Week starts next week. A CDC report shows there has been a drop in routine childhood vaccinations. We are going to try to get a head start starting in June and July before summer to get kids caught up on all vaccinations.

Dr. Havrilak inquired if the positivity rate in Baltimore County is mirroring the state increase in COVID cases. Ms. Leister responded that it is mirroring the State.

Ms. Smith stated that the oral antivirals that treat COVID can be prescribed by a physician, nurse or PA to be dispensed by the pharmacist pursuant to the Emergency Use Authorization. The retail pharmacy chain websites have a list of pharmacies that have the oral meds. Ms. Smith did not see any Baltimore County CVS stores with availability, but there are several Howard County locations on the list.

Dr. Chen added to find pharmacies, you can go to <https://healthdata.gov/Health/COVID-19-Public-Therapeutic-Locator/rxn6-qnx8/data> and filter for Baltimore. There are multiple participating pharmacies, including a few CVS locations.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Meetings:

Discussion was held on continuing virtually or in person. Ms. Wynn to survey members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Kistner informed the Board that Towson University is building a brand new health building on campus for their nursing program. This facility will have the latest equipment. Construction of the facility has started.

VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The next virtual meeting of the board is scheduled for May 27.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Motion: Ms. Kistner
Second: Ms. McElroy
Decision: Unanimous Approval



Della J. Leister, R.N.