

**THE FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024**

The Five Hundred Seventy-third meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held February 23 at 9:30 a.m. via WebEx.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Winona Matthews

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dr. Gregory Branch; Health Officer and Secretary to the Board, Della Leister; Deputy Health Officer, Amy Francis; Division Director, Community Health Services, Andrea Perri, Public Health Nurse; Community Health Services, Renee Youngfellow; Chief, Quality Improvement, Samantha Allen; Accreditation Coordinator, Quality Improvement and Kathy Wynn, Executive Secretary.

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 26, 2024

**Motion:** Ms. Kistner  
**Second:** Mr. Adelsberger  
**Decision:** Unanimous Approval

**II. ADULT EVALUATION AND REVIEW SERVICES (AERS)**

Ms. Francis and Ms. Perri provided an overview of the County's AERS, specifically fall prevention efforts. (See attached PPT)

The overall mission of AERS is to conduct comprehensive evaluations to identify services available to allow an individual to remain in the least restrictive environment. Typically, that's their home. Most of AERS clients are community dwelling.

AERS assists older adults or individuals with disabilities at risk for institutionalization. Participation is voluntary. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) selected a standardized assessment tool, inter RAIHome Care (HC). It is used for all assessments done by the AERS program. The Homecare tool is a minimum dataset tool that allows the nurse or social worker to assess multiple domains of function, overall, health, social supports and the use of home care services.

We typically try to start with a conversation with the client and their caregiver. If they're available, we encourage the client's participation and present fall interventions as lifestyle enhancing and as a way to remain independent.

Our messages focus on positive health and social benefits; such as improving balance, and maintaining independence, rather than emphasizing negative information about falls and fall injury which might possibly increase their fear.

Physical consideration is taken into account. Does the person have limitations in their overall physical performance? We watch and evaluate them as they sit, stand, walk and turn around.

Other considerations taken into account are medical, vision, hearing safety and environmental.

There are two programs' clients can be referred. First, is the Stepping On program which is for adults with moderate to high fall risk. This program offers strategies and exercises to reduce falls and increase self confidence in making decisions and behavioral change.

The second program is Tai Ji Quan, which is an evidence-based falls prevention program delivered in two, one-hour sessions each week for 24 weeks. The primary focus is to improve strength, balance and mobility and prevent falls in older adults.

Mr. Adelsberger inquired how an at-risk citizen can access the fall prevention program? Ms. Perri responded the program works with the Fire Department quite regularly with the iCare program. This program makes referrals to us through their clients.

Persons at risk can find us on the Baltimore County website and contact our office. A nurse and social worker are available to screen any potential clients. We also partner with the Department of Aging with the Hospital to Home program receiving referrals that they generate to us for clients they see that are at risk or may be eligible for Medicaid programs.

Dr. Smith inquired as to how often does the program find that there are certain medications that falls are being attributed to and how well integrated are pharmacists on the care team to review prescriptions and other medications that you find that your patients are taking?

Ms. Perri responded that we don't currently have pharmacists on the care team. We have to reach out to community pharmacists to discuss any of those issues.

### **III. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION**

Ms. Youngfellow reported that we continue to focus on our PHAB annual review that is due in March. We are reviewing documents to submit for surveillance and focusing on domain for our mobile van unit to submit documents for innovative learning and education for this year. There are various other requests for action that we're working on with other bureaus. Our main focus is the annual review.

## IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

### Program Updates

- Animal Services participated in a mega adoption event on February 10. 28 animals (dogs, cats, bunnies and turtles) were adopted.
- A press release was sent on February 12 announcing the launch of pet scanning stations at five locations (Banneker Community Center, Dundalk Spay and Neuter Center, Stenbridge Community Center, Northeast Regional Recreation Center and BARC Park), offering 24/7 access to microchip scanning to help lost pets be reunited with their owner more quickly and prevent animals from being unnecessarily housed at the Shelter. Baltimore County is the first jurisdiction in Maryland to provide these community scan stations.
- Environmental Health Services is preparing for food service permit renewals. Baltimore County food service permits expire March 31.
- We are looking to make a proposal to the County executive about the JUUL settlement. JUUL and Altria are the two companies that had litigation filed against them for the manner in which they targeted their commercial advertising of vaping products specifically to youth. All counties that entered into the settlement will receive funds. Our team has worked on a proposal of how we think those funds should be allocated. It will involve working with schools and groups that work with youth. Education and enforcement are the areas we are looking at for this settlement.
- We are planning to work with students from the public health arena to look at some regulations for tattoos. There are only four jurisdictions in the state of Maryland that have municipal citations related to tattoos. The public health students research best practices. They will do for another county and us.
- We continue to promote a number of initiatives related to harm reduction and overdose response with our campaign “Hope is in Reach” and trying to break down the stigma related to substance use disorder.
- There is now a Naloxone vending machine located in the Detention Center for families and others that are visiting the Detention Center. We are trying to promote Naloxone in all areas that we can; we do believe that is what is helping to trend the fatal overdose numbers until we can get people engaged and ready for treatment.

Administratively, we have restarted our medical staff meetings with our physician providers, which includes our nurse practitioners that work in the schools. We hold these meetings every other month and we talk about a variety of topics. The topic we had this

month was recruiting and retaining staff because that seems to be an ongoing theme across all the disciplines

### Site Visits

There has been one site visit since our last meeting. We had a cancer site visit on January 30. We have not yet received the site report.

### Personnel

- Karen Pilecki, who was the union president, retired after 35+ years of service as a public health nurse.
- Sherry Roberts who oversaw the TB program also retired also last week.

### Facility Updates

- The Lansdowne Health Center, not the WIC office, that was closed during COVID due to staffing issues has re-opened which is important as there are a number of non-English speaking individuals who live in that area who need services.
- The Reisterstown WIC center moved from the Chartley Business Center to the Business Center Drive Commerce Center located about two blocks south. That move occurred at the end of January and went well.

We are still in the middle of budget town hall meetings with the County Executive.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

At the last Board meeting, Dr. Havrilak referenced a *Baltimore Sun* article where the County is proposing a vertical expansion to the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh and inquired if there were any potential health issues with raising the height of the landfill? Dr. Branch was not aware of any specific health issues to raising the landfill. Ms. Leister followed up with the Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding this question. They stated there are no health issues.

Dr. Havrilak had also inquired if the County monitors areas around landfills for leeching. The County does monitor all landfills. Monitoring is a requirement as the County must have a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment to have a landfill.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Kistner inquired about the status of the Exxon property in Phoenix. Ms. Leister will inquire and get back with the Board.

Ms. Leister stated that in April, meetings would be in person at Drumcastle in the Boardroom. There will continue to be a virtual option for this meeting. This year is the department's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To start the anniversary celebration, one of the activities

we would like to do is rename the boardroom in memory of Dr. McLean who was a long-term county resident, Department of Health employee and Board of Health member. Ms. Leister would like to plan for this dedication with board members at the April meeting. Dr. Havrilak stated it would be a very fitting tribute to Dr. McLean to dedicate the boardroom after her.

Dr. Branch and Ms. Leister interviewed a new potential board member. Will follow up on the status of that appointment.

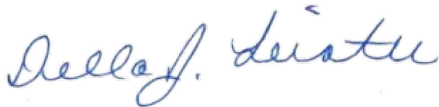
## **VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

The Board will next meet virtually on March 22, 2024.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 10:21AM.

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



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Della J. Leister, RN