

**THE FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
FRIDAY JUNE 28, 2024**

The Five Hundred Seventy-Seventh meeting of the Baltimore County Board of Health was held June 28 at 9:30 a.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Sohail Qarni; Acting Deputy Health Officer and Secretary Pro Tem, Ari Blum; Bureau Director, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Lee Ohnmacht; Division Chief, Core Service Agency (CSA), Bureau of Behavioral Health, Adrian Boswell; Prevention-OMPP (Opioid Misuse Prevention Program) Coordinator, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Renee Youngfellow; Chief, Quality Improvement, and Kathy Wynn; Executive Secretary to the Director.

I. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

To approve the minutes of May 24, 2024

Motion: Ms. McElroy
Second: Ms. Kistner
Decision: Minutes approved as written.

II. ACADEMIC DETAILING PROJECT

Mr. Boswell provided an overview of the Academic Detailing Project (see attached Power Point).

Academic Detailing is a brief, interactive, 1:1, in-person, educational outreach to optimize clinical decisions and improve patient care. Continuing professional education was passive learning; clinicians were not engaged nor provided practical information needed for patient care. Research has shown that academic detailing improves processes and outcome of care.

Research took years to become implemented in everyday practice. Since 2000, there's been a significant increase in Academic Detailing programs public worldwide.

Baltimore County is one of 18 jurisdictions that are supported by the Maryland Department of Health. We target clinicians and pharmacists (in fy25) especially those located in high overdose communities. Clinicians are informed of Department of Health resource information (safe storage and disposal of medication, safe ways to store medication, the REACH hotline for anyone dealing with any type of substance use disorder and developmental disability services for families and children with developmental issues). Information they can share with their patients and the patient's family.

The Academic Detailing program does offer CME credits (one per session with sessions ranging from 15-30 minutes)

Dr. Havrilak inquired if dentists were included in this project. Dentists have been targeted for sessions. Pharmacies will be included in FY25.

The list that the State provided to Mr. Boswell has an estimated 6000+ providers in Baltimore County alone. Monthly calls are held which allow for Mr. Boswell to speak to other jurisdictions.

Baltimore County is one of the largest jurisdictions in the State when it comes to clinician prescribing. The States' information fluctuates as people move in and out of the jurisdiction.

III. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Ms. Youngfellow reported accreditation is going smoothly. The department's annual review was submitted a few weeks ago. Quality Improvement meets quarterly with the Maryland Local Department of Health accreditation performance management group. In our last meeting standard 5.1.1, which is review of policy, was discussed. The group wants to meet further and brainstorm ways to address, making policies going forward and meeting this accreditation goal. One of the policies discussed was how to demonstrate a supportive work environment with our next reaccreditation requirements. Part of the discussion was around using the State and County telework policies as an example of how we make a supportive work environment.

Samantha Allen, Accreditation Coordinator, attended a seminar to obtain more updates on changes that are coming with accreditation that will be more in line with the ten central public health measures. We're looking forward to hearing more about her seminar experience which Ms. Youngfellow will share with the Board at the next meeting.

IV. DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION BY THE SECRETARY

Program Updates:

- The department is in the process of placing Naloxone vending machines outside of Eastern Family and Liberty Family Resource Centers with 24/7 access.
- Tobacco retail rates are very high. We met with BCSTAT regarding the increase of fines/changing county code per. We are meeting with the Office of Law and Government Affairs to discuss the increase in fines for a more significant impact.
- Dr. Qarni and staff met with Chase Brexton regarding potential partnerships and toured their new facility at Security Square Mall.

Personnel:

- Congratulations to Animal Services Division Chief, Carrie McCloskey for earning the Animal Shelter Management Certificate from the prestigious University of the Pacific!

- Dr. Qarni met with Dr Feldman from Johns Hopkins regarding increasing the time students are with HHS during their rotation. Students will transition from four to six days and then twelve. During COVID, the number of residents and slots were decreased.
- Johns Hopkins has a CDC permit program where they are looking at recruitment and retention. We are looking at avenues to increase and retain staff.

Trainings/Events

- On Saturday, June 15 Animal Services joined BARCS, the Maryland SPCA and the Baltimore Humane Society, for an extra special mega-adoption event at the Timonium Fairgrounds. This adoption event was one the largest in the Baltimore area and surrounding counties.

Adoption fees were waived for all animals at the event. Dogs, cats, puppies, kittens and small companion animals were available for adoption. Families were able to bring home their new furry friend the day of the event if the animal was already altered. Standard adoption procedures still apply.

- The department celebrated “Caturday” at the Hereford Public Library to promote mental health and wellness.
- Outreach workers attended the youth summit at the Sollers Point Recreation Center.
- The department held our first of several community engagement forums at the Cockeysville Public Library. The 100-year celebration will be held October 9 at Valley Mansion. There is a forum scheduled for the west side for July 25.
- The Chronic Disease Prevention program provided 150 food boxes at the St. John Lutheran Church Supper for the Friends Event.
- The Chronic Disease Prevention Program also participated in the Towson Garden Day event.
- The Department conducted PTSD-911 screening with the Baltimore County Police Department at the Rosenbloom Jewish Community Center.
- The Department participated in the Faith Gospel Church Wellness Fair and offered on site screenings and food bags.
- The Department was on site at the GBMC Community Health Needs Assessment recap event.

- In honor of World No Tobacco Day, Dr. Sharon Baucom-Myers discussed our smoking cessation program and exciting chronic disease prevention efforts in a recent interview on WOLB.
- Starting May 29, Tobacco Cessation programs are being offered for Spanish-speaking residents.
- The Department will be participating in the PRIDE and Housing fair at Drumcastle on June 29.
- Free rapid HIV testing will be available at Drumcastle on June 27 which is National HIV Testing Day. Results will be available in 30 minutes. Our mobile unit was there. Don't have numbers. ***Have for next meeting****
- Throughout the month of June, we have highlighted mental health awareness, participating in various events in the County.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

VII. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Board is in recess for the months of July and August. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 27 unless there is an emergency where we would have to convene.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. McElroy
Second: Mr. Adelsberger
Decision: Unanimous Approval

Sohail M Qarni, MD, MPH, FAAFP