

HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary

April 30, 2020

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY

Marlene Blum, Chairman
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman
William Finerfrock, Vice Chairman
Ann Zuvekas
Ellyn Crawford
Philippe Beauchene
Tim Yarboro, MD
Dr. Michael Trahos, DO
Maia Cecire
Rosanne Rodilloso
Shikha Dixit

STAFF

Sherryn Craig

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

GUESTS

Dominic Bonaiuto, Director of Director for Central Region Government and Community Relations, Inova Health System
Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH, Health Director, Health Department
Jessica Werder, Deputy Director of Public Health Operations, Health Department
Diana White, League of Women Voters

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Marlene Blum at 7:33 pm.

Audibility of Members' Voices

Chairman Marlene Blum conducted a roll call asking each participating member to state his/her name and the location from which he/she was participating.

Braddock District, Ann Zuvekas, Falls Church, VA
Dranesville District, Rosanne Rodilloso, McLean, VA
Hunter Mill District, Ellyn Crawford, Reston, VA

Lee District, Maia Cecire, Alexandria, VA
Mason District, Rose Chu, Falls Church, VA
Mount Vernon District, Shikha Dixit, Lorton, VA
Providence District, Marlene Blum, Vienna, VA
Springfield District, Bill Finerfrock, Springfield, VA
Sully District, Phil Beauchene, Chantilly, VA
At Large, Tim Yarboro, MD, Reston, VA
At Large, Dr. Michael Trahos, DO, Falls Church, VA

Chairman Blum passed the virtual gavel to Vice Chairman Bill Finerfrock. Ms. Blum moved that each member's voice was adequately heard by each other member of the board, and specifically that each voice was clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all other members. Lyn Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Need for an Electronic Meeting

Having established that each member's voice could be heard by every other member, Ms. Blum established (1) the nature of the emergency compelling the emergency procedures, (2) the electronic format for the meeting, and (3) public access to the meeting. Ms. Blum moved that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the Board to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the Board and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. Ms. Blum moved that the Board would conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated telephone line, and that the public could access this meeting by calling 703-324-1800 or 1-877-862-8112 and use the Participant Code – 138474. Dr. Michael Trahos, DO seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuity in Government

To dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government, Ms. Blum moved that all of the matters addressed on today's agenda must address the State of Emergency itself, are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the HCAB's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Dr. Trahos, DO seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

February 10, 2020 Meeting Summary

The meeting minutes from February 10, 2020 were approved as submitted.

FY 2021 Updated Budget Proposal

The HCAB discussed the County Executive's FY 2021 Updated Budget Proposal presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), on April 7, which includes revised revenue and expenditure projections. Phil Beauchene moved that the HCAB recommend the BOS support the revised proposal, which increases funding to the Health Department to address the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining its commitment to invest in critical school health needs and program infrastructure. Lyn Crawford seconded the motion.

Chairman Blum passed the virtual gavel to Vice Chairman Bill Finerfrock. Ms. Blum moved that the HCAB include the following statement in its memo to the BOS:

"The Health Care Advisory Board strongly supports the proposed eight new positions to address the anticipated short- and long-term needs of the Health Department. The immediate focus is, of course, on the COVID-19 response, but Fairfax County should have a Health Department that has the resources to deal with its everyday, ongoing public health work as well as the ability to quickly scale up during emergencies.

During the past five years, at almost every budget hearing, the HCAB has expressed concern about the Health Department's capacity for surveillance and investigation of illness and disease. While there have been a few welcome improvements in this area, the pace has been slow. That is not surprising, because at every level of government there is a tendency to pay little attention to public health investment until there is a major crisis like the current one.

We urge the Board to ensure that the Health Department has the resources to meet the ongoing challenges in our community, now and in the future. The COVID-19 pandemic is a crisis, but our Health Department fights health threats-- like the opioid epidemic, increasing rates of chronic diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks-- every day. The current crisis shows us that the Health Department needs the resources to be able to continue to win all of these battles."

Phil Beauchene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business – COVID-19 Data Disclosure

Bill Finerfrock moved that the Health Care Advisory Board send a memo to the BOS advising the Board that zip code level data on COVID-19 diagnosis and mortality should be posted and made available on the County's Coronavirus Webpage in addition to COVID-19 diagnosis and mortality by congregant living facility (to include continuing care facilities, long term care, assisted living, and rehabilitation facilities). Shikha Dixit seconded the motion.

Chairman Blum passed the virtual gavel to Vice Chairman Rose Chu. Chairman Blum moved an amendment to the motion stating that while the HCAB is confident that the Health Department is doing everything it can to work with owners and operators of long term care and assisted living facilities to ensure the health and safety of residents and deal with the COVID-19 pandemic as it affects the residents of these facilities, the HCAB believes that the data should be posted and made available on the County's Coronavirus Webpage. The community should be informed of how many cases of COVID-19 currently exist at these facilities, in addition to the knowledge of how and why these facilities their residents and staff are so vulnerable to outbreaks, not just from COVID-19, but from any communicable disease or illness where infection control practices are integral to containment and mitigation. Lyn Crawford seconded the amendment. Mr. Finerfrock accepted the Chairman's amendment as a friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.