

## **HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Summary

June 8, 2020

### **MEMBERS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY**

Marlene Blum, Chairman  
Rose Chu, Vice Chairman  
William Finerfrock, Vice Chairman  
Ann Zuvekas  
Ellyn Crawford  
Philippe Beauchene  
Tim Yarboro, MD  
Maia Cecire  
Rosanne Rodilosso  
Shikha Dixit

### **STAFF**

Sherryn Craig

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Michael Trahos, DO

### **GUESTS**

Dominic Bonaiuto, 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  
Patricia Rohrer, Long Term Care Program Manager, Health Department  
Diana White, League of Women Voters  
Rosalyn Foroobar

### **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 Rodilosso, 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, Alexandria, VA  
Sully District, Phil Beauchene, Chantilly, VA  
At Large, Tim Yarboro, MD, Reston, 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. Ellyn 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 1-877-434-5269 and use the Participant Code – 6751420. Phil Beauchene 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. Lyn Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **May 11, 2020 Meeting Summary**

The meeting minutes from May 11, 2020 were approved as submitted.

### **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Phil Beauchene, chairman of the nominating committee, along with committee members Lyn Crawford and Shikha Dixit, presented the slate of candidates: Marlene Blum, Chairman, Bill Finerfrock, Vice-Chairman, and Tim Yarboro, Vice-Chairman. No nominations were submitted from the floor. With nominations closed, the slate of candidates was approved unanimously. The Chairman thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairman, Rose Chu, for her many years of service on the HCAB Executive Committee.

### **Resolution Honoring Ann Zuvekas**

The HCAB unanimously approved a resolution honoring Braddock District Representative Ann Zuvekas' years of service and wished her well on her retirement from the HCAB.

### **Resolution Honoring Rosalyn Foroobar**

The HCAB unanimously approved a resolution celebrating Rosalyn Foroobar's recent retirement from the Health Department and her 40 years of service to the agency.

### **Presentation on the FY 21 Adopted Budget**

The Board of Supervisors adopted the revised FY 21 County Budget on May 12, which included increased funding to the Health Department to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Jessica Werder, Deputy Director for Public Health Operations, reviewed increases in Health Department staff as well as CARES act funding allocations.

As part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review, the BOS provided an additional five positions and \$0.64 million of baseline budget to the Health Department to support the agency's emergency preparedness and response unit's COVID-19 response. Additionally, the FY 21 updated budget proposal included 20 new positions; 19 are allocated to the Health Department. Eight positions will increase the department's capacity to plan for, respond to, and recover from large-scale infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics, with the immediate focus on COVID-19 response. These eight positions include two positions to support emergency and management response, two public health nurse positions to support the communicable disease team, and four Community Health Specialists to focus on outreach and response. Resources slated for other public health programs – seven public health nurses, three school health aides and one epidemiologist – were also funded in the revised budget.

The BOS budget committee discussions also references 35 public health nurse positions to immediately support COVID-19 response, which will be reallocated to the school health program to address the long term school nurse resourcing plan. These positions

will be formally presented to the BOS during Carry Over. If these positions can be transferred to school health, the ratio of school health nurses to students will decrease substantially to just under 1:2000.

The County also awarded a contract to the Institute of Public Health Innovation (IPHI) to hire up to 30 supervisory staff, 100 case interviewers, 200 contact interviewers, and 70 community health workers to support contact tracing efforts. These positions will be advertised and recruited by IPHI and then deployed to the Health Department where they will accompany the agency's merit staff deployed to COVID-19 response. These positions will be funded with CARES Act funding and are estimated to total \$20 million.

Dr. Gloria explained the boxed in approach to contact tracing to prevent cases from becoming clusters and clusters from becoming an epidemic. The boxed in approach is built on four public health interventions: (1) testing strategically and widely, (2) isolating all infected people, (3) contact tracing, and (4) quarantining for 14 days to create a closed loop and box in the virus. The county is reopening before this infrastructure is fully in place, but the agency is moving as fast as it can.

While there may be potential increases in cases after the county reopens, it would still be part of the first wave. A second wave is anticipated with the fall and winter.

Dr. Gloria stated that the agency has not begun discussions around mass vaccinations. However, she expressed confidence in the agency's ability to respond given the Health Department's experience during H1N1.

In response to disparities among Latinx residents, Dr. Gloria discussed several factors contributing to higher case loads among persons of color, including employment as essential workers, the inability to shelter at home, reliance on public transportation, inability to social distance at work and/or within multigenerational households. Nationwide, African Americans have disproportionately died from the virus relative to other racial and ethnic groups. Dr. Gloria stated that Latinos tend to be younger and healthier, which can support recovery from the virus.

The Health Department is providing targeted testing in areas with a high number of cases and/or a large number of Latino residents. The Fire and Rescue Department has deployed its mobile lab to the Health Department to conduct targeted testing in hot spot areas.

Successful contact tracing efforts require social supports to ensure individuals' ability to complete isolation and/or quarantine. Community Health Workers will be assigned to different geographic regions to help individuals connect with essential supports: medical supplies (e.g., thermometer), rental assistance or housing, food, mental and behavioral health, etc. A Care Resource Manager in the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services will provide a bridge between the County's human services and the Health Department's containment team.

The Health Department continues to focus on the viral-DNA test. The antibody tests that are currently available have been unreliable and the results are difficult to interpret. With additional research, the antibody tests could be useful in the future.

### **Other Business –**

*Inova Health System.* The HCAB may not be able to hold its summer meeting with Inova finance staff for the usual preliminary Inova budget discussion. Dominic Bonaiuto and Karen Berube will look for a date in late July to discuss Inova's response to COVID-19. The HCAB also expressed interest in Inova's announcement regarding a new hospital in the Springfield District.

*Adult Day Health Care.* The HCAB received a reply from Chairman McKay regarding its memo on amending the Zoning Ordinance's adult day care provisions. A hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for September. Health Department staff will keep the HCAB informed so that it is prepared to testify.

*Interim HCAB Staff Coordinator.* Effective June 1, Sherryn Craig has been deployed to COVID-19 response to support the agency's contact tracing efforts. Patricia Rohrer, Long Term Care Program Manager, will serve as the HCAB's interim staff coordinator for the next 3-6 months.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.