



## Somerset County Health Department

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Health Officer: Danielle Weber, MS, RN

### Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	LHIC	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	Sign Post Conference Room
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 4, 2025	<b>Minutes Transcriber:</b>	Julianne O'Brien
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	9:30 a.m.	<b>Minutes Reviewer:</b>	Korey Colbert and Danielle Weber
<b>Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:</b>	Please see Sign-in Sheet		

#### Korey

#### Welcome

- Korey welcomed everyone.

#### Introductions

- Virtual and conference room introductions were made.

#### Purpose and Mission of Council

The Somerset County Local Health Improvement Coalition named Healthy Somerset, working collectively with local partners, sets health related priorities for individuals in the community. The coalition addresses health disparities in our community by providing input on programs, policies and coordinated efforts with programmatic data and infrastructure support from the state and county.

#### Annual Report Review

- The mission of the Somerset County Health Department (SCHD) is preventing illness, promoting and protecting the health of the community by serving the public.
- SCHD has six core departments committed to serving the community:
  - Administration - Oversees Medical Assistance, Transportation, and Vital Records.
  - Community Health - Clinical-based programs, managing reproductive health, immunizations, infectious disease monitoring and control, case management, Medicaid enrollment, and Care Coordination.
  - Environmental Health - Focuses on environmental protection, food safety, water quality, and rabies prevention.

- Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) - Provides support and referrals for individuals with mental health and substance use treatment needs.
- Prevention, Planning, and Communication - Leads initiatives in chronic disease prevention, tobacco cessation, emergency preparedness, and healthy living promotion.
- Tri-County Alliance for the Homeless (TCAH) - Assists individuals experiencing homelessness with temporary housing and case management toward permanent housing.
- Achievements with help from partners
  - SCHD Staff are working to reduce health disparities, such as transportation and food insecurity.
  - Provided fresh food from the Somerset Garden Project.
  - Harm Reduction vending machines.
- SCHD Strategic Plan for 2023-2028
  - Priority 1 - Health Promotion
    - Address the top health issues in Somerset County identified through the Community Health Needs Assessment.
  - Priority 2 - Communication
    - Improve both internal and external communication.
  - Priority 3 - Employee Morale
    - Improve morale
      - Employee Wellness Committee
      - Employee Recognition Programs
  - Priority 4 - Workforce
    - Build a qualified workforce and improve retention.
    - The employee Intranet was built and completed.
- SCHD focused on:
  - Access to Healthcare
    - Migrant Camp referrals
    - SCHD Medical Transportation
    - Somerset Garden Project
    - SCHD Wellness Van
  - Behavioral Health
    - Narcan Training
    - Harm Reduction Vending Machines
  - Chronic Disease & Wellness
    - HERC Grant
    - Tobacco cessation education and outreach
    - Flu vaccinations
    - Dental sealants for children
    - Communicable disease services, e.g., Lyme, COVID, and hepatitis
- Agency Highlights
  - Gun Safety Event
  - Smith Island Health Fair
  - Environmental Health hosted two low-cost rabies vaccination clinics.

## CHIP Update

- CHIP Priorities
  - Access to Healthcare
    - Goal 1 - Improve healthcare accessibility by offering culturally sensitive services that use clear, understandable language.
    - Goal 2 - Improve healthcare access by streamlining referrals, enhancing care coordination, and providing navigation guidance.
    - Goal 3 - Strengthen Delmarva's healthcare system by ensuring we have a diverse and qualified staff, along with more service delivery options.
  - Behavioral Health
    - Goal 1 - Enhance screening, referral, and intervention processes for behavioral health.
    - Goal 2 - Reduce stigma and raise awareness of behavioral health services among special populations.
    - Goal 3 - Strengthen care coordination and integration across the behavioral health system.
  - Chronic Disease and Wellness
    - Goal 1 - Improve chronic disease screening and early detection.
    - Goal 2 - Enhance chronic disease management and prevention.
    - Goal 3 - Address risk factors through targeted prevention strategies.
- Healthy Delmarva Partnership continues to align hospitals, health departments, and local coalitions through CHIP workgroups.
  - If you would like to join any of the workgroups, please email Korey ([korey.colbert@maryland.gov](mailto:korey.colbert@maryland.gov))
- Chronic Disease Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025, if anyone would like to join the workgroup.

## Health Planning Updates

### Elizabeth Justice - Prevention Updates

- Turkey Trot is being held on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, at Janes Island State Park.
- Smoking Cessation Classes are offered at the local libraries.
- The Healthy Heart Ambassador program is continuing.
- SCHD is working on a Breast cancer grant.
- SCHD is hoping to expand into an Alzheimer's program through a grant.

### Chris Osment - HERC Updates

- Two of SCHD CHWs have left.
- CHW II's are being interviewed; they must have a year of experience.
- Recruiting Community Health Workers (CHW II) and a Community Health Educator (consultant role).
- The CHWs are going to:
  - Woodrow Wilson Community Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Dr. Haft's Somerset Primary Care in Crisfield on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - DSS in Princess Anne on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - Seton Center on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The referrals have been increasing because of TidalHealth and Chesapeake Health Care.

- Because of a Budget Mod, SCHD will be able to engage in more aggressive advertising efforts to effectively publicize information and raise awareness.

#### **Danielle Weber - Health Department Updates**

- SCHD has decided to close the Wellness and Recovery Center in Princess Anne r/t underutilization.
- The staff that was located in the Princess Anne location will now be located at 8928 Sign Post Road.
- The move will allow the staff to go out more often. All the support services that they provided still exist, e.g., treatment referrals, help finding jobs, housing, and transportation.
- The Harm Reduction Vending Machine will stay at the Wellness Center in Princess Anne for now.
- We are waiting for messaging from the Federal Government for grant funds.
- Thank you to all for participating in the Tri-County Listening Sessions regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program, which is a 5 year federal grant. There was a very short turn around for listening sessions and gathering information, and sending the responses. We had very good participation.

#### **Ben Dashiell - Cancer Updates**

- Assistance for uninsured and underinsured individuals with colorectal and skin cancer screenings. Those who are insured are being helped to navigate the medical system.
- Twelve individuals were screened for skin cancer, with one being linked to care.
- The lung cancer module has been started.
- People are being referred to the tobacco cessation program.
- Upcoming colorectal screening appointments are now being scheduled for September 2026.
- The Smith Island watermen are identified as a high-risk population for skin cancer.

#### **Partner Updates**

##### **Annie Carver - Legal Resource Center - University of Maryland**

- Webinar - Nov. 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. - Cannabis Impaired Driving and Drug Impairment Detection [https://umaryland.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DUJEUwv6S0GC6Cw7mV2STA#/registration](https://umaryland.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DUJEUwv6S0GC6Cw7mV2STA#/registration)
- Cannabis products were taken off the shelves of stores because of metal contamination.
- People can report a tip with the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC) by emailing [atcc.tips@maryland.gov](mailto:atcc.tips@maryland.gov)
- Webinar - Cannabis Use and the Older Adult is being held on December 5, 2025, from 12:00 noon to 3:45 p.m. You must register for this webinar.

##### **Kathy Walker - MAC**

- Assistance is available for Medicare Part D; call 410-742-0505.
- The gym is now open with full and part-time trainers.
- People can take classes, e.g., yoga, tai chi, line dancing, and cooking for caregivers.
- Guardianship with petitions has gone way up.
- Sweater Weather Bingo on November 15, 2025, at the Willards Lions Club. The proceeds help the seniors.

**Julie Krenzer - CareFirst**

- Southern and Western Maryland are using WellCheck for their CHW work.
- WellCheck has its own database; they are also open to customization.

**Lisa Widmaier - Eastern Shore AHEC**

- Spring 2026 CHW training will be held March 9th - April 10th.

**Mandy Hornsby - Social Services**

- Effective November 1, 2025, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) aged 18 through 64 will be required to meet specific work requirements to maintain their SNAP eligibility. These requirements mandate participation in one or a combination of the following activities for at least 80 hours per month:
  - Work
  - Participation in a work program
  - Volunteering
- There is a 3-month grace period for SNAP benefits currently in effect from July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2026.
- Other exemptions to the requirements also may apply.

**Kat Rodgers - TidalHealth**

- The Mammogram Mobile Unit had its ribbon cutting at the Crisfield Library. They will be publishing their schedule.
- Resident physicians are eager to go out into the communities to start helping people.
- SCHD asked for a list of services the resident physicians are specialized in in order to ask them to SCHD and/or on the road.

**Miscellaneous**

- SCHD will be holding a food drive.
- It is Medicaid open enrollment.

**Next Meeting**

February 10, 2026