
**Agenda
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
2:00 p.m.**

**2:00 p.m. - Proclamation presentation- Mental Health Awareness
Month May 2026
Karen Krieg, Merland Orneus, Lisa Garcia,
Life Crisis Center**

Discussion Topics:

- **Performance Management**
- **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**
 - Health Eating Projects
 - Expand Garden Project with ECI
 - Expand Healthy Eating Education in Schools
 - Food Pantry Project
 - Hire Diabetes Coordinator
 - Mobile Health Projects
 - Somerset County Well Project
 - Expand Transportation Services
 - Healthcare Access & Safety in the Home
 - Expand Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Project
 - Expand Cancer Screening
 - Senior Care Expansion
 - Hire Mobile Health Services Coordinator
- **Population Health Improvement Fund Pilot Program**
 - Somerset Co is one of six counties being piloted for Medically Tailored Meals

Next Meeting: October 2026

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR SOMERSET COUNTY
TUESDAY May 19, 2026

At 2:00 p.m., the Board of Health for Somerset County meet in Regular Session with Commissioner President Charles Laird, Commissioner Vice President Randy Laird, Commissioner Eldon Willing and Commissioner Darryl Webster. Commissioner Craig N. Mathies, Sr., was absent from today's meeting.

Also, in attendance were County Administrator Ernest J. Leatherbury, Jr., Executive Aide Lory Ebron, Danielle Weber, Somerset County Health Officer, Christy Taylor, Board of Health Finance and Corey Colbert.

President Charles Laird asked Commissioner Eldon Willing to lead those present in devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.

First, President Charles Laird asked Karen Krieg, Merland Orneus and Lisa Garcia to come forward to accept a proclamation proclaiming May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Next, Ms. Danielle Weber, Health Officer, Ms. Christie Taylor, Ms. Corey Colbert Somerset County Health Department came forward to present the Bi-Annual update.

Ms. Weber began by asking Ms. Colbert to provide an update regarding performance management efforts under the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Ms. Colbert provided a handout which showed the baseline, target percentage and actual percentage to date for each category, with it noted that ALL categories have met or exceeded the target services; Health Access & Health Equity, Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease and Wellness, and Other Health Measures (food inspections, rabies clinic, flu vaccinations in public schools and social media engagements). Ms. Colbert advised that the information provided is through the 3rd quarter of the year, and that the final percentages for this year will be provided at the next meeting scheduled for October 2026.

Ms. Weber continued, advising they were providing their thoughts on current and possible upcoming events. She proceeded to provide updates regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) and the Population Health Improvement Fund Pilot Program.

First, regarding the RHTP, she explained that Maryland applied for this \$168 Million for the first year, advising that it is hopeful that there will be five-years funding through the Federal Government program. She first reviewed Health Eating Projects, which include:

Healthy Eating Projects:

- Expanding the Garden Project at ECI. She described this project as phenomenal, advising of the great job the inmates are doing, and the large amount of produce that is being grown and distributed to those in need within our community.
- Expanding Healthy Eating Education in our schools, currently in the elementary schools.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for Food Pantry Projects
- Consideration to hire a Diabetes Coordinator to manage a program involving chronic disease and diabetes.

Mobile Health Projects:

- Somerset County Well Project, with it being noted that there are a significant number of individuals who do not have running water in their homes. They are hoping to put funds in place to help with new wells so people have safe water.
- They are hoping to expand transportation services. She explained that currently the Health Department offers non-emergency medical transportation under the Medicare program. They would like to hire additional patient transporters for individuals that don't qualify for Medicaid, or ADA qualified who do not have transportation to go to doctor's appointments.
- They are looking to put out an RFP for Healthcare Access and Safety in the Home to give access for home improvements such as wheelchair ramps or home repairs. They have partnerships with entities such as Habitat for Humanity.
- She discussed the partnership with Tidal Health and Somerset County EMS for a Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Project which they are looking to boost and increase paramedic time. Currently the Tidal Health is providing a person. If a person has had more than one or two emergency room visits, the provider goes into the home to assist.
- She noted the high cancer mortality rates (skin and lung primarily) and they are looking to expand cancer screening. Currently they are performing colorectal screenings, noting the length of time it takes today (one year) to obtain a colonoscopy appointment, noting however that it is improving. They are requesting increased funding to be able to do more cancer screenings, including mammograms.
- She has spoken with Sherree Marshall at Commission on Aging to expand some of the senior care programs.
- They would also like to hire a Mobile Health Services Coordinator, which is badly needed for scheduling and coordination of the Wellness Van, as well as restocking the vending machines.

Ms. Weber closed her comments by advising these are all projections of moving forward in her department. Commissioner Willing asked if communication is made with Shore Transit regarding ADA transportation. Ms. Weber advised yes, that they utilize Shore Transit for ADA transports, primarily for Medicaid and ADA qualified populations. Vice President Randy Laird was saddened to hear that there are households in our community with no access to water, finding it very hard to comprehend. Ms. Weber elaborated, stating for example that if someone goes to their doctor and told to do good hand washing, and oral cleaning, which is just basic health prevention and don't have running water, how are they supposed to be able to do that. She reached out the state to see if there was any potential to receive funding to assist these residents with obtaining running water (either by new wells or repairing existing systems if possible). She

advised that sadly, we are not the only county to reach out with this request. There is certainly a need.

Ms. Weber then advised that Somerset County has been chosen as one of six counties being piloted for medically tailored meals geared for those with diabetes. A person who has been to the hospital due to diabetes would qualify. The program is out of Baltimore, working on referrals, and provides 12 fresh food meals per week, and will also serve dependent children. It is a 6-month pilot program, that will work through the Health Department. She is hopeful that this program will be an entry into these households that will allow providing for other additional needed services. The program has already started and they are in the initial phases of the program.

Last, Ms. Weber invited the Board to join her department on Tuesday, June 2 at 9:00 a.m. for an Employee Enrichment Day at Wicomico Civic Center, asking if anyone is interested in joining the Secretary of Health in opening comments at the event that day. She also expressed her appreciation to the Board for their support.

With no further business, the Board was advised of the need to enter the Board of County Commissioners Regular Session meeting. Therefore, at 2:29 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Willing, and seconded by Commissioner Webster to enter into Regular Session. All those present voted aye, therefore the motion carried 4-0.

Approved by:



Board of County Commissioners
For Somerset County

Respectfully Submitted:



Lory E. Ebron
Executive Aide