



# Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

## Friday, August 2, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	<i>Wicomico Local Health Improvement Coalition</i>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<i>Wicomico County Health Department Adkins Building</i>
	<i>Friday, August 2, 2024</i>	<b>Minutes Recorder:</b>	<i>Cathey Insley (virtual)</i>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<b>Minutes Reviewer:</b>	<i>Group</i>
<b>Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:</b>	<i>Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Kat Rodgers (WiCHD), Chavonda Carr (WiCHD), Carol Fenner (WiCHD), Michelle Hardy (LBHA), Jason Sammons (DSS), Annie Carver (UM Legal Resource Center for Public Health), Emily Paterson (MD Poison), Josh Boston (CHC), Julie Krenzer (CafeFirst), Lisa Widmaier (ESAHEC), Mary Beth Waide (DHHC), Tara Wampler (Aetna), Habacuc Petion (Rebirth)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>WELCOME</b>	Kat called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and members introduced themselves.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Josh Boston made a motion to approve June minutes as written, seconded by Lisa Renegar and carried.	Cathey will <a href="#">post</a> .
<b>Presenter</b>	<p><b>Annie Carver, Staff Attorney</b>  <b>University of Maryland Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy Cannabis Update</b>  <b><a href="mailto:a.carver@law.umaryland.edu">a.carver@law.umaryland.edu</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Resource Center was established in 2001 to provide legal technical assistance on tobacco law.</li> <li>• A Cannabis team was added in 2024, to address challenges with cannabis legalization.</li> <li>• Services are free for the public health community in Maryland. Funded through MDH.</li> <li>• 3 Public Health attorneys and a program coordinator serve on the team. Annie is the contact for Wicomico County.</li> <li>• Cannot provide legal advice, but can provide technical assistance and clarity on law.</li> <li>• Needs assessment was completed. 100% participation from all 24 counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Completed by Health Officers to assess their level of concern with different cannabis issues.</li> <li>○ Wicomico is most concerned with impaired driving, youth use, addiction, impact on tobacco use, availability of substance use treatment facilities and lack of funds to address cannabis education.</li> <li>○ Greatest need is availability of funds and community acceptance of cannabis.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Working on fact sheets and issue briefs on legislation.</li> <li>• Host quarterly webinars. Next is in September: Science of Cannabis</li> </ul> <p><b>Legislative Update:</b>  May testify before a legislative committee to educate on issues in each bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BH253 Cannabis Reform Act-Alterations (Passed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Cannabis Commission cannot sponsor events unless at least 85% of the audience are adults.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Restricts content of signs outside of businesses. Can only identify the business to the public.
- HB805/SB537 Local Zoning Authority (Passed)
  - Local government cannot set a zoning requirement more restrictive than the state.
  - Can require that dispensaries are .5 mile away from another, and
  - 100 feet from residential areas.
  - Allows businesses within 1,000 feet the ability to protest renewal of the business' license.
- SB513/HB525 Employment Protections (Failed)
  - Included employment protections
  - Did not allow use or impairment at work,
- SB399 outdoor Cannabis Advertising (Failed)
  - Allowed outdoor advertising if it was 500 feet from substance use treatment facilities, schools, childcare, playgrounds, libraries, and parks

#### **MCA Proposed Regulations**

- Proposed permanent regulations and submitted for public comments in May.
- MCA Report on Consumption Sites summarizes state law on establishments for on-site consumption establishments.

#### **Youth Use of Cannabis**

Data from the MD Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2022-2023

- 77% never tried marijuana
- 85.6% reported 0% usage in last 30 days
- Of those that used in the last 30 days, 10.4% were 15 or younger.

#### **Effects of Cannabis Use**

- Research is needed on long-term use effects.
- Use starting as a teenager may impair thinking, memory and learning
- Adults who started smoking cannabis in their teens and had ongoing cannabis use disorder lost an average of 8 IQ points between 13 and 38.
- Those that started use as adults didn't show notable IQ decline.

#### **Cannabis Legalization - What this means for Youth**

- Remains illegal with exception of pediatric patients with written certification
- Must be acquired by caregiver, cannot be smoked in public
- May be used in school in controlled setting (i.e. nurse's office); cannot be consumed in combustible form
- Civil penalties for youth use and possession include fines up to \$250 for first offense, \$500 for subsequent offenses, and education sessions.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse has lesson plans for educators, and the NIDA has a "Conversation Starters" page for parents on talking to youth about cannabis.
- Legal Hemp Products

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legalized in 2018</li> <li>○ Not subject to safety labeling, or advertising restrictions</li> <li>● Impaired Driving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May not drive impaired</li> <li>○ Driver of a motor vehicle may not consume while operating vehicle.</li> <li>○ LEOs are prohibited from searches based solely on cannabis odor. Totality of circumstances creates probable cause and search can be conducted.</li> <li>○ No universally-accepted chemical test that indicates cannabis impairment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Health Officer Updates</b>	<p>Lisa share updates from the office of the Health Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Matthew is on paternity leave after third son Niall James was born on July 15th. He is taking intermittent parental leave; should be returning Monday August 5, 2024.</li> <li>● Jessica Sexauer is acting in Matthew's absence but was unable to attend today's meeting but sent updates:</li> <li>● <a href="#">Non-Litigating Opioid Restitution Fund RFP</a> deadline is 3 pm on Wednesday, 8/15.</li> <li>● Wicomico's Opioid Coordinator has resigned, and her last day is today. Will begin recruiting for this position, and the health department hopes to have Crissy back in a part time contract position to assist with Wicomico Goes Purple and Overdose month activities.</li> <li>● State has released an interactive overdose dashboard.</li> <li>● Marian Keenan, former LHIC community member, recently passed away.</li> <li>● Doug Wilson, long time community member, has stepped down from LHIC to focus on retirement.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Dashboard</a> link.
<b>CHIP Strategies</b>	<p><b>Lisa shared strategies for this year's CHIP.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TidalHealth, Somerset and Wicomico County Health Departments worked together on the 2023-2025 CHIP.</li> <li>● Currently looking at RFPs and talking with vendors for the upcoming CHIP.</li> <li>● Asked members to include any process that aligns with identified objectives and provide data on progress.</li> <li>● Current CHIP hosted on <a href="https://healthydelmarva.org">healthydelmarva.org</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACCESS AND HEALTH EQUITY</b></p> <p><b>Increase equitable access to healthcare.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase insurance coverage for populations with health coverage disparities.</li> <li>● Lisa suggested we remove the strategy to increase outreach to uninsured to refer to the lower shore health insurance program since that is based in Worcester county.</li> <li>● Josh shared that pregnant women that come into Chesapeake Healthcare receive assistance applying for insurance, with interpreters. Josh also stated that the work CHC is doing with both outreach and insurance application assistance can be included in this objective. TidalHealth provides linkages to CHC and provides assistance with insurance applications.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Objective 2 - Establish a process to determine insurance coverage percentage for the Haitian population.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have discussed the need for this, but don't have a clear path to pilot this process. There is no data collected on a federal level.</li> <li>● Kat feels this is actually a two pronged approach: an accurate census of the Haitian community, and then determine coverage rates.</li> <li>● Habacuc stated many in the Haitian community receive food stamps/SNAP, and social services may have accurate counts of household sizes. He suggested getting numbers from DSS. J <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>ACTION:</b> Jason will ask Kelly Kantz, Assistant Director of Family Investment if there is SNAP or MA data that can be accessed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● It was suggested that census be estimated through the school system, however this would not be a total count since not all have school aged children.</li> <li>● Lisa shared that the newly formed Health Equity subgroup can work on the objective to develop a Health Equity Framework, to include policy recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Michelle shared that LBHA has developed a Talk Saves Lives (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) suicide prevention training.</li> <li>● Michelle and Tina Thomas are certified to be trainers.</li> <li>● One hour training can be completed virtually or in person.</li> <li>● Plan to pilot the training sessions with Prevention program staff.</li> <li>● Will include a powerpoint training, in a similar format to Mental Health First Aid.</li> </ul> <p><b>CHRONIC DISEASE AND WELLNESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No significant changes from last CHIP.</li> <li>● Reduce diabetes and diabetes related hospitalizations.</li> <li>● Continue increasing physical activity and reducing overweight/obesity.</li> <li>● The group discussed colorectal cancer screening and challenges with getting colonoscopies after practice in Delmar closed.</li> <li>● AGH has appointments, and University of Maryland in Easton has availability quicker than TidalHealth is able to offer right now.</li> <li>● CHC is completing PHIT testing, with a return mailer. Promoting cologuard a bit more right now when the gold standard of colonoscopy cannot be completed quickly. Finding wait times are 7 and 8 months out with local GI doctors.</li> <li>● Julie from CareFirst explained that AGH has a mini screening that can clear individuals for colonoscopies quickly. ACTION: Julie will share the AGH flier with the group by email.</li> </ul>	
Subcommittee Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Live Healthy Wicomico:</b> Working with Lisa Widmaier to complete a baseline survey of community health workers.</li> <li>● <b>Health Equity/Health Access:</b> Met once to date, next meeting is Monday 8/5.</li> <li>● Will look at strategies of the CHIP to dig into the Institute for Healthcare's Health Equity model and</li> </ul>	

	<p>develop a workplan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Behavioral Health Workgroup:</b> (Michelle Hardy)</li> <li>● CLAS committee is offering a CLAS behavioral health case scenario presentation at the August Workgroup meeting.</li> <li>● Christina Gray presented the results of the recently completed survey of language access capability among behavioral health providers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 8 larger providers responded regarding language services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Christina Bowie - Simpson has resigned as Opioid Coordinator, her last day is August 2nd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hope to bring her back in a part time capacity at a later date to assist with Wicomico Goes Purple.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Overdose Awareness Day event planned for Thursday August 22nd from 6-8 pm at Winterplace Park.</li> <li>● WGP Kickoff event planned for August 31st at Shorebirds Stadium.</li> <li>● Shatter the Stigma coming Saturday 9/28 at WorWic.</li> <li>● September is World Suicide Prevention Month.</li> <li>● Veterans' Tri-County Workgroup working on suicide prevention and financial support for Veterans.</li> <li>● Working on Operation Green Light in November.</li> <li>● Will be reaching out to community partners to make them aware of campaigns.</li> <li>● Assisted Outpatient Treatment was approved in Maryland legislation this spring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Civil commitment for individuals with serious mental illness as an alternative to incarceration.</li> <li>○ Wicomico was selected as a pilot for the state efforts.</li> <li>○ Will be implemented statewide by July 1, 2026.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Partner Updates</b>	<p><b>Lisa Widmaier, ESAHEC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CHW Training 9/23 (flier shared by email)</li> <li>● Training M, Tu, Wednesdays in hopes that individuals can complete training in a shorter period of time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kat Rodgers, TidalHealth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Drive through flu clinic 9/27 from 8 am to 6pm at Shorebirds stadium. (flier shared post meeting)</li> <li>● Working with Mission of Mercy to provide medical screenings at the September dental event.</li> <li>● CHNA - working with Health Departments to plan the next Community Health Needs Assessments. Hope to make a decision in August and begin in September.</li> </ul> <p><b>Josh Boston, Chesapeake Healthcare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Federally Qualified Health Center week celebration planned for next week.</li> <li>● Will have displays on general health messaging at all locations and will offer screenings.</li> <li>● Saturday 9/14 Community event at Woodbrooke.</li> <li>● <a href="mailto:jboston@chesapeakehc.org">jboston@chesapeakehc.org</a> if you'd like to participate.</li> <li>● Will have food trucks, snow cones, and a petting zoo for kids.</li> <li>● Will have insurance navigators on site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Carol Fenner, Prevention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working with TidalHealth pulmonary care to establish a walk in cessation clinic.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have started a Spanish diabetes prevention program session, with 10 signed up to date. Classes start at the end of August. English class is also gearing up.</li> <li>● Received a cannabis education grant, and will be doing environmental scans. Working with the Addictions program to provide education for youth within the school system.</li> </ul> <p><b>Chavonda Carr, Prevention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alicia Miller offers True You Maryland sessions, and offers free LGBTQ inclusion training for providers. If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:alicia.miller@maryland.gov">alicia.miller@maryland.gov</a>.</li> <li>● GEMS abstinence program planning underway for the 2024-2025 school year. Also offering a program for males.</li> <li>● Comprehensive sex education is available. If you are willing to host, please contact <a href="mailto:chavonda.carr@maryland.gov">chavonda.carr@maryland.gov</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Habacuc Petion, Rebirth Inc.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Partnering with the Maryland Refugee Society to provide assistance to new arrivals to the area.</li> <li>● Michelle thanked Rebirth for assistance recently provided to one of their clients.</li> </ul>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<p><b>Friday, October 4, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>LOCATION: Adkins Conference Room (second floor), 801 N. Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury</b></p>	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.	