



Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 2, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Name:	<i>Wicomico Local Health Improvement Coalition</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Wicomico County Health Department Adkins Building</i>
	<i>Friday, February 2, 2024</i>	Minutes Recorder:	<i>Cathey Insley</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	Minutes Reviewer:	<i>Group</i>
Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	<i>Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Deborah Stanley (CEC), Cathey Insley (WiCHD), Emily Patterson (UMD School of Pharmacy), Josh Boston (CHC), Julene Krenzer (Carefirst), Lisa Widmaier (ESAHEC), Lore' Chambers (St. James AME Zion House), Lynn Matava (UM Extension), Stacey Walker (TidalHealth), Tasha Jamison (WiCHD), Tuesday Trott (Holly Center), Brittany Young (MD Physician's Care), Dolores Strahl (MAC, Inc), Matthew McConaughy (WiCHD), Kat Rodgers (TidalHealth), Jessica Sexauer (WiCHD), Jason Sammons (WDSS), Rochelle Tyler (TidalHealth), Tammy Griffin (WiCHD), Tara Wampler (Aetna Better Health), Michelle Hardy (Wicomico LBHA)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
WELCOME	Kat called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and members provided self introductions.	
Approval of Minutes	Matthew made a motion to approve December minutes as written, seconded by both Habacuc and Josh and carried.	Cathey will post minutes online .
<u>CHIP Review:</u> Behavioral Health Priority Area	<p>Michelle Hardy, Behavioral Health Workgroup Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go Purple planning underway. Will need volunteers to help. ● Plan to hold a TriCounty Art logo contest. More information to follow. ● TriCounty Goes Purple Kick-off event planned for 8/31 at Shorebirds Stadium. ● Shatter the Stigma Walk is 9/28. ● Rock for Recovery 9/14. ● 59 trained on Mental Health First Aid this fiscal year to date. 4 classes scheduled between February and May, so will exceed training goals. ● 751 individuals Narcan trained. Goal is 1,000. ● 428 individuals with life experience Narcan trained. Goal of 300 was exceeded. ● WiCHD has 3 bilingual narcan trainers on staff. ● 15 Academic Detailing sessions held, exceeds goal. Detailer did a lot of outreach, but left the agency in January. Position is currently vacant. ● New name for the former Opioid Intervention Team is <u>Opioid Prevention Team</u>. ● Hub and Spoke: Struggling to find provider offices to be Buprenorphine spokes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have funds to pay spokes for telehealth upgrades, ECG machines, and drug testing equipment if they become a spoke. 	

- Goal is to provide care coordination to at least 15 per year. To date have served 7.
- Two hubs are the 2 local health departments (Wicomico and Worcester) where Vivitrol, Puprenorphine and Methadone are offered.
- Promoting use of 988 suicide and crisis hotline as opposed to the previous 800/888 number.
 - Provider education is needed to promote use of 988.
 - Crissy Bowie-Simpson is working on rack cards that will be available soon if you'd like them.
 - There are eight call centers in Maryland, with Life Crisis Center serving the lower shore.
 - Affiliated Sante' Mobile Crisis serves as our backup call center.
 - Jesse Klump Memorial is also promoting the 988 campaign.

Stacy Walker, TidalHealth Crisis Center

- Open 7 days a week 8 am to 8 pm. No appointment needed.
- Referrals can be called in to create warm handoff and alleviate stress when a patient walks in.
- Can provide brief therapy medication management, often with same day prescribing.
- If the prescriber can't see the patient immediately, will get to them within 24 hours.
- Ensure patients get an appointment with an ongoing provider, and follow their care until that handoff is done, whether it's a TidalHealth outpatient provider, or one of 18 community partners.
- Planning support groups for depression, etc. Willing to partner with community members to provide these sessions.

Tasha Jamison, Targeted Case Management and COAT Team

SHORE Center Harm Reduction Program FY24 numbers, through January 31st:

- 350 encounters.
- 200 Narcan kits distributed.
- 26,052 syringes distributed at the Shore Center, and 6,610 provided through pharmacy voucher program.
 - FY23 total was 18,613 at the Shore Center and 13,390 through the voucher program.
- FY24: 11,200 syringes returned to the Shore Center and 33 lbs (~4,500) accepted at kiosk at MSP.
 - FY23 7,000 returned the entire year.
- 18 requests for HepC treatment this fiscal year.
- Paraphernalia returned can be sent for sampling of contents.
- Many of the 65 tested contained xylazine as the first ingredient, most also have fentanyl. Few with Heroin, so there is not much heroin in our drug supply.
- COAT: 63% rate of linkage to treatment services.
- Alcohol is the most identified drug of choice.
- From July - December 246 unduplicated individuals served, 209 Wicomico residents.
- 94 have identified as homeless
- Majority are age 35-44

Michelle Hardy asked if the number of individuals going to treatment are going inpatient locally? Tasha stated most are going inpatient locally if hours allow when treatment is sought. Some prefer to go out of the area.

	<p>Dolores Strahl, MAC Inc. PEARLS program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence based counseling program for individuals that screen for depression. ● Since January 2023 have had 194 client contacts, of those 153 have received treatment. ● Remaining 41 were either screened out or dropped out. ● Referrals come from individuals, PCPs, family members, etc. ● Program shows a good success rate. ● Program began weekly, continuing to expand. ● Transportation is not an issue since services can be provided by phone. ● MAC age requirement is 55. 	
<p>Health Officer Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRP program is closing in March. ● Transitioning current clients to other providers. ● Health department is now accepting adult patients in Behavioral Health. ● Overdose abatement funds: ● There are 13 standards of criteria that we can use funding for, including access to Naloxone, support crisis center, research evidence based programming prevention for k-12 education. ● Planning to use funding to purchase a Naloxone vending machine program, based on recommendation of the Secretary of Health. ● Would purchase the machine and provide the Naloxone. ● Machine can be placed inside or outdoors. (Temperature controlled) ● Host would provide electricity, everything else would be covered through this grant. ● Julene suggested that businesses near HALO be targeted for placement of the machine. 	
<p>Bylaw and Membership Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership review was completed, with some members re-committing to attend, and a few representative changes. 	
<p>Co-Chair Nominations and Vote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voting was completed by emails to all voting members. ● 4 individuals accepted Co-Chair nominations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kat Rodgers, Habacuc Petion, Josh Boston and Matthew McConaughy. ● 11 responses were received, with the top number of votes for Kat and Matthew. ● Both accepted their nominations. ● Lisa and Kat thanked Habacuc for his time serving as Co-Chair; he has done a great job. 	
<p>Subcommittee and Partner Updates</p>	<p>Lisa Renegar, Subcommittee Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behavioral Health Workgroup meets monthly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just submitted the fiscal year 2025 plan. Workgroup is helping with their strategies. ● Live Healthy Wicomico Chronic Disease Workgroup has been working on some of the health access strategies of the CHIP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just finalized a survey that will be going to organizations in Somerset and Wicomico to get a baseline of the number of Community Health Workers we have. 	

- Tammy is going to handle the IRB process for review of the survey, if review is required.
- Tammy's staff will be contacting agencies that will receive the survey to determine the best person to complete the survey.
- Will be working with Lisa at ESAHEC to create a local association of CHWs.
- Health Equity/Health Access committee is being developed. Currently Kat and Tammy are committed to this committee.
 - LHD Intern is currently reviewing literature to give a snapshot of the models that are currently out there that may be utilized. Will present to this group before selecting.
- University of MD Horowitz Center is reaching out to local organizations to participate in virtual focus groups to talk with community leaders and talk about our communities' experience during COVID pandemic. Focus groups will be one hour to 75 minutes long. Members may have received emails gauging interest. Dr. Calixte, Leila Krouse, Martin Hutchison, TidalHealth staff have already agreed to participate.

Tammy Griffin, Prevention and Health Communications

- Go Red for Heart events planned in all three lower shore counties.
- TriCounty event is a virtual cooking demonstration.
- Wicomico is hosting "Ladies Night Out" on 2/16 from 5-9 at the Civic Center. Event was filled the same day registration opened. May open a few more spots. Will have dinner, dancing and health vendors.
- Speaker will be a nutritionist talking about heart health and nutrition.
- NPHW is April 1-7, with the Public Health Ceremony planned for April 2nd at the Civic Center.
 - Theme this year is "We are Public Health."
- DPP second Cohort post-pandemic started in June. Started with 15, 14 people completed.
- Starting a Spanish DPP class led by LHD employee Dina Gonzales. 26 people signed up.
- St. Francis deSales class is coming soon. There is interest, but the start date is not confirmed until there is a large enough number to ensure sufficient numbers that complete the program.
 - Kat shared that TidalHealth has started offering screenings at St. Francis, and can refer people identified as at-risk.
- Supplemental funding secured to provide additional training support to expand the DPP program.
- Just received translated additions for social determinants of health screeners.
- Partnering with Migrant Clinicians Network to do key informant interviews revolving around conditions that impact community members and discuss strategies to improve those conditions. Will include specific questions about access to our care and services provided by the LHDs.
- Will be putting out mini grants to community and faith based organizations to support health ministries and create community gardens.
- 89 participants participating in the Healthy Lifestyles Challenge, meeting on the 1st Saturday of each month at the YMCA.
- Partnering with the Cooperative Extension Office to improve nutrition, active lifestyle and health literacy training, a restorative yoga session is also coming up. Participants receive a monthly newsletter.
- Contract with MAC to conduct diabetes self management and healthy cooking demonstrations.

- Contract with Ches Healthcare to provide BP machines, glucose meters and test strips.
- Tobacco program is seeing an increase in referrals to the teen tobacco program. Seeing younger teens, the youngest being 9 years old. Current program is designed for high school age, having to look at the program to tailor to this younger age r.
- Working with the county to apply for Drug Free Communities funding, which we did receive.

Julene Krenzer, Aetna Better Health

- Aetna Better Health's next laundry day is February 27th at WashIt laundromat across from Pathways.
- Those that participate get one load of clothes paid for.
- Last event saw about 73 people.
- *Kat asked if Aetna could include TidalHealth blood pressure checks?* Julene will ask the laundry owner if this would be ok and let Kat know.

Habacuc Petion, Rebirth Inc.

- Have served about 3,500 individuals this year.
- Have distributed over 100,000 lb of food, fresh produce, and native grown crops.
- New program "Healthcare for the Rest of Us"
- Thanked Kat and TidalHealth for sending staff to help.
- Have started diabetes classes held every Sunday from 5-7. Have an average of 20 attending.
- Have helped with about 2,000 applications with social services.
- Worked on a project to bring a food dispenser to place in front of their building. Will be mechanical, not electric so cannot dispense refrigerated foods. Hope to have the box in place by April.
- Also thanked the health department for continued support, and Aetna Better Health for providing personal care kits with toothbrush, shampoo, soap.
- Rebirth has 4 DDP trained staff.

Kat Rodgers, TidalHealth

REACH 2.0 five year grant:

- Commission is meeting mid-February to hopefully determine the final candidates. If selected, would be invited to present at the March meeting.
- HealthFest will be June 22nd at the Fire Department headquarters. Rochelle and Abigail will be putting out vendor/health screening information soon.

SWIFT Program:

- Grant from Rural Maryland Council allowed expansion to respond to low acuity 911 calls. Now running 42 hours a week (up from 20-30 hours a week last year) with a paramedic and nurse practitioner responding to calls to divert from the ED.
- Have started to bill for Nurse Practitioner services. Will allow for sustainability in the future. (Billing insurance, not balance billing the patient).
- Paused most traditional outreach and preventative screening for most sites for the months of January and February. Looking for new potential sites to meet people where they are (laundromats, churches,

salons, barber shops, etc.)

Josh Boston, Chesapeake Health Care

- Dr. Gittleman merger is successful, happy to have him as part of CHC.
- Centering program begins on February 6, 2024. Looking forward to bringing this service to the region.
- School-based health centers at WiHi and WiMiddle are fully operational. Appreciative of the health department considering CHC as a partner to take over these essential services.

Lynn Matava, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension:

- Scheduling “Dining with Diabetes” program.
- Scheduling “Grow it, Heat it, Preserve it”
- Extension office has equipment to test pressure gauges for canners, if anyone knows a home canner that may be interested, please share.
- Looking for a part time educator. Position would be in Dorchester County.
- MHFA instructor preferred, but can train.
- Position is flexible, looking for experience with substance abuse issues if possible.

Lisa Widmaier, Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center:

- Lisa ESAHEC is now fully staffed.
- PH initiatives program manager working on DPP project.
- AHEC is the referral hub for mid shore counties.
- CHW training begins March 4th; seems to be a lot of interest.
- Registration ink online at esahec.org.
- Hoping to start DPP sessions once all are lifestyle coach trained.
- Hoping to have classes start at the end of April; can offer through Zoom.
- COVID 19 grant received to increase vaccination rates.
- Another grant is focused on reducing health disparities.
 - Will be offering a 6 session webinar series.
 - Looking for presenters on topics related to healthy eating, reading nutrition labels, shopping the grocery perimeter, increasing physical activity, etc.
- ESAHEC is also searching for a grant writer. If anyone knows an interested applicant, please contact Lisa at lwidmaier@esahec.org.

Jason Sammons, Wicomico Department of Social Services

- Substance exposed newborns: 9 in December, 10 during the month of January.
- Looking at evidence based programs to expand prevention programming to increase the number of children staying in their homes with community support, versus foster care placements.
- Functional family therapy options are Vision Quest in Dorchester County and Healthy Families America.
- Targeting infants and parents of early teens, the populations at highest risk of foster placement.
- DSS plan is to have a Community Pathway waiver to target these specific populations.
- Numbers of substance exposed newborns in Wicomico rank higher than PG county, a county with many

	<p>times the population numbers we have in Wicomico.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pushing messaging on newborns exposed to marijuana, as many in the target population don't see marijuana as an issue since it can be obtained legally. Seeing similar perceptions with teens with the legalization of marijuana, even though minors cannot obtain legally.● New policy directive on Safe Sleep. Providing messaging and pack and plays for clients.	
NEXT MEETING	Friday, April 12, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. (April meeting date adjusted post meeting) LOCATION: Adkins Conference Room (second floor), 801 N. Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.	