



Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 1, 2023 @ 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, December 1, 2023</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), Rochelle Tyler (TidalHealth), Tammy Griffin (WiCHD), Jason Sammons (WDSS), Doug Wilson (Community), Matthew McConaughy (WiCHD), Josh Boston (CHC), Cathey Insley (WiCHD), Kat Rodgers (TidalHealth), Brittany Young (MPC), Rev. Ida Ositelu (St. Paul AME Zion), Lore' Chambers (St. James AME Church Zion House), Tuesday Trott (Holly Center), Deborah Stanley (CEC), Andre' Twilley (St. James AME Zion House)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
WELCOME	Kat called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and members completed self introductions.	
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve October minutes as written was made by Doug Wilson, seconded by Josh Boston and carried. Minutes are approved.	Cathey will post to webpage .
Health Officer Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delegate Tom Hutchinson is visiting the Health Department to update him on community programs. ● Working with TidalHealth on their HERC proposal. 	
REACH Grant Update	<p>Kat Rodgers and Rochelle Tyler, TidalHealth Tammy Griffin, Wicomico County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REACH 4 Health ● “Pathways to Health Equity” ● Funded by MDHRC ● 2 year pilot in preparation for a 5 year HERC grant ● Reviewed CRISP data determine focus areas and guide strategies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looked at 21875, 21804, 21826, 21801, 21851, 21842, 21811, 21853 ○ Found transportation and lack of internet impact access to care in these areas. ● Reviewed hospital admission data - selected Hypertension and Diabetes as focus areas. ● Required to demonstrate alignment with other agencies on the lower shore, which they do. ● Program Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Care coordination for those at high risk for readmission ○ Mobile screening, education and outreach ○ Healthy lifestyle programming 	

- Social Determinants of Health assessments
- Use Community Health Work network
- **Project Impact**
 - Overall success will be measured by improved A1C and blood pressure among participants, reduction in hospitalization utilization, and number of screening/individuals served.
- **Community Engagement Partnerships - meeting people where they are**
 - AGH: mobile health screening, education and outreach.
 - Rebirth Inc and Building Mosaic Solutions, Community Education and Outreach.
 - Local Health Departments: Health Education and support groups.
 - UMES: Program evaluation
 - MAC, Inc: Chronic Disease self management education and training for aging adults.

Wicomico County Health Department:

- Increase CHWs, particularly to meet minority populations
- Facilitate 2 DPP programs in target zip codes
- Design a Healthy Lifestyle Challenge Program
- Develop and Implement a SDOH screening as standard for DPP and Healthy Lifestyle Challenge programs.

Successes

- Staff diversification in hiring of CHWs, Chronic Disease program supervisor and interpreters
- One new staff member is also Narcan trained.
- **DPP - Two Cohorts held**
 - 1 started with 8, ended with 4. 5% of body weight lost.
 - 2 started with 15 participants, all but one completed. Great accountability in this group.
 - Doug suggested building a leadership component into the program to facilitate that with future groups.
- **Healthy Lifestyle Challenge**
 - Advertised through media, social media and MyChart
 - Kickoff event in September
 - 95 participants
 - Participant surveys identified needs/interest areas
 - Monthly newsletter with recipes, upcoming events, etc.
 - Sample of flyers/promotional materials shared.
- **WiCHD Community Outreach Efforts**
 - FY23 - 58 events
 - FY24 - 20 events in Q1 (3,932 people served)
 - Offer health risk assessments, health screenings, SDOH screenings, Narcan trainings, program enrollments and referrals

Challenges/Next Steps

- Improve SDOH screening and referral tools.
- Electronic upon intake at health fairs.

- Increase the number of CHWs and establish community HUB of CHWs to build trust in the community.
- Training for CHWs (bilingual)
 - DPP Instructor training
 - Narcan training
 - Blood pressure/healthy heart ambassador training
 - Next step is to have them become certified CHWs

Snapshot of Interventions

Rebirth, Inc and Building Mosaic CHWs

- Works to improve health outcome by facilitating access and education
- CHWs add value to the healthcare team
- Enrich quality of life for clients, including poor and underserved
- Offer food pantry
- Darlene Jackson Bowen facilitates virtual sessions with couples on lifestyle modification.
- Minigrants of \$20,000 were awarded to two organizations (Rebirth Inc, and the United Way)
- United Way proposed translating their Wellness MAde Easy curriculum into Haitian Creole and eventually to Spanish. They would like to expand to other providers. Currently utilizing them at the MAC Center.
- Curriculum is very low literacy level, with many pictures. Promotes communicating with your healthcare provider.

Vision Forward

- Want to put toolkits into hands of CHWs to empower clients to improve health literacy.
- Provide care coordination for patients with hypertension or diabetes
- Provide health screenings with RNs and NPs
- Bridge gaps in care
- Launch integrated health strategies, continue to grow partnerships

Health Equity Resource Community

- Continue to focus on hypertension and diabetes
- Upstream funding to address SDOH through CHW network, increase food access, transportation and prescription assistance, access to care
- Hope is to have systems in place when 5 year grant ends.
- Jason shared that over the summer three neglect referrals were received by DSS as a result of obesity.
- Kat stated that the hospital dietician can take referrals from pediatricians if menu coaching is needed.
- County has a farm program for children regardless of income, but they are not particularly healthy.
- Tammy shared that the health department partnered with Chesapeake Healthcare to do obesity screening in the dental setting. Had a hard time getting a private dental practice to partner on the project.
- Brittany shared that the body positivity movement has made finding good language when educating on a healthy diet.

Membership Review

- Membership review completed, 50% attendance is required by our bylaws.
- We currently have 25 members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every calendar year we look at our bylaws and membership. ● Nominations for chair will be done at our next meeting. ● Lisa will obtain nominations prior to the next meeting, if the group agrees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All members present agreed. ● Bylaws subgroup: Lisa, Kat and Tammy will work on this before the next meeting. 	
<p>Subcommittee Updates</p>	<p>Behavioral Health Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Led by Michelle Hardy, working on three year county plan ● Strategies are on hold pending Community Health Plan. ● Education/Awareness subgroup - RRR Conference planned for May ● CLAS Committee - working on resource guide, translating into Portuguese. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LBHA will be surveying language access with providers. ● Data Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LBHA sent out Access to Care surveys to determine if there are long wait times for appointments, with a 40% response rate. Wait times are not too bad. ○ Looking at a SWAT, done when Michelle did county plan to see if there are areas of weakness, found that aftercare planning for those coming out of jail. Working with jail Behavioral Health programs, and will start to review aftercare data. Seems to be an issue with those awaiting a trial. <p>Live Health Wicomico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewed strategies of Community Health Plan. Will be working to help establish a CHW network. <p>Health Equity/Health Access Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intern from Johns Hopkins is doing a literature review of health equity models. ○ Email survey will go out for subgroup membership. 	
<p>Past Presenter Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maryland Consumer Health Information Hub meeting planned for January on the shore. Will be going over the Maryland plain language checklist, language service resources available and a review of the HUB. ● Hours will be 11 am to 3 pm. 	
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>Josh Boston, Chesapeake Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Received a HRSA maternal grant this summer to begin a centering program. ● Group style meeting of 8-16 pregnant mothers together, each mother gets measurements and sonography, group support with mothers at the same gestational stage and with like issues (language barriers, etc). ● December 12th online meeting, hope to have first classes in January. ● Continuing open enrollment events. The two month pause is no longer in effect. ● Dr Mitch Gittelman is joining CHC on January 1. ● (poor audio) CHC received a grant for afterschool and family support. ● Will have therapists able to help these children. ● Currently have 75 therapists and 6 prescribers. Would take 20 more to manage the caseload. ● Food insecurities: Have upgraded vans to transport patients to food bank events and deliver food boxes to individuals that are unable to get to the food bank. 	

	<p>St. James AME Zion Church Zion House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. James AME Zion is continuing Veteran support services for veterans families and homeless veterans. ● Rapid re-housing, and preventing veterans from losing their homes. ● 8 or 9 veterans have been in hotels; as of last week, all veterans that were in hotels are now housed. ● Depending on discharge status, veterans may not have insurance. Providing assistance in getting medicare and insurance. ● Transitioning veterans from survival mode to working toward improving their health. ● The Veterans Administration awarded Zion House a Gold Star for their services. <p>Jason Sammons, Wicomico Department of Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DSS in home prevention services program was able to hire a licensed Haitian Creole speaking Social Worker. ● Number of substance exposed newborns has decreased since July 1. Most cases being, and most that are being seen now are marijuana exposure. Still investigating even after legalization. <p>Brittany Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open enrollment is ongoing. Remind members to check their benefits to be sure they are still insured. ● Vaccination reminders: RSV, flu and COVID ● The SDOH team is doing a great job screening for social risk and assessments to get members stabilized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have gotten good feedback, and are hearing success stories where members have been reunited with their children, etc. ● Rolling out “Portion Distortion” campaign in 2024. ● Working with local stakeholders to use evidenced based language that removes blame and replaces it with accountability, minimize misunderstandings. ● Hiring a social worker and community health worker on the shore. ● Josh added that if anyone has trouble getting glasses, encourage them to reach out to Lions’ clubs. (audio) 	
NEXT MEETING	<p>Friday, February 2, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. LOCATION: Adkins Conference Room (second floor), 801 N. Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury</p>	
ADJOURNMENT	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.</p>	