



## Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

### Friday, August 4, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	<i>Wicomico Local Health Improvement Coalition</i>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<i>Deer's Head Hospital Center</i>
	<i>Friday, August 4, 2023</i>	<b>Minutes Recorder:</b>	<i>Cathey Insley</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>Matthew McConaughey (WiCHD), Melissa Kelly (Carefirst BCBS) Hope King (WCDSS), Cathey Insley (WiCHD), Kat Rodgers (TidalHealth), Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Christina Gray (WiCHD), Debbie Stanley (CEC), Ellen Willingham (Priority Partners), Doug Wilson (Community), Emily Patterson (MPC), Josh Boston (CHC), Lynn Matava (UM Coop Ext), Michelle Gregory (City of Sby), Nancy Shipley (HOPE Inc.), Rochelle Tyler (TidalHealth), Tammy Griffin (WiCHD), Tara Wampler (Aetna), Mary Beth Waide (DHHHC)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>WELCOME</b>	Kat called the meeting to order at 9:05 and members completed self introductions.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Motion to approve June minutes as written was made by Matthew McConaughey, seconded by Nancy Shipley and carried.	
<b>Health Officer Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wicomico Goes Purple and Overdose Awareness Day planning underway.</li> <li>● COVID vaccine commercialization starts in the fall.</li> <li>● Most residents will still have access to free vaccine through their insurance.</li> <li>● For those without insurance, there is a Bridge program through the CDC where individuals can receive free vaccine at pharmacies, Local Health Departments and FQHCs.</li> <li>● Will not be giving Bivalent, moving to Monovalent.</li> </ul>	
<b>Subcommittee Updates</b>	<p><b>Membership Subcommittee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently cleaning up the LHIC membership list and reaching out to confirm membership interest.</li> </ul> <p><b>Behavioral Health Subcommittee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting monthly; currently working on their plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Live Health Wicomico</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Met last month and reviewed the Chronic Disease and Wellness portion of the CHIP to determine priority areas for the year.</li> </ul>	

## Partner Updates

### **Kat Rodgers, TidalHealth**

- Save the Date 9/29/2023 for TidalHealth Peninsula Regional drive thru flu clinic at Shorebirds Stadium.
- Will be paperless and individuals can update their mychart when they drive through.

#### **REACH grant:**

- Through partnership with Chesapeake Health Care, have reached 1,000 unduplicated patients served.
- Will use unspent funds to award mini grants of up to \$20,000. Faith based and non profit organizations may apply and propose ways to spend funds for activities that meet the criteria of the grant.
- Press release announcing grants will be going out today (8/4).
- Hope to address Diabetes and Hypertension, particularly in Haitian and AA communities.
- CHIP is being incorporated digitally on the Healthy Delmarva website. Currently with a graphic designer
- Working to implement a resource calendar addressing chronic conditions targeted by the REACH grant.
- Debra Stanley, Community Empowerment Center asked how to get information on the Reach grants.
  - ACTION: Email Rochelle Tyler ([rochelle.tyler@tidalhealth.org](mailto:rochelle.tyler@tidalhealth.org)) for instructions and applications.

### **Hope King, Department of Social Services**

- New initiative with Tasha Jamison and Harm Reduction Center for in-home naran training.
- Training DSS staff in September. Open to all, not just front line staff. Foster parents training in the fall.

### **Tammy Griffin, Prevention and Health Communications**

- Hired two outreach workers to help health disparities grant and REACH efforts.
- DPP class started with 23, 15 continuing into the first several weeks. Outreach and promotion was helpful.
- Shatter the Stigma Walk Sept 30th at 9:30 am at Wor-Wic. Register at [wicomicohealth.org](http://wicomicohealth.org).
- Overdose Awareness Day at Winterplace 8/31 from 5-8 pm.
- WalkWicomico/MAC/Health Dept for Soles for Senior 5K (date)

### **Josh Boston, CHC**

- Awarded HRSA grant for maternal health.
- Will start programs for pregnant population and expand transportation.
- Working with the health department to assume operations of the School Based Wellness Centers at Wicomico Middle and High Schools.

### **MaryBeth Waide, Deer's Head Hospital Center**

- In July, Deer's Head celebrated its 73rd anniversary.
- Removed from any potential closure lists.
- Working on plans to fill DHC to capacity.
- Happy to host meetings when needed.

### **Tara Wampler, Aetna**

- Aetna has added feminine hygiene products as a member benefit.
- Tara has boxes that can be donated. Contact Tara at [wampler@etna.com](mailto:wampler@etna.com) to make a request.

**Health Department  
Data Presentation**

**Christina Gray, Epidemiologist - Population Health Report Data Review**

Reports are posted to <https://www.wicomicohealth.org/planning/reports-and-plans>  
[christina.gray@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.gray@maryland.gov)

**County Health Rankings**

- Data lags slightly with sources ranging from 2019 to 2020.
- When the report is published, it will reflect the most recent data available.
- Infographic summarizing our county rankings was shared.
- Wicomico ranks 17th best in the state, which we have not seen since 2015.
  - Matthew stated that we should not focus too much on rank, but more on how we are trending.
- Life expectancy has trended down statewide, as well.
- 1 in 5 residents (18%) of adults are smokers and 4 of 10 adults are obese.
  - Doug cautioned that rate data for smaller populated areas, a single indicator may cause a percentage or rate rise or fall.
- Areas for improvement:
  - Adult obesity: Wicomico and the state are moving in opposite directions.
  - Chlamydia rates are increasing.
- Positive trends:
  - 3rd best ratio of residents to mental health providers.
  - Preventable hospitalization rates are down.

**Community Health Indicators Report**

**Residents**

- 5% increase in general over the last ten years, with a higher increase in hispanic (29%) haitian (60%) and senior (22%) populations.
  - Lisa shared that health department LEP data is showing an increase in language requests for Portuguese.
  - Kat asked how we are able to quantify the Haitian population?
  - Christina shared that Haitian population data is from a US Census Microdata set, and numbers are for Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

**Economic Factors**

- \$25,000 gap between Wicomico and Maryland median income levels.
- 1 in 3 have social security income.
- 2 in 5 renters spend 35% or more of their income on housing.

**Social Factors**

- Residents with at least a HS diploma or more is decreasing, with Black and Hispanic residents less likely to graduate.

**Length and Quality of Life**

- 1,256 deaths in Wicomico.
- Heart disease and cancer continue to be leading causes of death, with effects possibly impacted by access to care during the pandemic.

- Life expectancy fell for the second year in a row; 2.5 years shorter than the rest of the state.
- Access to Care**
- 1,730 residents per PCP, 260 residents per MH provider, 1,240 residents per Dental provider.
  - Even with only 6.7% of Wicomico residents without insurance, 30.6% of Hispanics are without insurance.
- Cancer**
- 2nd leading cause of death in Wicomico.
  - Rates are trending down for many cancers, with new cases of cancer at stable rates or decreasing for many.
  - State is seeing some rates rising in pancreatic and prostate cancers.
- Chronic Disease**
- Efforts in Diabetes prevention are showing impact; has trended slightly back up after 2020 due to lack of services during pandemic.
  - Prevalence of Diabetes in the African American community is almost twice the rate for white residents.
- Infectious Disease: Respiratory Issues**
- Since march 2020: 25,200 cases of COVID and 369 deaths.
  - Flu cases were decreased during pandemic due to mask mandates.
  - 2022-2023 flu season is following an early pattern, similar to the southern hemisphere.
- Infectious Disease: STI and HIV**
- Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates are high, seeing a down trend for Gonorrhea
  - 2021: 9 cases of HIV diagnosed.
  - 268 HIV positive residents county wide,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of which are male.
  - STI rates for 10-19, rates are trending up.
    - Ellen shared that the adolescent youth risk behavior survey shows an increase of sexual activity (self reported) in middle school.
- Maternal and Child Health**
- 1,248 births in Wicomico in 2020.
  - 1 in 10 were preterm and 9% were low birthweight.
  - Birth rate in teens rose again in 2020; proportionately higher in black and hispanic populations.
  - Infant Mortality rates do not include fetal deaths.
  - Over half of infant deaths are attributable to four causes (low birthweight, congenital anomalies, maternal complications, SIDS).
- Behavioral Health: Mental Health**
- Suicide was 11th leading cause of death in 2021.
  - ED visits for self harm showed that 1 in 2 of these visits were 10-24 years old.
  - Seeing a rise in key indicators for self harm.
- Behavioral Health: Substance Use**
- State has not released any substance death data.
  - 17.1% of Wicomico high school students report currently using marijuana.
  - Overdose deaths: fentanyl continues to be a key driver. 94% of all opioid deaths involved fentanyl.
  - Cannabis legalization effective July 1, still illegal for under age 21.

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>Friday, October 6, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>LOCATION: Community Empowerment Center, 410 Delaware Avenue, Salisbury MD 21801</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am, as motioned by Melissa Young, seconded by Matthew McConaughey.

**ATTACHMENTS (as one document):**

**Population Health Report**

**Community Health Indicators Report**