

Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 6, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Name:	<i>Wicomico Local Health Improvement Coalition</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Virtual</i>
	<i>Friday, June 6, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.</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>Kat Rodgers (TidalHealth), Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Jessica Sexauer (WiCHD), Lisa Widmaier (ESAHEC), Hope King (DSS), Cathey Insley (WiCHD), Michele Gregory (Sby City Council), Lauren Holfeld (SNAP-Ed), Julie Krenzer (Carefirst), Tuesday Trott (Holly Center), Matthew McConaughy (WiCHD), Bobbi McDonald (TidalHealth), Deborah Stanley (CEC), Mary Woody (Chesapeake Healthcare), Ellen Willingham (Priority Partners)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
WELCOME	Matthew McConaughy called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members present were familiar with each other and added their name/organization in the chat for meeting attendance.	
Approval of Minutes	Kat Rodgers made a motion to approve April minutes with one amendment to TidalHealth's update, seconded by Lisa Widmaier and carried.	Cathey will correct and post .
CHIP Goals Strategies and Objectives	<p>Lisa Renegar and Kat Rodgers shared the process and progress of the collaborative CHNA and CHIP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee members were instrumental in this process, and their work is appreciated. Through focus groups, potential goal areas were identified, with health equity items in each area. Priority Action Teams have been formed for each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Access/Availability/Quality Chronic Disease Behavioral Health Action team members narrowed the focus of priority areas into goals with high community impact and are feasible to implement. 	
Final CHIP Goals	<p>Healthcare Access:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Make healthcare accessible by providing services that respect cultural differences, use clear language, and are easy to understand. Improve referrals, care coordination and provide guidance to navigate the health system. Build a strong healthcare system on Delmarva with enough qualified staff from diverse backgrounds. <p>Chronic Disease:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve chronic disease screening and early detection. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance chronic disease management and prevention. Address risk factors through targeted prevention strategies. <p>Behavioral Health:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance screening, referral and intervention processes. Reduce stigma and increase awareness of services among special populations. Strengthen care coordination and integration across the BH system. 	
	<p>Kat and Lisa shared action plans for TidalHealth and Wicomico Health Department for each of the cross cutting goals and objectives that were reviewed as a group*. (See full plan, posted as attachment).</p> <p><i>*It was noted that spelling corrections are needed for spelling of Joan Vavurek's and Lisa Widmaier's names.</i></p>	
	<p><u>TidalHealth Action Plans:</u></p> <p>Healthcare Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve staff literacy through cultural competence training and health literacy curriculums. ● Retain/promote 80% of CHW workforce. Partnering with ESAHEC. ● Establish baseline measure for bilingual healthcare providers. ● Increase the number of providers by 5% by screening applications for language proficiency. ● Residency and fellowship programs. ● Language service coordinator working to implement dual enroll program for inpatient and outpatient areas to allow staff to test for language proficiency to provide on site interpretation services. ● Translating vital documents into Spanish and Haitian Creole. ● Mobile integrated health services increase access to serve people where they are. ● TidalHealth and AGH have implemented "FindHelp" to improve care coordination. Will implement access to Epic for AGH. ● Expanding SDOH assessments to integrate back into EPIC when referrals are made. ● Link all SDOH information with CRISP. ● Connect FindHelp to MyChart and include an awareness campaign. ● Hosting at least one intern in Community Health. ● Offer stipends, etc. to encourage residents to stay locally when their residency ends. <p>Chronic Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify disparities for cancer screenings through data analysis. ● Share referral tracking systems. ● Preventative screening via Mobile Mammography van with follow up for recommended screenings. ● Provide routine urgent care visits in Smith Island. ● Continue evidence based programming, increase referrals to diabetes education and prevention programs. Supporting partner programs through referrals. ● Presentation for medical practices to increase awareness and referrals, implement an electronic referral process for diabetes education. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand tobacco cessation at cardiac rehab, partnering with Wicomico Health. ● Promote Food is Medicine program and food insecurity bags. ● Continue healthy food program funded by the REACH grant. ● Increase physical activity through evidence based programming, walking program, increase opportunities for employee access to equipment for exercise. <p>Behavioral Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase screening for substance use disorders with support from grant funding. ● Improve care coordination and access through SWIFT. ● Enhance screening for mental health conditions by implementing standard screening through self assessment in My Chart. ● Partner with MAC to offer PEARLS program for older adults with depression. ● Maintain or increase peer support services, through partnership with COAT, and employ peer specialists. ● Increase outreach to increase awareness of resources. ● Place harm reduction vending machine at Crisis Center. 	
	<p><u>Wicomico Health action plans:</u></p> <p>Healthcare Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CLAS committee has been working to implement national standards for several years. Updating plan, continuing to train staff and implement language access services. ● Analyze CHW data reporting. ● Translating key documents into multiple languages, including Spanish and Haitian Creole. ● Through satisfaction surveys, additionally asking about the timeliness and quality of services received. ● Workforce Development committee working to implement all staff CLAS training and Equal Access Compliance training for new staff. ● Formalize/standardize process for student internships. ● Dr. Calixte is hosting medical students for their rural health rotation. ● Incorporate youth engagement strategies in Workforce Development planning, by reaching out to high school students to encourage careers in health care. <p>Chronic Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cancer programs collaborating with TidalHealth on mobile mammography van. ● Epidemiologist will help analyze data for the region. ● Cancer programs do a lot of outreach and attend health fairs and community events. ● Provide funding for cancer screening. ● Provide case management for those diagnosed with cancer until they are linked with service. ● Formalize referral processes for DPP and smoking cessation programs. ● Partnership with TidalHealth for the on site tobacco cessation program, initiated by the health department Tobacco Coordinator. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote quit phone line that links to resources. ● Support community walks and running festivals, including the Walk at Lunch on 6/11. ● Increasing number of walking groups throughout the county. <p>Behavioral Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Standardize Social Determinants of Health screening and process, beginning with an assessment of who is doing what. ● Enhance screening for mental health conditions. ● Maintain peer support staff. ● Reduce stigma through continuing Mental Health First Aid training, and maintain and increase the number of MHFA instructors, certify new LBHA staff as instructors. ● Place multiple harm reduction vending machines in the community. ● Training, outreach, education on overdose prevention services. ● Resource guides published annually, and the BH workgroup also translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole. (Also available on the health department website). ● Behavioral Health Authorities are aligning their strategic plans with our CHIP. 	
	Kat and Lisa thanked partners/organizations for their participation. Each partner organization will report their action toward goals to their respective LHICs.	
Health Officer Updates	<p>Matthew McConaughy, Wicomico County Health Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deputy Secretary of Public Health has stepped down, Elizabeth Kromm who presented at our April meeting will be filling in until the position is rehired. 	
Subcommittee and Partner Updates	<p>Lisa Renegar, Wicomico County Health Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subcommittees have not met in recent months since work for FY25 is largely complete. ● Pending completion of CHIP, will begin meeting again soon. <p>Kat Rodgers, TidalHealth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Successful in being awarded the \$645K grant from Maryland Community Health Resource Commission to support the mobile mammography van. ● Will hold a kick off in October. <p>Lisa Widmaier, ESAHEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual Training for CHWs. The next meeting is on September 8, 2025. ● CHW network met 6/5, with guest speaker on Advanced Care directives. ● August is National CHW appreciation week. Planning events to recognize our CHWs. ● 7/16: Poverty simulation at UMES. Volunteers are needed for full day activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lisa Renegar and Eileen Willingham volunteered. ○ Lisa will share with other members not able to attend this meeting. <p>Jessica Sexauer, Wicomico County Health Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm Reduction vending machines have been in development over the past year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worked with Mullan Pharmaceuticals out of California. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All six machines have been deployed and secured in locations around the county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor machines at TidalHealth Outpatient, Deer's Head Hospital, Wicomico Library ○ Indoor machines at Lower Shore Friends, HealthPort, Wor-Wic. ● Currently stocked with Naloxone, hope to have additional harm reduction supplies in the future. ● Working with partners on a press release to inform the community. 	
ADJOURNMENT	Eileen Willingham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bobbi McDonald. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.	
NEXT MEETING	Friday, August 1, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m. - VIRTUAL MEETING	