

**Worcester County Health Department
Worcester County Health Planning Advisory Council
Thursday, December 17, 2020
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Jennifer LaMade, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Becky Jones *WCHD*, Teresa Tyndall, *Wor Wic*, Derek Jarmon *Worcester County Recreation and Parks*, Crystal Bell, *WCHD*, Twila Fykes *MDH*, Abigail Bridges *University of Maryland Public Health*, Erica Joseph *Community Foundation*, Julie Crain *Harriett’s House*, Jessica Sexauer, *Local Management Board*, Josh Davis *Public Relations for Ocean Pines*, Julinda Massey *Maryland Department of Health*, Lisa Shockley, *Local Management Board*, Jaclyn Sturgis, *WCHD*, Donna Nordstrom, *Atlantic General Hospital*, Mike Trader *WCHD*, Audrey Wahl *Community Member*, Ellen Willingham *Priority Partners MCO*, Blair Inniss *University of Maryland Legal Resource Center*, Jill Kenney *MACC Inc.*, Jackie Ward, *WCHD*, Joshua Boston *Chesapeake Health Care*, Beverly Wallerius *WCHD*, Ron Fisher *Community Member*, Genet Burka, *WCHD*, Crystal Heiser *Home Instead*, Kat Rodgers *TidalHealth*, Mike Hedlesky *MAC*, Tamara Mills *Worcester County Public Schools*, Nykol Mariano *Amerigroup*, and MaryBeth Waide, *Deers Head Hospital*.

Minutes by: Lisa Shockley

Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome Teresa Tyndall opened the meeting with introductions at 8:33am</p>	
<p>Minutes Minutes from the October 15 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jackie Sturgis and seconded by Ellen Willingham.</p>	
<p>Community Partner Updates</p> <p><u>Becky Jones - Worcester County Health Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Worcester County Health Department has staff working seven days a week on Covid-19 activities including: contact tracing; monitoring; testing clinics; and more. Looking to move forward with Covid vaccinations clinics. The WCHD will utilize an existing action plan from the H1N1 vaccinations and will be working closely with community partners like Walgreens. Worcester County will follow the State of Maryland tiered vaccine distribution approach, with priority given to first responders, detention centers, nursing homes/long term care. 	

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- Free Covid testing will continue for Worcester County residents and individuals that work within the county. Drive through clinics are held in West Ocean City and Snow Hill. Please call the WCHD for scheduling.
- If you need assistance scheduling testing for undocumented individuals, please contact the WCHD.
- There is still time to receive a flu shot, please call the WCHD to schedule an appointment.
- The WCHD is the largest behavioral health provider in Worcester County. Have been able to continue services through telehealth through the pandemic.

Josh Boston - Chesapeake Health Care

- Watching Covid-19 guidelines to keep everyone safe.
- Making sure that children stay on their recommended vaccine schedule, and educating parents so they know that it is safe to keep regular scheduled visits, and necessary care. CHC created a video campaign to say that it's safe to go see your doctor.
- In March we transitioned to a telehealth model to provide Mental Health services and we are making sure patients have access.
- Awaiting vaccines for employees as we have needed to pause some services/education pieces due to Covid-19 restrictions regarding face to face services.

Kat Rodgers - TidalHealth

- Vaccinations started at 6am this morning with limited doses available. There have been weather delays, but hoping to receive vaccine doses in Salisbury this morning that will include allocations for Atlantic General Hospital, BB and Nanticoke.
- We have prioritized groups within the health system and are hoping to start vaccinating staff this afternoon. Will eventually be vaccinating 7 days a week as long as they have doses to give out.

Donna Nordstrom - Atlantic General Hospital

- Waiting for approximately 300 vaccines through TidalHealth. There is a tiered priority system for vaccination distribution.

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- There will be a Covid testing site Saturday from 8:00am-12:00pm, at 10th street in Ocean City. No appointment is needed.
- AGH is continuing to virtually transform programs and will share flyers with the group.

Derek Jarmon - Worcester County Recreation and Parks

- WCRP will be opening with limited, scaled-back, programming. Sessions are limited to 12 individuals per hour and then everything is sanitized prior to the next session.
- There will be two activities this weekend at John Walter Smith Park: a drive-in movie on Friday; and a concert on Saturday. The skating ice rink is up and we are working to provide safe holiday cheer.
- Please check the website for updates. <https://worcesterrecandparks.org/>

Erica Joseph - Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore

- We are continuing to review grants twice a month for Covid funding (up to \$5,000.00) for critical services, PPE, etc. If anyone has specific needs please reach out.
- Modified some of their grant cycle deadlines last year, new deadlines will be sent out after the first of the year.
- The community needs grant application, found on the website under the e grants portal, will be due on February 15, 2021.
- For education partners, anticipate the education grants program deadline, that was pushed back earlier in 2020, to be offered in the spring of 2021. We may have covid funds now to help education partners.

Jill Kenney - MAC

- Area agency for the aging and operate programs in Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico and Dorchester Counties.
- In response to everything going virtual, MAC has secured grant funding for 4G verizon tablets. They have 30 tablets and just secured funding for an additional 30 tablets. These tables are preloaded with Zoom and Chrome, and they are loaned to individuals to allow them to participate in MAC programs.

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- Virtual programs are free and include chronic disease self management, like Diabetes, chronic pain, and enhanced fitness. Contact Jill to refer an individual to the program and everyone is welcome. Currently planning the January schedule.

Crystal Heiser - Home Instead

- Thank you to everyone for assisting with the Be A Santa program. They had over 400 gifts.

Ellen Willingham - Priority Partners

- Focused on open enrollment for health insurance and have been handing out cards to encourage people to reach out for information and assistance.
- Here to provide support have been doing more outreach events in Wicomico County, but as a Worcester resident, looking forward to helping more locally.

Tamara Mills - Worcester County Public Schools

- Schools are currently virtual and have 25% of students returning in January.
- Have spent the last few weeks doing updated training with every staff member in the county. Lauren Williams and the nursing/medical team have been going into every school to reiterate safe practices, physical distancing and hybrid learning.
- They have spent funding on PPE especially for music classrooms and performance arts to make sure it's safe (bell covers, instrumental masks, cleaning instruments, shields, etc). Working to get back to normal, but in a safe way.

Josh Davis – Public Relations for Ocean Pines

- No update, but thanks to all the health care workers

Nykol Mariano - Americagroup

- Virtual programming with CVOs (Credentialing Verification Organization), schools and etc. with topics including: yoga, zumba, cooking demonstrations, virtual field trips, health education topics like stress management, and etc.

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- Have sponsorships for the community to help support food pantries, providing PPE supplies, and have funding. Please reach out for resources or sponsorships.
 - Tote bags, hats/gloves, etc
 - Would there be any sponsorships available for Worcester County students when they return next year, like a welcome back package? Amerigroup has been able to provide backpacks with school supplies for Baltimore and Montgomery counties, as well as teachers kits with supplies. If anyone can provide a list of what Worcester County students need, she can work to fulfill the request for students preschool through college.
- Actively calling members regarding insurance updates.

Blair Inniss - University of Maryland Legal Resource Center

- The Maryland legislative session begins January 13, 2021 and will be almost entirely virtual. Students track public health legislation every year. If you would like to be on the distribution list, please email Blair at binniss@law.umaryland.edu
- There are calls regarding hot topic issues.
- There are two upcoming bills: Tobacco bill; and a gambling bill to legalize sports betting, but no details what that will look like.

Audrey Wahl - Community Member

- Covid testing question: Are tests free at all sites, is an appointment needed, and how many days does it take to receive the results.
 - Jennifer LeMade – For the testing through the WCHD at the Ocean City Park and Ride, and the Commission on Aging, there is no charge. You will need an appointment, please call (410)632-1100 to schedule. Labs are getting very busy and the timeframe for resulting is fluctuating but typically 3-5 business days.
 - Donna Nordstrom– Will verify if there is a cost for the testing through AGH at 10th St test, but there is no appointment needed.

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Abby Bridges – University of Maryland Public Health

- No updates.
- Expecting an update/presentation at the next meeting in February.

Mike Trader - Worcester County Health Department

- Behavioral Health has shifted to telehealth and is available for case management, treatment and etc.
- There is a new 24/7 warmline 1-844- ONE-PEER This line is for individuals who have non-urgent substance misuse needs in Worcester County. The warm line is maintained by Peer Recovery Specialists who are able to provide Peer Support services over the phone.
- Medical assistance transportation is up and running in a safe way.
- Insurance navigators through LSHIP are up and running and just completed open enrollment.
- Covid activities like isolation and quarantine monitoring and contact tracing are on-going. Making sure that everyone who is required to quarantine, has their needs met.

MaryBeth Waide - Deers Head Hospital

- Have not had any cases of Covid within the hospital.
- Starting vaccine programs on December 30th and will continue to work hard to keep everyone safe.

Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Prevent Chronic Disease

COVID and Flu Updates - Jennifer LaMade

- Working on the vaccine distribution. Priority groups are fluid as the volume of vaccines is being provided.
- AGH is preparing for shipment and internal distribution of the vaccine.
- Health Care providers and long term care facilities are high priority groups. Several pharmacies are providing a partnership to vaccinate residents of long term care facilities.

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- No firm details on when the WCHD will receive vaccines, but they are expected on, or around, December 23, 2020. Will be working with partners to begin vaccinating first responders, detention centers, essential personal and community members. Priority areas are fluid and subject to change. Educators may be in the 1b priority group and 1a would include healthcare providers and long term care facilities.

Improve Access to Care

Harriet's House - Julie Crane

- Julie @harriettshouse.org

Presentation

Strengthen Behavioral Health Services

Opioid Strategic Plan - Jackie Ward

- jackie.ward@maryland.gov
- [Presentation](#)

Prevention Updates

Cancer Prevention Update - Twila Fykes

- Colorectal program-
 - Screening for colon cancer can save lives and is one of the cancers that if found early can be cured.
 - People that should be screened are: anyone over 50 years of age; that has had colon cancer past; that has certain types of polyps; that has inflammatory bowel disease; Crohn's Disease; has a family history of cancer; or has a genetic form of colon cancer.
 - At WCHD there is funding to pay for the entire colonoscopy if you are: a resident of Worcester County; 50 years of age or older or can be younger if they are having a current problem; low income, no insurance or limited coverage for the procedure. Can also assist navigating the system. If you know of anyone in need, please have them contact Twila.

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<p><u>Tobacco Update - Crystal Bell</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Free Tobacco Cessation classes 1/5/21-3/25/21 Flyer is attached <p><u>Chronic Disease Update/Diabetes Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) - Crystal Bell</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Presentation</u>● Press Release and Request For Proposal is attached● Worcester Wellness Weigh, a free weight loss program with the whole family in mind.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sessions begin on 1/12/21○ To Register, contact Elizabeth Justice by 1/6/21 at Elizabeth.Justice@maryland.gov○ Flyer is attached	
<p>Jackie Ward made a motion to adjourn, Jennifer LaMade seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:28am</p> <p>Next Worcester County LHIC meeting February 18, 2021 at 8:30am via Google Meet</p>	