

Worcester County Health Department
Worcester County Health Planning Advisory Council
Thursday, October 21, 2021
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.

Present: Jennifer LaMade, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Derek Jarmon *Worcester County Recreation and Parks*, Jessica Sexauer, *Local Management Board (LMB)/Local Behavioral Health Authority*, Josh Davis, *Ocean Pines Association, Inc.*, Lisa Shockley, *LMB*, Audrey Wahl, *Community Member*, Jackie Ward, *WCHD*, Darlene Jackson-Bowen, *Mosaic Community Services, Inc.*, Mary Beth Waide, *Deer’s Head Hospital*, Katherine Rodgers, *Tidal Health*, Rebecca Jones, *WCHD*, Jarrah Hall, *Eastern Shore Dep’t of Labor*, Morgan Jones, *Legal Resource Center*, Julie Krenzer, *Priority Partners*, Genet Burka, *WCHD*, Mimi Dean, *WCHD*, Debra Stevens, *WCHD*, Lillian Wilkinson, *DSS*, Mike Trader, *WCHD*, Tina Simmons, *Atlantic General Hospital (AGH)*

Minutes by: Lisa Shockley

Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome Jennifer LaMade opened the meeting with introductions at 8:31am</p>	
<p>Minutes Minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Audrey Wahl and seconded by Tina Simmons. The minutes were unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>Covid Updates - Debra Stevens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data is available on the state website, and WCHD will continue to share information on social media. There is a slight downward trend. ● As of yesterday, there are 4,943 positive confirmed cases and an additional 2,254 antigen positive cases. ● As of yesterday the positivity rate for Worcester County was 6.47%, and the state positivity rate was 3.36% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is dropping slightly as the positivity rate for Worcester County is 5.96% today. ● Averaging 21 cases per day to investigate, and the same number of contacts. ● Case rate is 18.86% today. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worcester County is one of the few counties on the shore labeled as orange, which 	

signifies moderate transmission.

- Majority of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. Continuing to encourage vaccination in the community.
- Worcester County is 6th in the state, in terms of vaccinated population.
- 72.82% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated. The state average is 76.6%.
- The WCHD continues to have vaccine clinics available five (5) days a week. With the assistance of the Town of Ocean City, there will be a clinic opening up in November at Northside Park or The Ocean City Convention Center. Will provide more information soon, and have the schedule updated on the website.
- Long term care facilities doing well on vaccinations. There's a dashboard on the Department of Aging website. The percentage of long term care facility residents that have been fully vaccinated is 80-85%, with the percentage of staff 64-84%.
- Continuing to do case investigations, and it is very time consuming. Isolation and quarantine continues to be in effect, however there are no mandates or policing. There are concerns regarding compliance.
- Continue to take precautions.
 - Wash your hands
 - Cover your cough
 - mask wearing is encouraged
 - and if you're sick, please stay home.
- Covid testing is scheduled once a week at the WCHD. If you have any symptoms, please get tested to be safe.
- WCHD is continuing to work with the schools. There are a few outbreaks, but they are working hard on mitigation efforts.
- The motto has been: different day, different way.
- FDA has been meeting about vaccines, to discuss boosters and lower eligibility age.
- Focus on stress reduction and positive mindset for WCHD staff.
- Question -
 - Is there a timeline on vaccine eligibility for the 5-11 year old age group?
 - Anticipating the beginning of November. The WCHD has plans and will be ready to go as soon as we get the ok.
- Tina Simmons advised that AGH will send out dates on the community vaccine clinic scheduled the week of November 8, 2021, and November 15, 2021.
 - Tina also stated that she had touched base with Lauren Williams to schedule dates for clinics at the Worcester County Public Schools.

- Kat Rodgers of Tidal Health advised that as of this morning, inpatient numbers have decreased to 34.
 - Most of the PUI patients are potential COVID-19 positive.
 - Unvaccinated staff are required to be tested weekly.
 - As an organization, Tidal Health is looking at resiliency among staff. Experiencing short staffing, and existing staff is tired. The manager of the chaplains holds a prayer huddle once a week for anyone interested. Looking at mechanisms to strengthen resilience.

Partner Updates

- Worcester County Health Department (WCHD), Becky Jones
 - The WCHD would like to thank all of the partners. One of our mottos is: just keep swimming. We will make it through this.
 - Reminder - there are other things to safeguard against beside COVID-19. If you are eligible, please get your flu shot. Many community partners are offering flu shots.
 - We are almost out of hurricane season. Please prepare for the coming winter months.
 - WCHD is focused on resiliency. Taking care of our mental health and wellbeing are our priorities.
 - Take time around the holidays to take care of yourself.
 - A Lot of resources are available.
 - Thanks to everyone who assisted with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Derrick Jarmon
 - Finishing up a busy fall with a lot of programming and events.
 - Gearing up for winter, with after school programs. Working with the Board Of Education to create transportation opportunities for children. Encouraging active programs to get kids moving.
 - Kids night in events are starting back, along with schools out camps.
- Tidal Health, Kat Rodgers
 - The Exhale grant for asthma control is off and running. Starting to get referrals. Anyone with asthma is being prioritized for home repairs. Reach out with questions.
 - Community Health Needs Assessment is underway and continuing to accept responses.
 - There will be a focus group for Worcester County on Tuesday at 5:30. It will be held virtually.
 - Tidal Health held drive through flu clinics, and are continuing with community based clinics.

- There is a new Health Equity panel and Kat will send a link.
 - Hoping to partner with WCHD, AGH and other organizations.
 - Have a meeting Monday morning with partners.
- Attempting to resume the diabetes support groups virtually, but have had no attendance. There will be a support group/diabetes awareness event with vendors, and Dr Kritznr, endocrinologist, will be speaking. Will share event information. The event will be in person and the maximum capacity is 30.
 - Tina Simmons stated that AGH experienced the same low to no attendance for virtual support meetings and we are moving back to in person.
- Worcester County Health Department, Jaclyn Sturgis -
 - There will be two (2) new mental health training sessions.
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid will be virtual on December 9th from 9am-3pm.
 - Adult Mental Health First Aid will be virtual on January 13th from 9am-4pm
 - Jackie Ward will share flyers with registration links.
- Jarrah Hall, Reentry Navigator for Eastern Shore Department of Labor
 - Works in prisons with those about to be released, to assist with employment and health.
- Audrey Wahl, Community Member
 - Everyone is doing a great job and the community is lucky to have you.
- Jessica Sexauer - Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) and Local Management Board (LMB)
 - The LMB posted a Request for Proposal for a new program, Worcester Navigation, which focuses on families in poverty. Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services was the selected vendor and is anticipated to kick off programming on October 1, 2021. They are currently finalizing the referral process.
 - If any questions reach out to Jessica or Lisa Shockley.
 - The Behavioral Health Authority has approved Worcester County to explore implementation of an adolescent clubhouse. This program would target youth 12-17 years of age, who need Substance Use Disorder support and recovery services. Hoping to get information out soon.
 - If anyone is interested in exploring this program please contact Jessica to receive the proposal package. Hoping to Identify a community partner in January.
- Lil Wilkinson, Department of Social Services
 - There is funding still available through the state COVID money for housing, as well as rental assistance issues.
 - Call 677-6906 for the intake
 - Worcester Gold is accepting names and information for families that would like a

turkey for thanksgiving.

- Josh Davis, Ocean Pines
 - No update. Thank you to all our community partners.
- Morgan Jones, Legal Resource Center
 - No updates
 - The Legal Resource Center is always here to help, please reach out with questions.
- Julie Krenzer, Priority Partners
 - There is an opportunity to incentivise the COVID-19 vaccine, and to offer gift cards through Maryland Department of Health. More to come but will share once received.
- Tina Simmons, AGH
 - AGH has been holding community flu clinics, as well as, clinics for local business, employees, firemen and EMS.
 - There will be a large community flu clinic on November 5th in Ocean Pines
 - AGH will be a part of the Health Equity panel with Tidal Health.
 - Moving forward with renovations for the building with a Behavioral Health center. January is the expected start date.
 - Jennifer LaMade requested an update on the TRIBE and Catalyst grant at December's meeting.
- Lisa Shockley, LMB programs
 - The Community Partnership Agreement for the Worcester County LMB has been approved. The following programs will be offered in FY22
 - Worcester Connects - A mentor program to reduce truancy, and increase resilience in youth.
 - Building Bridges - A program aimed at incarcerated parents, their children and children's caregivers. The goal is to increase resilience in the family, support stronger communication within families, connect families to community services and reduce recidivism.
 - Worcester Navigation - A navigation program to assist and support families in poverty, and navigate the application processes to connect them with existing services in the community.
 - The LMB is kicking off a Worcester County Health Equity workgroup. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Lisa Shockley at lisa.shockley1@maryland.gov
 - Jennifer LaMade encouraged everyone to review the Community Health Assessment. It outlines very robust data on race inequity and health.
- Mike Trader WCHD

Ellen: Send flyers to Jackie

Jackie Ward: Send out flyers with follow up email

- We are navigating telehealth, and face to face services. Welcoming that as an opportunity for clients to get care where they're at and how they're most comfortable.
- The Crisis Response Team has been busy, which speaks to how people are doing. A Lot of people are experiencing mental health crises, and many calls are from schools for youth that are struggling.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)- Jackie Ward

- CHIP Workgroups
 - There was a PowerPoint presentation shared at the workgroups. Genet Burka put together slides with key data from the CHA and it is very informative.
 - Workgroups have started meeting. If you are still interested in attending, please reach out to Jackie Ward at jackie.ward@maryland.gov.
 - Thank you to everyone that participated in the first workgroup series.
 - Jackie will send out an upcoming meeting schedule.
 - Jennifer LaMade stated that if you haven't been there for the first workgroup don't worry, they would like as many people as possible to join. This is a community plan so when strategies and interventions are developed, the community is encouraged to be involved.
 - Meetings are open, and you do not need an invitation.

Prevention Updates, Mimi Dean, Crystal Bell

- Cancer Prevention Update
 - Colon Cancer - Twila Fykes recently retired, but will return as a consultant.
 - Screenings are recommended at 45. Continuing to promote and recruit for screening.
 - There will be a Motor Vehicle Administration partnership, and they will be airing public service announcements.
- Tobacco Prevention Update-
 - Continue to provide adult and youth smoking cessation, and alternative to suspension programs for youth caught on school property.
 - Next month is the great American smoke out, and there will be distribution of quit tobacco kits.
- National diabetes awareness month is in November. We are kicking off a diabetes

<p>awareness self manage campaign, to promote the importance of diabetes self management. There will be commercials, and the diabetes support group is going to be implemented at the Snow Hill library.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recently hired a dietitian, and will be facilitating the support group on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-2pm ○ Continue to offer diabetes programming. Accepting referrals and linking people with services. ○ Crystal Bell is a trained lifestyle coach, and will be training others in the state. ○ Submitted a proposal to CareFirst to address the root cases of diabetes in Worcester County. There has not been an approval yet, but would be really impactful in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to provide Worcester Wellness Way. There will be a new group starting in January. ● Have a What's cooking in Worcester section on the social media page. Encourage everyone to tune in. Making a calendar and will be having a competition for the public to submit recipes. ● There are a couple walk events coming up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lower Shore Walking Tour. Sign up and get a map of walking trails, where you can walk anywhere. Take a photo and submit it to be registered. The first 50 to register will receive a T-shirt, there is also a door prize, and a grand prize. Have over 100 enrolled so far. ○ Next month on November 5th, partnering with the Town of Berlin for the Fall Glow Walk to be held at Stephen Decatur Park. Sign up on Eventbrite, the event starts at 5 pm 	
<p>Jackie Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jessica Sexauer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:38am</p> <p>Next Worcester County LHIC meeting December 16, 2021 at 8:30am via Zoom</p>	