

**Worcester County Health Department
Worcester County Health Planning Advisory Council
Thursday, December 16, 2021
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Teresa Tyndall, *Wor Wic Community College*, Jennifer LaMade, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Rebecca Jones, *WCHD Health Officer*, Josh Davis, *Ocean Pines Association, Inc.*, Lisa Shockley, *Local Management Board (LMB)*, Audrey Wahl, *Community Member*, Jackie Ward, *WCHD*, Darlene Jackson-Bowen, *Mosaic Community Services, Inc.*, Katherine Rodgers, *TidalHealth*, Morgan Jones-Axtell, *Legal Resource Center*, Julie Krenzer, *Priority Partners*, Genet Burka, *WCHD*, Lillian Wilkinson, *DSS*, Tina Simmons, *Atlantic General Hospital (AGH)*, Bibta Pradhan, *WCHD*, Crystal Bell, *WCHD*, Jaclyn Sturgis, *WCHD*, Kelly Shockley, *WCHD*, Blair Inniss, *Legal Resource Center*, Julinda Massey, *Maryland Department of Health (MDH)*, Lauren Blair, *Coastal Hospice*

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 21, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Due to access barriers with Google Docs, some members have not had an opportunity to review the minutes. Approval of the October minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Covid Updates - Rebecca Jones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has been experiencing network issues, which has created a lot of challenges for the Worcester County Health Department (WCHD). Everyone is moving forward to identify and implement working solutions. She would like to give a shoutout to all of the WCHD staff. ● If you're following on the state's website, there is some data missing. ● Locally, the WCHD continues to provide vaccines to the community through the mobile unit, the office and partners like AGH and pharmacy stores. If you want a vaccine or booster, please visit worcesterhealth.org and it will give a list of options. 	

- Vaccine data is broken down by age on the MDH website.
 - For individuals 12 years and up, 75% are fully vaccinated, and 85% have had the first dose.
 - For individuals 18 years and up, 77.1% are fully vaccinated, and 87.3% have had the first dose.
 - For individuals 65 years and up, 84.7% are fully vaccinated, with 95% completing their first dose.
- COVID-19 and annual flu vaccines are being provided to homebound individuals through the adult services program.
- The WCHD continues to offer weekly testing on Wednesdays at the Snow Hill office. Call to schedule an appointment
- Entered in a partnership with libraries to be a point of distribution for at COVID-19 home tests. If you are in need of a test, please call the closest library and make the arrangement for curbside pick up.
 - Are these tests intended for individuals that are symptomatic, or just to have in case? ■ Both. Especially now during the holidays, individuals have the ability to test at home prior to any family gatherings. If someone receives a positive test result, they are encouraged to follow up with their primary care provider for additional assessment and treatment.
 - Are these home tests free, and what information is required to request a test? ■ There is no cost. You only need to provide your name, and arrange a time for pickup.
- If you are in need of a flu vaccine, call the WCHD or partners.
- Remember basic prevention strategies, including washing your hands, covering your mouth and, and stay home if you're sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, or the flu, please see your primary care provider.
 - Reminder for self care. The holidays are a stressful time of year. Please make time for yourself. ● Julie Krenzer - Priority Partners are working within the MDH mandates to offer incentives to members who are unvaccinated. Members can receive a \$100.00 gift card, if they become fully

vaccinated between December 15, 2021 and March 31, 2022. They would go on the Priority Partners portal to receive the gift card.

- Julie will share the flyer to the group.

Tri-County Behavioral Health Engagement (TRIBE) - Tina Simmons

- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Updates - Genet

Burka ● [PowerPoint Presentation Priority 1](#)

- [PowerPoint Presentation Priority 2](#)

- [PowerPoint Presentation Priority 3](#)

- Jennifer LaMade thanked everyone who has participated in the CHIP Workgroups. The workgroup meetings were impacted by the State Network Incident last week and will resume as soon as possible. They will have an opportunity to review the CHIP, and add final comments. It is expected that the CHIP will be published in early 2022.

Prevention Updates

- Cancer Prevention Update - Kelly Shockley

- No new updates at this time.

- Colon Rectal Cancer Program. Uninsured individuals, who are over 45 years old can sign up for screening, or navigation of services. If an uninsured individual, who is 18 years of age or older, is currently experiencing medical problems, they can sign up for navigation and coverage of the cost of screening.

- Tobacco Update - Crystal Bell

- Youth Tobacco Cessation Program continues.

- Offering Adult Cessation classes. Set to begin December 13, 2021. Classes will be in Snow Hill, Pocomoke, the Atlantic Club, and online.

- If you would like more information please email Crystal at

crystal.belli@maryland.gov ● Chronic Disease Update - Crystal Bell

- Diabetes Prevention Program. Offered online and in person. Will be starting with the next cohort on January 25, 2022 at the Ocean Pines library from 10am-11am. If you would like more information please email Crystal.

- o Diabetes Support Group sessions. Offered at the Snow Hill library every 3rd Wednesday of the month and facilitated by Kelly Williams.
- o Worcester Wellness Weigh Program. Online program collaborating with University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to provide coaching to students. Next cohort is set to begin January 10, 2022. If you would like to enroll please email Crystal.
- o Just Walk fun walk.
 - Held a fall glow walk on November 5, 2021 that was successful, in collaboration with the Town of Berlin. There were 101 participants. Looking forward to holding that event again next year.
 - Held the Lower Shore Tri-County Walking Tour that kicked off October 1, 2021. That encouraged citizens in the tri-county area to visit their neighboring parks. There were 108 people registered for that event. Each county offered a raffle for participants.
 - Next walk is scheduled to take place at Assateague State Park on January 1, 2022. A fun walk, hike, and scavenger hunt. Flyer should be out soon.

Partner Updates

- TidalHealth, Kat Rodgers
 - o The Pathways to Health Equity Grant.
 - This grant was established as a result of the State of Maryland recent legislation for health equity resource act. The purpose was to: address specific health disparities; improve health outcomes; improve access to care; reduce total cost of care; and increase primary and secondary prevention services. The proposals were asked to focus on specific conditions, and prioritized population.
 - A proposal was submitted, collaborating with several members of the LHIC including the WCHD, AGH and Building Mosaic Solutions and tri-county partners.
 - When looking at data it was noted that disparities between the black populations and white populations in several specific zip codes were especially concerning regarding hypertension and diabetes. Chose to focus on black adult

populations within Salisbury zip codes 21801 and 21804, Eden, Princess Anne and Snow Hill. ■ The proposal includes the Rural Equity and Access to Community Health (REACH) program. This program will focus on multi level, cross sector	
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interventions that will include: bringing mobile integrated health and social service directly into neighborhoods in a culturally sensitive manner; link residents to primary care for better management of health conditions; expand access to evidence based health education, including national diabetes prevention programs, support groups, hypertension control, and other chronic disease self management; building the community health workforce by training and gaining skills in education partnerships with local non profits.

- The Maryland Healthcare Resources Commission will be meeting in January 2022 to review proposals and expect to receive notification by February if this proposal was approved for funding. The cost of the 2 year pilot is approximately 1.4 million.
- If the proposal is approved, it will also increase the chances of additional five more years of funding, to be designated as a health equity resource community.
 - The Exhale program, an asthma control program that also supports home repairs for low income households, is underway. There have been 20 referrals since launch in the fall. Referrals can be received by emailing exhale@tidalhealth.org and providing name, address, contact information of the individual, and why the referral is being made. A community health worker will complete a home trigger environmental assessment and social determinants of health screening to determine if there are other resources that could be provided.
 - Looking at the HRSA network planning grant that is due January 8, 2022, but unsure if a proposal will be submitted at this time.
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations have gone back up. Mask mandate is on hold because of the stay in the court cases. Continue to provide antibody infusions through the Emergency Department, individuals must have a provider order for that treatment.
 - Experiencing staffing shortages and encouraging self care for staff. Recognizing the importance of mental health care among staff and creating ways to partner and provide more resources.
 - CHNA is underway in partnership with Somerset and Wicomico Health Departments but does include data from Worcester County. Information will be published in early Spring 2022.
 - The Wagner Wellness Van resumed operations back in November. Currently alternating between two (2) Salisbury sites, Hope and Salisbury Urban Ministries,

Ellen: Send flyers to Jackie

Jackie Ward: Send out flyers with follow up email

to provide COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, health screenings and assessments. Might be	
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expanding that if grant funding is received.

- Legal Resource Center - Blair Inniss

- Maryland's legislative session begins January 12, 2022. The legal resource center tracks all public health legislation and holds a bi-month (Zoom) meeting to discuss specific bills of interest and answer questions. Contact Blair for more information at binniss@law.umaryland.edu

- Atlantic General Hospital - Tina Simmons

- COVID-19 vaccinations for the pediatric population. There are several upcoming clinics at the Atlantic Health Center location that include 1st dose, second dose and boosters with Pfizer vaccines for all ages. AGH has been holding on site clinics at the schools, and has held clinics at every elementary and middle school in Worcester County. Assessing continued interest, on whether to hold a second round at the schools, and looking at dates after the new year to schedule additional clinics focused on pediatric populations but available to everyone. If any partners are looking for clinics, please contact Tina at tsimmons@atlanticgeneral.org

Meeting adjourned at 9:46am

Next Tri-County meeting is January 26, 2022 at 9:00am via GoogleMeet

