

**Worcester County Health Department  
Worcester County Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Thursday, February 17, 2022  
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Teresa Tyndall, *Wor-Wic Community College*, Jennifer LaMade, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Jessica Sexauer, *Local Management Board (LMB) & Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)*, Audrey Wahl, *Community Member*, Jackie Ward, *WCHD*, Katherine Rodgers, *TidalHealth*, Brianne Schell, *Legal Resource Center*, Julie Krenzer, *Priority Partners*, Tina Simmons, *Atlantic General Hospital (AGH)*, Bibta Pradhan, *WCHD*, Crystal Bell, *WCHD*, Jaclyn Sturgis, *WCHD*, Mimi Dean, *WCHD*, Lauren Blair, *Coastal Hospice*, Hannah Miller, *Delmarva Public Radio*, Brittany Young, *Maryland Physicians Care*, Crystal Heiser, *Home Instead/Worcester Goes Purple/Chief's Advisory Board for Snow Hill Police Department*, Debra Stevens, *WCHD*, Ellen Willingham, *Priority Partners*, Francisco Vega, *Department of Labor*, Hoai-An Truong, *University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)*, Josh Boston, *Chesapeake Health Care*, Karen Hughes, *Life Crisis Center*, Keirsten DeBoer, *Deer's Head Hospital*, Latoya Jones, *Worcester Youth and Family Counseling*, Ulric Hetsberger, *Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield*, Derek Jarmon, *Worcester County Recreation and Parks*, Nykol Mariano, *Amerigroup*, Amber Green, *Fenix Youth Project*

Minutes by: Jackie Ward

Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome</b> Teresa Tyndall opened the meeting at 8:30am</p>	
<p><b>Minutes</b> Minutes from the December 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Josh Boston made a motion to approve, Kat Rodgers seconded. Minutes were approved.</p>	
<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legal Resource Center, Brianne Schell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Legal Resource Center has a legislative tracker with thematic tabs including tobacco and alcohol, available here <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T6GwTGrzUbEhNNhZbvoqPa3agyLhvT5495yEp5kqO8o/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T6GwTGrzUbEhNNhZbvoqPa3agyLhvT5495yEp5kqO8o/edit?usp=sharing</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Priority Partners, Ellen Willingham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reminder about current re-enrollment period</li> <li>○ One Stop food distribution and vaccination event at Snow Hill Fire Department on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 10am-12pm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Chesapeake Health Care - Josh Boston
  - Opening new Berlin location on February 28th, in the same complex as current location on North Main Street
- Worcester County Health Department - Jennifer LaMade
  - This is Jennifer's last meeting before she retires from state service on April 1, 2022
- TidalHealth, Kat Rodgers
  - Lower Eastern Shore received \$1.2 million in funding for the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) Pathways to Health Equity grant to address disparities in diabetes and hypertension. Implementation plan drafted and will get to work implementing soon. Partners in this grant include Worcester, Wicomico, & Somerset County Health Departments, Building Mosaic Solutions in Pocomoke, Rebirth in Salisbury, Chesapeake HealthCare, Lower Shore Clinic, AGH, YMCA, and libraries.
  - Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report for TidalHealth & Wicomico and Somerset County Health Departments is done and being written. They have chosen 3 priority areas: Access & Health Equity, Chronic Disease & Wellness, and Behavioral Health. The CHNA will be shared once it is complete.
  - Health Fest, which was originally scheduled for the end of March, has been rescheduled to June 18th and will be an outdoor event at the Shorebirds Stadium. More information to come.
  - COVID-19 testing is being provided until the beginning of March Tuesday-Saturday by the National Guard from 10am-6pm in the parking lot between Old Vine St and Waverly with self tests having an approximate 24-48 hour turn around on results. Walk up, no appointment needed.
  - Monoclonal antibody infusions are still available to eligible patients and hospitalizations have declined, but staff shortages are still a problem.
  - Partnering with Somerset and Wicomico County Health Departments to implement their Carefirst grant Food Pharmacy program.
  - The EXHALE program can still take referrals for home repairs for home owners who are low income and have someone in the household who have an obtrusive lung disease such as asthma or COPD. Contact [exhale@tidalhealth.org](mailto:exhale@tidalhealth.org) if interested/have a referral.
- Atlantic General Hospital - Tina Simmons
  - COVID-19 vaccinations continue, have had good turnout at Worcester County Public Schools, there are also community clinics and RediScripts Pharmacy. Still also

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ providing monoclonal antibody infusions.</li> <li>○ TRIBE (Tri-County Integrated Behavioral Health Engagement) opened January 31st and has served 22 patients to date with a 50/50 split of adults and children (ages 5-17 years old).</li> <li>● Worcester County Recreation &amp; Parks - Derek Jarmon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noted that Health Fair information will be coming out in the near future.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>COVID-19 Updates - Debra Stevens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● State's short state of emergency ended February 3, 2022.</li> <li>● Data presented is from yesterday - 2/16/2022</li> <li>● Worcester County's confirmed cases (i.e. PCR positive) are 8,525 and 4,780 reported probable cases (i.e. antigen positive). Home tests are also antigen tests, but are only reported if people report their test result to the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NOTE: Maryland Department of Health (MDH) did a historical information dump of re-infections which added 199 cases to the count yesterday, but in reality there were only 7 new confirmed cases the day before. MDH put out press release about this.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Worcester County vs. State numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Positivity rate: 8.02% vs. 3.5%</li> <li>○ Case rate: 13.94 vs. 11.92</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Overall cases are trending down and there is an approximate 18 cases (PCR and antigen) per day on average over the last 2 weeks. Statewide more cases are being interviewed (64%), which is a large improvement from the low of 8% during the winter surge a few weeks ago. School students and high risk populations were prioritized during that surge for interviews.</li> <li>● 151 deaths (1 probable)</li> <li>● Vaccination has helped reduce deaths and almost half of those who have died since vaccine was available to them were not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>● WCHD COVID-19 vaccination clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Berlin: first and third Mondays</li> <li>○ Pocomoke: second and fourth Mondays</li> <li>○ Ocean City (OC) Convention Center with OC Fire Department: second and fourth Wednesdays</li> <li>○ Snow Hill: all day Thursdays</li> </ul> </li> <li>● WCHD clinics will reduce in March due to reduced demand and widespread community availability of COVID-19 vaccines, but will still have clinics spread throughout the County.</li> </ul>	

- Current WCHD testing is Tuesdays in Pocomoke and Wednesdays in OC. Testing demand has also decreased so in March testing will be on Wednesdays in Snow Hill.
- Vaccine data is broken down by age on the MDH website.
  - For individuals 12 years and up, 77.4% are fully vaccinated, and 88.8% have had the first dose. 57% boosted.
  - For individuals 5-11 years, 24% have had the first dose, and 19% fully vaccinated.
- Pfizer has submitted data to FDA for 6 months to 4 years old, but FDA is waiting to review until they have more data (expect more data/review possibly in April). WCHD has pre-ordered vaccine and is ready to ramp up whenever approved, but won't get more vaccine until this is approved.
- Tracking of long term care facilities 3 in Worcester County (1 didn't report last week - Pocomoke). Residents vaccinated percentage:
  - Berlin nursing home 91%
  - Snow Hill nursing home 90%
  - Note staff vaccination percentages are lower and if staff are unvaccinated they get tested 2 times per week
- Contact and case investigations continue. National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the National Association of Epidemiologists put out a position paper on January 24, 2022 noting that individual case investigations and contact tracing is not the best approach at this time and the focus should be on high risk facilities and outbreaks. MDH hasn't made any changes to protocols at the moment and this is p
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mask guidance updated expected as early as next week.
- Gov. Hogan encouraging Board of Education to revisit mask requirements and on February 22nd the state board of education will meet about a pathway to ending masks. Reviewing their plan.
- Home test kits are received from the state about every 2 weeks (amount and frequency fluctuates) and then we distribute them to the libraries and post on social media about distributions. There are also test kits available at stores and through your health insurance (up to 8 test kits - check with insurance provider for details).
  - Julie Krenzer added that Priority Partners members (Medicaid) can go to pharmacies to obtain free home test kits through the pharmacy benefit.

- Ellen Willingham added that Priority Partners members can get tested for free at local pharmacies. To learn about a test site near by, please call or visit your primary care doctor – or contact Priority Partners customer service at 1-800-654-9728, option 4, for assistance. It is best to schedule a test, but members can also have a walk-in test. Members must bring Priority Partners member ID card.
- Ellen also provided information on vaccine promotion: Get the COVID-19 Vaccine, Get a \$100 Gift Card PRIORITY PARTNERS MEMBERS CAN RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CARD WHEN THEY RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE. How It Works To receive the gift card, you must: Be a Priority Partner member Become fully vaccinated between Dec. 15, 2021 and March 31, 2022. “Fully vaccinated” means one dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines. Fill out and submit the request form on the PPMCO website.
- If you test positive with a home test kit please report it. And an anecdotal note, there was one day where there were 6 home tests reported, which was ~20% of the case volume that day.
- KN95 masks are also available throughout the community. They are available at 4 health department sites throughout the County (Snow Hill, Berlin, Pocomoke, and WACS [Worcester Addiction Cooperative Services] Center) and masks have also been distributed to the Center on Aging and the libraries.

**Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) - Physical Inactivity & Obesity**

*Carefirst Grant - Mimi Dean*

- Received \$100,000 Carefirst grant to address root causes of diabetes in Worcester County
- Activities are designed to address primary drivers of type II diabetes. Activities and related initiatives include things like community gardens, health & financial literacy, grocery store tours, physical activity, child care provider trainings, cooking classes, job skills trainings and expanding access to the National Diabetes Prevention Program.
- Variety of partners working on all of these activities and focuses on the Snow Hill, Berlin, and Pocomoke communities.
- Will work with community partners to distribute food from the community gardens and to establish new walking routes in their communities.

Jackie Ward to send out slides after meeting

- Child care providers will receive kits to encourage physical activity, healthy eating, and how to reduce stress and engage in healthy coping skills.
- Stipends will be available to parents for additional job skills training at Wor-Wic Community College (9 \$1,000 stipends).
- University of Maryland Extension will help with teaching financial literacy and master gardener trainings.
- Libraries will have links to the diabetes risk tests on their computer and will be distribution sites for food.
- Wor-Wic is helping create an online class for child care providers about healthy eating, physical activity, stress management and coping skills.
- Alternatives and different ways to be healthy will be advocated for and shared with the community (e.g. community garden vs container gardening, maximizing food budget, linking people with a variety of related opportunities).

**Partner Promo - Delmarva Public Radio - Hannah Miller**

- 3 stations - 1 at UMES (mostly jazz and NPR news), 2 at Salisbury University (1 classical music and 1 americana, BBC news and other programming) - that reach all the beach communities from Bay Bridge to Eastern Shore Virginia
- Noted you can reach a lot of commuters who may tune in while driving
- You can post public events for nonprofits on the calendar on DelmarvaPublicMedia.org
- Can be a bit more flexible with public health messaging and Delmarva Public Radio can help write scripts and get message out to the community
- Main message - Delmarva Public Radio is here to help get messages out there
- If you would like to partner or want specific information, please contact Hannah Miller at [hmmiller@salisbury.edu](mailto:hmmiller@salisbury.edu) or 443-783-4271 and you can visit DelmarvaPublicMedia.org for more information as well.

**Prevention Updates**

- Cancer Prevention Update - Mimi Dean
  - Colorectal 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. Call 410-632-1100 x 1103 for more information.

Jackie Ward to send out slides after meeting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colorectal cancer awareness month is March so more information and interactive experiences are coming up like wearing blue and posting pictures and a new video will be posted online and shown at the MVA like other educational videos.</li> <li>● Tobacco Update - Crystal Bell       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tobacco enforcement continues with 50 educational checks conducted; only 2 establishments out of 31 did not pass Sheriff's Office compliance checks and need to be re-educated.</li> <li>○ Youth cessation classes from 3-4pm in Berlin starting today, 2/17/2022. Adult Cessation classes will be in Snow Hill, Pocomoke, the Atlantic Club, and online.</li> <li>○ Collaborative efforts with the board of education to do a Tri-County Anti-Vape Tobacco campaign on April 1st in observance of take down tobacco day and campaign will use local youth to share why they choose not to vape/not use tobacco.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chronic Disease Update - Crystal Bell       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MDH Quality Improvement Grant - WCHD, AGH and Chesapeake Health Care - working on increasing referrals into Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and AGH's diabetes self management and education programs and work to enhance EHR utilization to identify and link patients with chronic conditions to appropriate services.</li> <li>○ Aired diabetes education and self management educational campaign Nov. 21, 2021- Jan. 30, 2022 through Effectv/Comcast.</li> <li>○ Hunger Vital Signs (2 questions to assess food insecurity) will be piloted in prevention intake forms and if people answer yes to either or both questions they will be provided information and services that could be helpful in addressing food insecurity.</li> <li>○ New Worcester Wellness Weigh class starting May 7th (re: child and adult obesity).</li> <li>○ New DPP class starting February 28th (re: prevent or delay onset of type II diabetes).</li> <li>○ For heart health month, WCHD collaborated with AGH to put out messaging February 1st-4th and February 19th-20th fun walk scavenger hunt with kindness stones are planned. AGH virtual walk with a doc on the 19th, can be accessed through their FaceBook page.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Additional updates - Jennifer LaMade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No public health conference this year (in person or virtual), but we will still be awarding the Debbie Goeller Excellence in Public Health Award. Nomination packet will be out soon. A</li> </ul>	<p>Jackie Ward will share nomination packet</p>
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<p>year in review video to celebrate the past year’s accomplishments in public health will be released during public health week in April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to everyone who has helped with our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP will be released soon with the priorities of Mental Health, Adolescent Substance Use, and Physical Inactivity &amp; Obesity with Health Equity being considered throughout all priorities.</li> </ul>	
<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:36am</p> <p>Next Tri-County meeting is May 25, 2022 at 9:00am via Zoom</p> <p>Next Worcester County LHIC meeting is June 16, 2022 at 8:30am via Zoom</p>	