

**Worcester County Health Department
Worcester County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Thursday, June 16, 2022
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Teresa Tyndall*, *Wor Wic Community College*, Keirsten DeBoer, *Deer’s Head*, Josh Davis, *Ocean Pines Association, Inc.*, Lisa Shockley, *Local Management Board (LMB)*, Jackie Ward, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Katherine Rodgers, *TidalHealth*, Julie Krenzer, *Priority Partners*, Tina Simmons, *Atlantic General Hospital (AGH)*, Crystal Bell, *WCHD*, Jaclyn Sturgis, *WCHD*, Lauren Blair, *Coastal Hospice*, Hannah Miller, *Delmarva Public Media*, Tamara Mills, *Worcester County Public Schools*, Matthew Heim, *Delmarva Public Media*, Jessica Sexauer, *LMB/ Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)*, Mark Simulis, *Chesapeake Healthcare*, Lynn Suarezapecheche, *WCHD*, Karen Hughes, *Life Crisis Center*, Debra Stevens, *WCHD*, Jennifer Mahoney, *Go-Getters*, Kim Justice, *AGH*, Lotoya Jones, *Worcester Navigation*, Mary Beth Waide, *Deer’s Head*, Tara Wampler, *Aetna Better Health of MD*, Derek Jarmon, *Worcester County Recreation and Parks*, Nykol Mariano, *Amerigroup*, Amber Green, *Fenix Youth Project*, Dr. Jacques Conaway, *TidalHealth*

*Chair

Minutes by: Lisa Shockley

Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Jackie Ward opened the meeting at 8:33am with announcements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teresa Tyndal announced her retirement as of August 1, 2022, and advised that she will be stepping down as Chair of the Local Health Improvement Coalition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The leadership position will need to be filled, and Teresa encouraged members to volunteer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nominations will be discussed at the next LHIC meeting. 	
<p>Introductions/Partner Updates-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WCHD, Jaclyn Sturgis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are several upcoming training sessions, and flyers will be sent out via email. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adult Mental Health First Aid, virtual, August 11th 9:00am to 4:00pm with 2-hour pre-course work. ■ Senior Mental Health First Aid (to assist those over 65 years of age), in person, September 27th, 8:30am-5:00pm at Snow Hill Health Center 	

- WCHD, Debra Stevens
 - COVID-19 update
 - Hospitalizations remain low
 - Community transmission continues, but numbers remain low.
 - COVID vaccines and boosters are available.
 - Prepared to distribute vaccines for individuals six (6) months and over, expecting the vaccines late June/early July.
 - All clinics are listed on www.worcesterhealth.org
- LMB/LBHA, Jessica Sexauer
 - The LBHA currently has a Request for Proposal (RFP) to bring an Adolescent Clubhouse to Worcester County. This will help with the established goal, to reduce youth experimenting with substance use.
 - The LBHA will be funding a Teen Intervene project that just completed the RFP process, and will be moving forward with contracting the services with Community Behavioral Health.
 - Preparing FY23 contracts for all LBHA programs.
 - The State of Maryland has a Strategic Data Initiative where they are looking closely at data sharing to ensure that there is proper software and other technology in place whenever there is electronic data sharing. The LBHA is reviewing that information to determine steps that will need to be taken locally.
 - Working to update the Tri County Behavioral Health resource guides. If any providers are interested in receiving resource guides please let Jessica know.
 - Will be receiving resource guides in Spanish and Haitian Creole and possibly Korean.
 - Has there been any discussion regarding highlighting agencies that have therapists who are black, or a person of color, as well as therapists who are LGBTQ+ friendly/aware.
 - Not at this time, but will take those recommendations back to the group.
- Priority Partners, Julie Krenzer
 - In a few weeks, all diabetic members will be sent a home A1C kit that they can use and return through a vendor BioIQ and the results are shared with their primary care providers.
- Life Crisis, Karen Hughes
 - 9-8-8, suicide and crisis lifeline, is due to start July 16th

- Received approval to be the CASA regional office on the lower shore.
- TidalHealth, Kat Rodgers
 - Held TidalHealth's Healthfest in partnership with MAC's 50th anniversary celebration last weekend, and it was successful. Over 500 people attended the event. Over 100 people were identified as at risk and will be providing more information to those identified so they can follow up with their primary care physicians.
 - The tri-county collaborative REACH grant for the pathways to health equity program under the Community Health Resources Commission is underway. The grant period launched May 1st and is a two (2) year pilot aiming to set up a foundation so that the designated area can work towards becoming a designated health equity resource community.
 - The local partners are taking a focused approach to reducing and preventing diabetes and hypertension among the black and african american communities.
 - The EXHALE program is wrapping up the first round of funding and has been successful. This program provides home repairs directly to patients who have someone in the household with obstructive lung disease. Have been able to allocate over \$100,000.00 worth of home repairs.
 - The hospital will be seeking additional rounds of funding and will receive notification soon.
 - Seeing a slight uptick in COVID related hospitalizations.
 - Continuing to experience staffing shortages.
 - Preparing to open a primary care residency program in Salisbury. Also, working to build a separate clinic site in an underserved area in Salisbury, and working to offer wrap around services.
- LBHA, Karen Waggoner
 - The LBHA currently has a Request for Proposal (RFP) to bring an Adolescent Clubhouse to Worcester County. This will be an after school program for 12-17 year olds, who are at risk for using substances, or who are in recovery from substance use. The proposals are due June 27th.
- AGH, Kim Justice
 - The ER is busy as expected during the summer months.
 - New CEO and President Don Owrey is on board and will be inviting him to future meetings.

- LMB, Lisa Shockley
 - LMB is working on finalizing the Community Partnership Agreement for FY23 ■ Continuing the previous programs: Building Bridges to Stable Families, Worcester Connects and Worcester Navigation.
 - Will be sending out a Request for Proposal for a new program, Bounce Back.

This will be an after school program for elementary aged children, targeting youth that have been identified as experienced trauma and working to build resilience.
 - Planning the Ocean City Out of the Darkness Walk, held in person October 1st on the Boardwalk. An Evening of Reflection will be held the Friday night prior to the walk on September 30th.
 - Contact Lisa for additional information on either events: Lisa.shockey1@maryland.gov
- Coastal Hospice, Lauren Blair
 - Webinar to be held on June 30th regarding Alzheimers and brain awareness month. Alvin Harmon will be presenting on the long goodbye. [Flyer](#)
- Worcester County Public Schools, Tamara Mills
 - Moving forward with the Pocomoke High School Health Center partnering with Chesapeake Healthcare.
 - Schools health plans are associated with the three (3) focus areas of the CHIP plan: Physical inactivity, youth substance use, and mental health
 - The boys and girls club kicked off in April and will be reporting progress soon.
 - Should be receiving school health index data from the State. The website will be updating information so that the community can view the results on staff and student wellness.
 - Held 8 field days.
 - Held one (1) health fair this year, with three (3) health fairs planned for next year.
 - Most schools are incorporating social emotional wellness into the summer programs as well as health and wellness physical activity.
 - Wrote a possible art therapy initiative into the LEAD grant. Some of the art teachers could work to receive a certification for art therapy, and can hold an art therapy camp during the summer for students in the behavioral health services and their families.

- Trying to finalize the health textbook approval.
- Revised the 5th and 6th grade family life curriculum, as well as the high school curriculum. Will be working on finalizing the 7th and 8th grade.
- For home and hospital students, it was found that they weren't always receiving the PE and health component. This summer some teachers will be working on weekly or monthly components to use in the upcoming year. PE is a no waiver content area and must be offered.
- Aetna Better Health of Maryland, Tara Wampler
 - Will be having a home health program where someone will go into the home to provide a wellcheck. Will share information soon.
- AGH, Tina Simmons
 - The Behavioral Health Crisis Center is going well, and has seen approximately 300 patients. See a high volume of pediatric and medicaid patients.
 - Launched a social determinants screening tool as a pilot in the behavioral health crisis center. It will be used to gather additional information regarding barriers, and needs, that aren't normally captured in patient assessments.
 - As of May 23rd, the center has a full time Nurse Practitioner onsite, with LCSW and nursing team and provides more access to patients
 - Will be participating on June 25th at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.
- Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Derek Jarmon
 - Starting Camp Coast next week, and there are a few spots available. Information can be found on the website.
- Fenix Youth Project, Amber Green
 - Seeing a huge increase in minors who are homeless, and an increase in 17-24 year olds who have been kicked out after graduation.
 - Working with Somerset Health Department, and have applied for funding with the Homeless Solutions program to support a youth shelter.
 - Drop in center has seen an increase in referrals, and the agency is requesting to partner with community agencies to connect the youth to resources.
 - Please send referrals to Fenix Youth for individuals 14-24 years old who are experiencing housing instability. They can be alone or part of a family.

Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities - Adolescent Substance Use
Adolescent Clubhouse and Teen Intervene - Jessica Sexauer

- If anyone has any questions please reach out to Jessica Sexauer or Karen Waggoner.
 - jessica.sexauer@maryland.gov
 - karen.waggoner@maryland.gov

Tobacco mini-grant presentations

[African American Pride Magazine](#) – Crystal Bell on behalf of Joe Morse

Joy Events LLC– Crystal Bell on behalf of Joy Jangdhari

- Joy Events received funding in the amount of \$2,000.00, as a part of CRF grant. Activities focused on the enforcement education, to assist the WCHD educate forty (40) tobacco retailers regarding compliance laws, in order to support tobacco compliance as it relates to youth access.
- Successfully educated 40 retailers in the Berlin and Ocean City area.
- Provided with signage and additional resources.

[Delmarva Public Radio](#) – Matt Heim

Prevention Awards

Tobacco Mini-Grantees Appreciation Awards – Crystal Bell

- Certificates of Appreciation presented to all tobacco mini grant recipients:
 - Delmarva Public Radio
 - African American Pride Magazine
 - Joy Events LLC
- Awards will be mailed to each organization.

Prevention Partner of the Year Award – Lynn Suarezapecheche

Tamara Mills at Worcester County Public Schools - In recognition of all of the work that Tamara does to prevent teen pregnancy, and alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth in Worcester County.

Prevention Updates

Cancer Prevention Update

- Colorectal Cancer Program.
 - Uninsured individuals, who are 45 years or older 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.
 - Rack cards are available if organizations are in need of them.

Tobacco Update

- New adult tobacco cessation classes begin July 12th.
 - Classes will be offered in Snow Hill, Berlin, Pocomoke, Atlantic Club, and through Distance Learning.
 - Youth cessation classes continue to be offered throughout the county.
 - Both adult and youth cessation will remain to be a focus in FY23 based on the Community Health Needs Assessment and current state data.
- New FY23 funding is being made available through the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). In 2021, legislation passed (via veto override) to increase the Maryland taxes on tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices (ESDs). The legislation requires a portion of the resulting tax revenue be directed to the Maryland Tobacco Control Program.
 - In FY 2023, an additional \$9.6M in general funds were added to the existing state budget. With these new dollars, \$3.5M has been allocated to local health departments (LHDs). The goal of this initiative is to advance health equity by identifying and eliminating tobacco, diabetes, and chronic disease related inequities and disparities. This grant initiative will provide LHDs with increased capacity to integrate tobacco, diabetes, and chronic disease activities, while also incorporating youth engagement and community partnership strategies. These new funds will enhance existing tobacco control, diabetes, and chronic disease programs to support systems change as well as community projects.
- FY23 Tobacco Enforcement grant application was submitted on June 15th. This will provide additional funding to support county efforts. Vape shops have now been added to grant performance measures. WCHD will be partnering with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). WCSO is in process of completing FY22 compliance checks and WCHD is in process of completing education checks as the fiscal year closes.

Chronic disease updates

- A new Eat Healthy. Eat Local. Live Well resource guide has been developed and is in the process of being printed. This guide addresses food insecurity and educates residents about healthy eating, proper portion control, how to read food labels, food budgeting, SNAP benefits, grocery shopping on a budget, Worcester Wellness Weigh, local food pantries, local farmers markets, and community gardens. [Flyer](#)
- The WCHD received funding from Care Blue Cross Blue Shield to implement the [Farm to Library Project](#). Funding was received in the amount of \$100,000 to address the key drivers of type 2 diabetes through community gardening, grocery store tours, health literacy, financial literacy, physical activity, child care provider training, job skills training, cooking classes, and expanded access to the National Diabetes Prevention Program. The Farm to Library Project was also highlighted at the Eastern Shore Community Foundation Summit on June 10, 2022. The project earned free media coverage and was highlighted on WMDT's the Brightside on June 14, 2022. As a way to address physical inactivity/obesity in the county in addition to other chronic conditions such as Type II Diabetes a variety of wellness programs continue to be offered such as Worcester Wellness Weigh, Diabetes Prevention, and Diabetes Support Group, and the Just Walk Program. A flyer will be sent out with more information about these programs.
- Pocomoke Library has implemented a new [Seed Library](#). This is part of the Farm to Library initiative, the Seed Library is a fun, and free, way to try planting your very own. Each seed packet will include very basic information about the plant and planting instructions.

Adjournment

Crystal Bell made a motion to adjourn. Tamara Mills seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58am

Next LHIC meeting is Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:30 a.m. via Zoom