

**Worcester County Health Department  
 Worcester County Local Health Improvement Coalition  
 Thursday, August 18, 2022  
 Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: 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*, Lauren Blair, *Coastal Hospice*, Jessica Sexauer, *LMB/Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)*, Karen Hughes, *Life Crisis Center*, Jennifer Mahoney, *Go-Getters*, Kim Justice, *AGH*, Mary Beth Waide, *Deer’s Head*, Nykol Mariano, *Amerigroup*, Amber Green, *Fenix Youth Project*, Kelly Shockley, *WCHD*, Blair Inniss, *Legal Resource Center*, Crystal Heiser, *Home Instead*, Melissa Huber, *Perry Point VA Medical Center*, Melissa Kelly, *CareFirst*, Ashley Clark, *Eastern Shore Health Education Center*, Ron Fisher, *Community Member*, Brittany Young, *Maryland Physicians Care*, Sara Seitz, *State Office of Rural Health*, Dr. Darlene Jackson-Bowen, *Building Mosaic Solutions*, Lillian Wilkinson, *Department of Social Services*

\*Chair

Minutes by: Lisa Shockley

Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome</b>            Jackie Ward opened the meeting at 8:31am.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approval of the minutes from June 16, 2022.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Josh Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Darlene Jackson-Bowen and Crystal Heiser seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Introductions/Partner Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building Mosaic Solutions, Dr. Darlene Jackson-Bowen               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On Saturday September 3rd they will be holding a Back to School Movie Night at Dr. William Henry Park at 125 Flower St., Berlin Md. from 7:30pm to 9:30pm</li> <li>○ In partnership with Tidal Health, (REACH sub-grantees) will be conducting diabetes self management peer training classes at the Pocomoke Library on Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:30pm as well as virtual classes, beginning August 24th from 6:30pm-8:30pm.</li> <li>○ Coalition meetings, every 4th Thursday at 5:00pm. Looking to partner for Substance Use prevention in youth and young adults, and for health disparities work associated with diabetes, hypertension, and increasing vaccines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Worcester County Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA), Jessica Sexauer               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Excited to announce that the LBHA received two (2) applications for Adolescent Clubhouse</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Request for Proposal (RFP). The applications, along with the recommendation to move forward with one of the vendors, was presented to the Worcester County Commissioners, and the program will be implemented by Minary's Dream Alliance. This organization is currently operating two (2) adolescent clubhouses in the Mid-Shore area, and will be working in the Snow Hill area to implement the clubhouse in Worcester County.

- The LBHA has a new program, Teen Intervene, that is being implemented by Community Behavioral Health. This is a screening intervention for adolescents with mild to moderate substance use or gambling disorders.
  - The Administrator for Teen Intervene at Community Behavioral Health is Shyam Bhayani. He can be reached at [sbhayani@communitybehavioralhealth.net](mailto:sbhayani@communitybehavioralhealth.net)
  - Any questions, contact Jessica at [jessica.sexauer@maryland.gov](mailto:jessica.sexauer@maryland.gov).
- Continue moving forward with peer support both within the WCHD, and community providers, one of which has an opioid treatment program, and another has a crisis center. There is active recruitment with all agencies in terms of peer support.
- Continuing to check in with providers to determine needs, most of which is staffing needs at this time.
- Life Crisis, Karen Hughes
  - 9-8-8 has started, and there will be a text to chat as well as calls.
  - CASA is up and running, and is now the lower shore regional office and will be sworn in, in September.
  - October is domestic violence awareness month, and there will be community activities all month long.
    - All libraries will have a display about domestic violence and offer information.
  - Looking at additional tabling events including Third Friday in Salisbury and more.
- TidalHealth, Kat Rodgers
  - The tri-county collaborative REACH grant for the pathways to health equity program under the Community Health Resources Commission is underway. This grant is funded by the Community Resources Commission 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.
    - Focused on five (5) different zip codes that were prioritized because of significant health disparities with hypertension and diabetes within the black adult populations. Working to reduce disparities by expanding access to healthcare workers, and expanding community access to evidence based self management and prevention services.

- Worcester County zip codes include Pocomoke and Snow Hill.
  - At Tidal Health, Rochelle Tyler is the grant program coordinator, and they are running weekly reports on individuals that have been hospitalized at TidalHealth for diabetes or hypertension. The community wellness nursing team is reviewing those reports to determine if those individuals are at high risk for readmission and assigning community health workers for assessment.
    - After entering the program, planning on sending pharmacists out into the home to expand resources within the home.
    - In mid-October there will also be a nurse practitioner certified in diabetes education on board as well to complete home visits.
  - Have completed Community Needs Assessment with the partnership of the Wicomico and Somerset Health Departments, and it is published on TidalHealth's website.
    - Working on the Community Health Improvement Implementation plan based on the assessment.
    - Currently have a data dashboard on the website, and are working on building a regional community health platform to make data available.
  - Partnered with the United Way of the Eastern Shore on an initiative called Smart Start. Received funding from CareFirst to provide car seats to new moms, regardless of income to reduce stigma, and is available to anyone who would like one.
    - Also partnered with the United Way to bring Imagination Library. They have added consent to be added into program electronic medical records so every new mom can consent to be a part of the imagination library.
  - Had two (2) registered dieticians offering medical nutrition therapy, but one has left. Going through referrals, and if the appointment is too far out and another entity can better meet the need, they will inform the patient about other agency programs to possibly transfer there.
- Coastal Hospice, Lauren Blair
  - Upcoming event on Sept 21st 6:00-9:00pm, Blues on the Bay. The event is held at Mackys in Ocean City. Blues music, and all you can eat and drink.
- Worcester County Local Management Board (LMB), Lisa Shockley
  - For FY23 the LMB will be continuing three (3) existing programs:
    - Building Bridges to Stable Families for parents who are incarcerated, or facing incarceration, and their children in the community. This program connects them to parenting classes, and various community resources including but not limited to food pantries, youth programs to build resiliency, mental health services and

<p>more, to support the families needs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Worcester Connects, a mentoring program that targets youth who have been identified as truant, associated with bullying or being bullied, or at risk for truancy and bullying, and pairs the youth with an adult mentor;</li> <li>■ and Worcester Navigation, pairing families who are living in poverty with a resource navigator to improve access and understanding to community resources.</li> <li>■ Contact Lisa for more information at <a href="mailto:lisa.shockley1@maryland.gov">lisa.shockley1@maryland.gov</a></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The LMB is seeking proposals to implement the Bounce Back program. This will be an after school program targeting elementary age children between K-5th grade in Worcester County. This is a CBITS (Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools) adaptation, hoping to screen young children for trauma or markers, and connect them to this after school program to build resilience.</li> <li>○ Planning the 2022 Ocean City Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday October 1st on the Boardwalk and Caroline Street, registration begins at 9:00am, with activities beginning at 10:00am. The Walk benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Evening of Reflection will be held Friday September 30th at the Public Landing Pier at 6:30pm.</li> <li>■ Inviting and encouraging all community agencies to register and join the Walk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perry Point VA Medical Center, Melissa Huber <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Melissa is the Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator for Suicide Prevention. They have started a coalition to address suicide prevention for the veterans, military and their families, focused on farmers and waterman in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To join the coalition contact Melissa at <a href="mailto:Melissa.Huber2@va.gov">Melissa.Huber2@va.gov</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Department of Social Services (DSS), Lil Wilkinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ERAP funding is winding down, but DSS will continue to take applications until August 31st.</li> <li>○ If there is a general need for any resources, please contact Justin Taylor at (410)677- 6906</li> </ul> </li> <li>● State Department of Rural Health, Sara Seitz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Worcester County is now federally designated as rural, and will potentially open up some funding opportunities.</li> <li>○ Offer technical assistance to non-profit and public health entities, to help connect to data and resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Atlantic General Hospital, Tina Simmons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This Saturday at 9:00am is the Walk with a Doc at Whitehorse Park with Dr. Hooker, orthopedic surgeon, who will be doing a brief informational talk.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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- Thursday August 25th from 8:00am-12:00pm there will be a virtual autism awareness conference with six speakers. Will share flyers.
- Friday August 26th there will be a COVID vaccine clinic from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Barrett building for all ages.
- Several upcoming flu clinics on sites for the school and finalizing community clinics.
- The Behavioral Health Crisis Center is open and things are going well. There have been 455 visits, and the clinic is almost fully staffed.
- Amerigroup, Nykol Mariano
  - Have some back to school backpacks, stuffed with miscellaneous school supplies. Please email Nykol for more information at nykol.mariano@anthem.com
  - Have some community sponsorships available.
- Fenix Youth Project, Amber Green
  - Fenix Youth Project operates a drop in center in Wicomico County and provides homeless youth services to the entire lower shore.
  - Will be opening a new drop in center location September 1st in moving from Florida Avenue to downtown Salisbury. Recently suffered a small fire in one of the units, and that suspended overnight drop in services, where street homeless youth who couldn't get into shelters, could come overnight to play video games, sleep etc.
  - Recently awarded the HSP funding from Somerset Health Department for the Homeless Solutions program and will allow them to move forward opening a youth shelter. It will be the first youth shelter on the shore and will be a 12 bed facility.
  - This Saturday is the annual fundraiser, The Sneaker Ball. It will take place at the Salisbury University art gallery. Tickets are \$25.00, contact Amber for more details. There will be a raffle, for \$25.00, for a luxury trip.
    - Visit the website for additional information.

**Nominations for LHIC Chair**

- Previous Chair, Teresa Tyndall, has retired.
- Jessica Sexauer suggested sending out a nomination request to be completed by September 19th, and then send out a google form for voting.

**Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities – Update on Workgroups - Jackie Ward**

- Thank you to everyone who has worked hard last year through identification of the community plan priorities, and setting up the workgroups.
  - Just wrapped up the first year and annual reporting will be conducted now. All group leads will be providing updates by August 31st.

- Tina Simmons and Eric Gray are leads for the mental health priority area.
- Jessica Sexauer, Dr. Darlene Jackson-Bowen, and Lynn Suarezapecheche are leads for adolescent substance use priority.
- Crystal Bell and Crystal Heiser are the leads for physical inactivity and obesity priority.

### **Prevention Updates**

#### **Cancer Prevention Update - Kelly Shockley**

- If you have clients that are 45 years or older, that are uninsured, under insured, or need assistance with navigating services, please have them contact Kelly for screening opportunities.
  - 410-632-1100 ext. 1103 or Kelly.shockley1@maryland.gov
- Prevention exceeded their CPEST Colorectal Cancer Performance Measures for FY22 with twelve (12) colonoscopies completed, their Performance Measure (PM) was eleven (11). They also exceeded their PM of fifty five (55) for public outreach and targeted outreach activities for CPEST. They completed seventy three (73) public education and targeted outreach activities.

#### **Tobacco Update - Crystal Bell**

- The Adult Cessation class will be held July 12 - October 6, and the Youth Cessation class will be held August 8-October 27.
- There was an RFP released on July 14 th requesting mini-grant proposals from community-based organizations, churches, or other interested organizations.
  - Proposals were due in to the Worcester County Health Department, Prevention Services on August 15, 2022. No applications were received.
- Additional tobacco, diabetes, and chronic disease grant funding is available to LHDs to advance health equity by identifying and eliminating tobacco, diabetes, and other chronic diseases related to inequities and disparities. The tobacco component of the grant will focus on enhancing local tobacco control programs to conduct community-based, as well as school-based and youth focused programs that educate and empower youth and adults about tobacco and nicotine products. The chronic disease component will focus on the expansion and promotion of the diabetes prevention program as a way to help residents reduce the onset of type 2 diabetes.
  - Applications are due on September 1, 2022.

#### **Chronic disease updates - Crystal Bell**

- As a part of a new project, Farm to Library, Prevention is working on a project in collaboration with a variety of community partners (Judy Center, Head Start, Eastern Shore Regional Childcare

<p>Resource Center, Worcester County Public Library, University of Maryland Extension, Wor-Wic, AGH Garden of Hope, and Homes at Berlin) to address food insecurity, physical activity, diabetes prevention amongst Worcester County residents. A new Food insecurity resource guide titled, “Eat Healthy, Eat Local, Live well has been created.” QR codes and videos are embedded as a way for users to easily access educational information. The guides contain content about healthy eating, proper nutrition, WWW, food budgeting, local pantries, community gardens, local farmers market, and shopping on a budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WCHD is partnering with TidalHealth in the Reach Grant.</li> <li>• Two (2) health and wellness events were hosted July 13 (Snow Hill Library) July 20 (Pocomoke) Health screenings were conducted (Futrex, Weight, BMI, blood pressure).</li> <li>• A community survey has been created to help identify ways we can help residents in the community be physically active and eat healthy. Laundry bags are being given for those that complete. Laundry bags with detergent are also being distributed throughout the county at community events and to community organizations.</li> <li>• We have some funding available for parents/guardians of low income youth who reside in Snow Hill, Berlin, or Pocomoke communities as part of our Farm to Library project. There are Job Skills Training Scholarships available through Wor-Wic (Accounting Fundamentals, Introduction to QuickBooks 2019, Computer Skills for the Workplace, Introduction to Microsoft Word 2019/Office 365, Introduction to Microsoft Word 2013, and 12 Steps to a Successful Job Search). There are twenty five (25) scholarships left for those that wish to apply.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just Walk Fun Walk Committee 2022-23 is in the process of finalizing the Fun Walk Schedule.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b> Tina Simmons made a motion to adjourn. Ashley Clark seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38am</p> <p><b>Next LHIC meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2022 8:30 a.m. via Zoom</b></p>	