



Baltimore County Department of Health Local Health Improvement Coalition Minutes June 1, 2022

The meeting of the Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) of Baltimore County was held June 01, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Webex.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/ATTENDEES:

Della Leister reviewed the agenda, welcomed attendees and introductions were made in the Chat. There were several new attendees.

OBESITY DATA PRESENTATION

A review of obesity data from several sources, compiled by Maisha Toussaint, Epidemiologist in the Office of Quality Improvement, was reviewed with the group. The data analysis evidenced physical activity and access to healthy foods as strengths in Baltimore County, and described disparities in different racial groups for Maryland. The data did not include details about types of exercise and duration, and only one serving of fruits and vegetables was the most frequent response.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) REPORT

Laura Culbertson reviewed the first data collection instrument from the new CHIP. The partners, or anyone else collecting data in the areas of chronic disease, access to insurance, and behavioral health resources were asked to send information to Laura. A report and next action steps will be written for the next fiscal year.

HOSPITAL REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

GBMC created a PowerPoint report to summarize the implementation plans of the hospital systems working together on similar goals. The hospital systems overlap with the CHIP in access to insurance, referrals to resources, and pre-diabetes initiatives and chronic care referrals. The other implementation plans such as walking trails and activities with legal services were also shared. Other hospital partners shared initiatives as well. LifeBridge is reviving its community outreach for blood pressure and glucose testing, as well as diabetes classes and in person risk assessment for diabetes. MedStar Franklin Square shared that they are starting a food Rx program. The Health Babies Collaborative working in Essex has breast feeding support and other resources shared with the community.

SUB-COMMITTEE COALITION REPORTS

The LHIC sub-committees presented their reports for the coalition members. A new subcommittee for Food Insecurity as a Social Determinant of Health is added to the group.

- Eric Bromwell: The Opioid Intervention Team had a presentation from the Office of the Public Defender regarding the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative. The members of the team, in conjunction with a vendor, are developing ideas to improve the relationship with the Lethality Review Team. The Prescription Drop Box volumes were entered into the chat.
- Vicki Keller: Tobacco Cessation and Community education efforts continue, although compliance checks have not yet resumed. An explanation of the FDA proposed ban on



menthol in cigarettes and flavored cigars products was reviewed. Public comments continue through July 5 at the FDA website.

Pharmacists are now allowed to dispense nicotine replacement therapy products effective 10/1/2022.

- Teresa Messler: The Low Birth Weight Subcommittee Community Action Team is working with Analytic Insights and identified action steps and key partners for the goal of improving access to mental and behavioral healthcare services, including substance use treatment. The team has established a resource hub to link pregnant women to resources and support. In June, they will be finalizing a plan to improve care coordination by enhancing partnerships with faith-based and community-based organizations. In addition, it was shared that the recent baby showers, co-sponsored by the Women's Commission, were very successful.
- Keenan Jones: The Continuum of Care collaboration of agencies continues to have quarterly meetings with the County Executive focused on homelessness and eviction prevention, veterans and housing. The point-in-time counts and funding sources were reviewed. The Youth Reach count was conducted and is still being assessed. All were invited to participate by accessing the link on the website.
- Ashley Wallington: Della introduced Ashley Wallington, the Food Security Coordinator for Baltimore County. Ashley reviewed her current role and activities, the Hopkins Food Insecurity Map, and the grant from Maryland Department of Health for Food Initiatives. All were invited to join the sub-committee. Two initiatives to improve food security will be determined by the group.

COVID UPDATE

Della gave a brief update on COVID. The Health Department continues vaccines, testing and homebound vaccinations. MedStar continues its mobile van for vaccines but will be ending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ruth Gumnitzky, a volunteer for the Baltimore County MOMS Demand Action local group discussed the need to connect with pediatrician offices for gun safety information. Several suggestions were given for obtaining lists of offices to link to this important initiative. Connectfest is being planned for this fall, but it will be a much smaller scale than in the past and limited providers are being asked to attend.

Chelsea Alderman is the Director of Operations for Thrive USA. They are a home care company that assists veterans with getting free home care as well as assisting with claims through the VA website.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 7, 2022, in person if a site is available. A longer meeting is being planned for our fall meeting to allow time to review additional data.