



## Local Health Improvement Coalition Minutes

Baltimore County Department of Health 6401  
York Road, Third Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21212



March 1, 2023 | 3PM WEBEX

### Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Leister welcomed members and asked that everyone introduce themselves in the chat and new members will be given time at the end of the meeting.

### Cancer Report

Mr. Gilbart reported February was National Cancer Prevention Month. A presentation was given on statistical data from the CDC National Program of Cancer Registries, Surveillance Epidemiology and Results Program for Baltimore County and Maryland for 2015-2019. Over the last 20 years, age-adjusted rates for new cancer cases have decreased, but remain the leading cause of death nationwide. Age-adjusted rates are used to account population totals, differences in ages, distribution and standardized statistics to compare populations on public health issues. Baltimore County's age-adjusted rates are higher for men and women in the State. Black and white men have the highest average age-adjusted rates for new cancer cases in Baltimore County. Breast cancer is the leading cause for cancer among women, prostate cancer for men followed by lung and bronchus, and colon and rectum cancers for both in Baltimore County. Baltimore County's age-adjusted rates for new cases are slightly higher than the State, but numbers are decreasing. For more information, please email James Gilbart at [jgilbart@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jgilbart@baltimorecountymd.gov).

### Hospital Reports Population Health

Ms. Dashiell reported Lifebridge is working with stroke coordinators throughout the system on the Stroke Smart Initiative focusing on service areas around Northwest Hospital. There are ongoing efforts to reconnect with public libraries for health education and screening opportunities. There are future plans to provide enhanced assessments for heart disease, prediabetes and diabetes when CLIA waivers are approved by the state.

Ms. Isenock reported ongoing work with the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Implementation Strategy. The next Community Health Needs Strategy Assessment for FY 2024 starts July 1, 2023.

Ms. Anderson reported GBMC will host their Annual Community Health Meeting in-person March 29, 2023. Social determinants of health will be the focus featuring panelists that will discuss organizational and community efforts, and needs in and around Baltimore County and Baltimore City.

Ms. Selby reported on the monthly CHNA meeting with hospital partners and the Baltimore County Health Department. Karen Gonzalez, Stroke Coordinator for SJMC gave a presentation on the Stroke Smart Initiative. SJMC is partnering with local agencies and organizations to provide stroke education and blood pressure screenings. May is Stroke Awareness Month and SJMC will hold a stroke, abdominal, aortic and aneurysm screening that month. A flyer will be shared once



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available. Mr. Ackerman from Ascendient will send Ms. Anderson a proposal with costs and services offered to hospital partners. Work will continue with hospitals to assess needs in the spring and kick off the next phase in July. The next CHNA meeting is scheduled for the end of March. This meeting will only include hospital partners and the health department to discuss services offered. Mr. Ackerman will be invited to attend April's meeting to decide team, Individual tasks and planning. A recording of the last CHNA meeting is available for anyone interested in receiving the link please contact Ms. Anderson at [danderson@gbmc.org](mailto:danderson@gbmc.org). The February Diabetes Prevention Program started with 20 participants. The next initiative will start in May or June with more in-person programs and screenings in the community. The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program starts in April and will be held in-person at the Towson YMCA. A flyer and information about the program will be available soon on the website, <https://www.umms.org/sjmc>.

Ms. Leister reported over the past several years the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) has been reflective of the County. Individual institutions can update their own CHNA as needed. The vision is to have a set of questions to maintain common ground for Baltimore County. Feedback on the needs for individual institutions are welcome.

Ms. Cochran, Director of Strategy and Business Development reported she will be the representative from Sheppard Pratt attending meetings moving forward.

Ms. DeLeon, Senior Director of Population Health for Maryland Physicians reported extensive population health analyses are being done in the region to focus on social determinants. A proprietary social risk and questionnaire have been developed to provide in depth analysis.

#### Subcommittee Reports

##### Homelessness

Ms. Leister reported Ms. Sheridan's appreciation to everyone for helping with point in time counting. New responses and data are being formalized to report on Homelessness in Baltimore County.

##### Opioid Intervention

Ms. Hall reported BBH staff have been working with a consultant for research and evaluation to develop a formalized process to engage opioid intervention team members in implementing recommendations from individual case reviews from drug overdose and mortality review team. Many staff attended the National Overdose Mortality Review Forum in January. The forum provided opportunity to exchange best practices, boots on the ground programs, progression across counties and states, resource agencies for families, ways to develop events to bridge the recovery communities and broader communities, and education awareness. Virtual meeting



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attendance has been great and there is still a need for ongoing hospital representation for the Drug Overdose Mortality Review Team. If you want learn more or join the team, please contact Ms. Hall at [phall@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:phall@baltimorecountymd.gov).

Tobacco Coalition – Sharon Lepus

Ms. Lepus reported the Tobacco Coalition met three times this fiscal year. The previous meeting was January 18<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting is this month. The Cigarette Restitution Fund continues cessation outreach, but participant numbers have decreased. There are plans to partner with the Chronic Disease and Emerging Infectious Disease Programs to expand outreach events. A table display will be available on the first floor of the Drumcastle building to engage additional participants. We received three \$5,000 grants for faith-based organizations to continue education in the community. We are working with Baltimore County Schools to continue outreach and education amongst high school students. We are close to onboarding a new staff person for the Tobacco Enforcement position. This person will help perform more outreach for tobacco compliance and retail education in the community. The Tobacco, Diabetes and Chronic Disease grant provides opportunities for five \$5,000 grants for faith-based organizations, community or youth organizations. If you are interested in applying, please visit Baltimore County's website [www.baltimorecountymd.gov](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov). The organization should focus on tobacco education. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Lepus at [slepus@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:slepus@baltimorecountymd.gov).

The Maryland Department of Health has encouraged lung cancer screening to increase early detection. A federal court order issued on December 6, 2022 requires all major US tobacco companies and the four major cigarette brands to post signs telling the public the truth about the deadly consequences of cigarette smoking. Consent orders took effect January 1, 2023 and through June 30, 2023. The companies must contact manufacturers to amend their practicing retail contracts. The initial round of signs must be installed July through September. All retailers should have signs posted about the effects of cigarettes smoking by June 30, 2025. If any anyone or their organization is interested in taking tobacco cessation classes, please let us know.

Low Birth Weight FIMR CAT – Teresa Messler

Ms. Messler reported the Femur Community Action Team has been working on 1A and 3A objectives from the strategic plan. Objective 1A is to strengthen partnership between the Baltimore County Department of Health and maternal health providers. Objective 3A is to enhance partnerships with faith and community-based organizations to have support staff and volunteers link pregnant women with needed resources. We have worked on obtaining contact information and processes to request we are added to the agenda for grand rounds presentations for OBGYN and pediatric providers at local hospital. Maternal Child Health met with Ms. Carandang-Garcia from Quality Improvement and Ms. Garrett-Jones from Communications to



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initiate planning for webinars for providers and community partners regarding Baltimore County Department of Health programs and services for pregnant, postpartum women and newborns. May 9, 2023 is the target date, and we are holding 12 p.m.-2 p.m., but the time has not been confirmed. Dr. Branch will provide opening remarks and we are working to identify a client who has participated in one of the programs to provide a recorded testimony for the website. We have a master student from University of Maryland who will help plan and prepare a list of community and faith-based organization for outreach. The Maternal Child Health staff met with social workers at Sinai to provide information about our program and encourage referrals. We have two community health workers working with Babies Born Healthy. These workers are spending one day a week at Woodlawn and Eastern Family Resource Center's WIC offices to promote the programs. They will also give presentations to Baltimore County School Based Wellness Center providers, local health departments and at MCO quarterly meeting.

Food Insecurity – Ashley Wallington

Ms. Wallington reported results food access survey results from the Turner Station community. There were 265 participants who showed interest in having a grocery store, farmers markets, nutrition education, and cooking demonstrations. Participants would like to see these resources available at senior centers, libraries and recreation centers in the community. The subcommittee will be partnering with the Chronic Disease Program to conduct community and diabetes risk assessments. We will also work with University of Maryland extension program to participate in nutrition education and food preparation demonstrations. Journals and insulated bags will be offered as incentives to risk assessment and food shuttle participants. Participants that score higher than five on the diabetes risk assessment will be connected with additional resources and a nurse to ensure ongoing support. A bilingual resource pamphlet is available with transportation, chronic diseases, My Plate and healthy eating information. The SPINE grant was awarded funding for ongoing community engagement opportunities. If you're interested in joining the Food Security Subcommittee, please email Ashley Wallington at [awallington@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:awallington@baltimorecountymd.gov).

Chronic Disease – Dr. Sharon Baucom-Myers

Dr. Baucom-Myers reported the Chronic Disease Program continues to look at expansion opportunities for education on pre-diabetes, diabetes and hypertension, cardiovascular disease, nutrition education, and food related issues. The Chronic Disease Program has partnered with faith-based organization committed to providing food box distribution with recipes to senior centers. There is a potential partnership with Single Fathers, Inc. We are planning to talk about pre-diabetes and provide speakers to address smoking cessation, blood pressure monitoring, and other resources. We continue to explore opportunities to work with Maryland Physicians Care and groups related to health nutrition and outreach. We are looking to successfully onboard a Human Services Associate to help with the health disparities grant to monitor self-care for



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hypertension and diabetes. The Taking Pounds Off Sensibly Program (TOPS) has expanded to Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons for seniors. We continue to look for ways to expand the activities with internal partners related to prevention.

Guest-Speaker Community School Programs

Ms. Bentzen, Associate Executive Director of Youth Development reported on the program's role with Baltimore County Public Schools. The program has five staff who each cover a network of schools throughout Baltimore County. There are currently 39 community schools and with an increase to 54 schools next year. Community Schools are defined as federally allocated schools on poverty level receiving additional funding based on needs assessment. Major concerns are access to health and social services supports. We are looking to partner with programs in the county for food education and nutrition, family support, mental health, and substance abuse. Services are needed in predominantly bilingual under insured communities where members do not qualify for many programs. We are looking for ways to navigate systems to access equitable health services. We hold monthly professional development meetings to share resources and would love for you to join us. If you are interested in presenting to our group, please email Ms. Bentzen at [natashabentzen@maryland.gov](mailto:natashabentzen@maryland.gov).

Ms. Leister recommended Ms. Bentzen and her staff sign up for the health department's community newsletter, connect with hospitals partners for resources on free screenings, classes and programs and utilizing Federally Qualified Health Programs. QACs.

Ms. DeLeon reported Maryland Physicians Care has a new department dedicated to social determinants of health with a specific platform to coordinate services and suggested a meeting with Ms. Bentzen to address similar challenges and coordinate services. Ms. DeLeon also suggested a meeting with Ms. Leister to interweave efforts statewide.

Ms. Leister recommended the 14 school-based wellness centers located throughout Baltimore County and that provide health care within the school setting. There was mention of a grant in the works that will focus on youth mental health needs. The goal of the grant is to improve the types of services provided to youth with mental health issues.

Ms. Bentzen expressed excitement about partnering with organizations to bring resources into the school-based events that will provide resource connections to families in the community.

Ms. Leister reported the County Executive holds Budget Town Hall meetings held in every council district. These meetings provide feedback from the community in all aspects. Residents also talk about resources needed in the community and staff have been present to follow up, and connect residents will resources.



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Ms. Wallington reported excitement to connect with Ms. Bentzen to compare notes and look for ways to provide food access services in a safe and supportive environment to families in those communities.

### Collaboration Continuum

Ms. Leister reported the community needs assessments done by major health systems and the local health department to chart resources have been incredible. The Collaboration Continuum Chart of resources are beneficial to everyone. There are plans to take the health coalition further by requesting funding through the state for a dedicated staff person for the coalition that will coordinate all outreach activities. Our plan for the coming year is to review current efforts and address items that may have been overlooked.

### Introductions

Ms. Leister welcomed and provided an opportunity for introductions from new members. Kieran Rupert, Administrator for Continuum of Care, Department of Housing and Community Development, Dr. Gerald Fonville, Department of Health and Human Services, Kristen Cochran, Director of Strategy and Business Development, Sheppard Pratt.

### Announcements

Ms. Paterson from Maryland Poison Control reported March 19-25, 2023 as National Poison Prevention Week. All area hospitals and elementary schools in Baltimore County will receive materials to bring awareness and general information about the poison center. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Paterson at [epaterson@rx.maryland.edu](mailto:epaterson@rx.maryland.edu). A partner toolkit is available for anyone interested in receiving and sharing information on the website, [www.mdpoison.com](http://www.mdpoison.com).

Ms. DeRocco reported the Healthy Babies Collaborative is reinstating in-person breastfeeding support groups at Essex Library every Wednesday from 11am–1pm. There will be an in-person support group in April at the North Point Branch Library, in Dundalk on Thursdays 11am–1pm. Virtual classes will continue every Wednesday from 11am–12pm. We are hoping to start in Edgewood, date to be determined. Flyers will be sent with more information soon. Sincere thanks to Teresa Messler and the Baltimore County Health Department for their support and creativity in helping us locate facilitators to bring these supports back into the community.

Ms. Leister reported there will be a guest speaker from Community Assistance Network to talk about their services at the next meeting. The virtual meetings have produced wonderful attendance and additions to the health coalition. In-person meetings are being discussed for the



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June or September meetings. Please be sure to include your email addresses in the chat to be added to the distribution list. Thank you everyone for your participation.

The next meeting date is June 7, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.