



Local Health Improvement Coalition Minutes

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



June 7, 2023 | 3PM WEBEX

Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Leister welcomed members and asked that everyone introduce themselves in the chat.

Guest Speaker – CAN (Community Assistance Network)

Mr. Posner, Executive Director and CEO and Ms. Schroyer, Community Choice Pantry Manager of Community Assistance Network (CAN) gave a presentation on the history and services of the non-profit organization. CAN was established by Congress and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965 to declare war on poverty. The agency provides services and programs to Baltimore County based on the community needs assessment and strategic planning. The mission of CAN is to reduce vulnerability and empower personal growth, dignity and self-sufficiency among people in Baltimore County experiencing economic challenges. CAN provides programs focused on Food, Income, Self, and Housing Securities. The organization is looking to collaborate or partner with other programs and organizations in Baltimore County.

The diaper demonstration is a pilot program for children only. CAN will be one of the agencies in Maryland participating in the demonstration for 35 children. The demonstration is an incentive to draw families in to receive services. The families will be pre-selected based on existing partnerships. Adult diapers are not regular items, please contact Ms. Schroyer directly at cschroyer@canconnects.org to check on the inventory of adult diapers. There may be an opportunity to expand and stock adult diapers if the pilot program for children's diapers is successful. If anyone is interested in collaborating on a grant application to pilot this initiative, please contact Mr. Posner at mposnedr@canconnects.org. For more details and information about CAN, visit <https://www.canconnects.org>. Please see CAN PowerPoint Presentation.

Ms. DeLeon, Director of Population Health and Social Determinants for Maryland Physicians Care, reported that CAN is working with their Community Engagement Team to partner and coordinate services for Medicaid recipients in the County. Maryland Physicians Care welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on a grant to support this initiative with other willing partners.

Ms. Leister echoed comments that CAN focuses on individuals with many social determinants of health in the community. The health department will be discussing future programs for grant funding and CAN may be one of our partners.

Mr. Baker asked when the food pantry distribution site will open in Randallstown. Mr. Posner and Ms. Schroyer reported this is a virtual opportunity at the moment allowing clients to view the pantry's inventory and have items delivered to them. The Randallstown location is a work in progress, but should be open in the next three months.

Annual Data Review

Mr. Gilbert gave a presentation on data for teen pregnancy from 2017 to 2022 in Baltimore County. There were an estimated 1,500 births to teens between 15 and 19 years old. The annual



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counts range from 291 to 352 which translates to annual rates of 11 to 14 births per 1,000 teens over the five-year period. Annual rates of teen births were higher for Hispanics, followed by African Americans. The proportion of teen births compared to the births to mothers ages 20 to 24 was not statistically different in regards to low birthweight, preterm births and smoking history before pregnancy. There was a higher proportion of teens on WIC (69%) compared to mothers 20 to 34 years old (36%). A lower proportion of teens compared to mothers 20 to 34 years old breastfed or had complications during pregnancy and delivery. The data is not alarming, but we want to keep track of the public health issues. If you are interested in more information about the report, please contact Mr. Gilbert at jgilbart@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Hospital Population Health Reports

Mr. Baker reported Lifebridge Northwest is working on the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) with other hospitals in Baltimore County and numerous projects focused on community engagement, and food security in the areas surrounding Northwest Hospital.

Ms. Thompkins reported GBMC is working on the CHNA with plans to launch in July.

Ms. Brown reported the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center (UMSJMC) is working on the CHNA, and food security by supporting the Maryland Food Bank and Meals on Wheels delivering meals to the Essex community. UMSJMC is also working on their annual operating plan to include diversity, equity and inclusion work as part of the University of Maryland's project.

Ms. Leister reported the hospitals are meeting regularly to discuss the joint CHNA. Baltimore City Health Department will be joining Local Health Improvement Committee (LHIC) meetings to join the conversation and share valuable information.

Subcommittee Reports

Homelessness

Mr. Ruppert, Continuum of Care Administrator with the Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development reported continuum of care brings all homeless services and stakeholders together throughout the County to address systemic issues related to homelessness. The department has been busy working on expanding the coordinated entry system. The expansion will allow referrals for repaid rehousing or permanent supportive housing go through the coordinated entry system to create a rapid and smoother process to get into housing. An annual notice will be shared once HUD funding opportunities are available for coordinated entry and rental assistance. There are just over 100 units of permanent support housing for chronically homeless individuals with disabilities throughout the county. There will be a more in depth look into systemic responses to high utilizers for emergency systems. This will address housing needs, coordinating with crisis response, homeless outreach providers, rehabilitation and



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substance use systems to increase the number of beds in crisis and rehabilitation services throughout the community. A governance board was recently formed to meet monthly with roundtable meetings occurring quarterly. If you are interested in being added to the distribution list, email Mr. Ruppert at kruppert@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)

Ms. Andrews, new Opioid Strategy Coordinator for Baltimore County reported the OIT is excited about placement and expansion of Naloxone boxes in shelters. There will be advertisements about Naloxone to normalize the drug as a staple in medicine cabinets and first aid kits. Naloxone should be carried by everyone. It is not recommended to keep the medication in the car due to heat sensitivity. Everyone is encouraged to get trained on how to administer Naloxone. A special thank you to CAN for partnering to make sure it is available in the shelters.

There are continued discussions about the national standard for overdose fatality review. The Fatality Review Team regularly develops recommendations based on the case review process according to national standards. The next step is to develop an action plan to collect data around accountability for the plan. This will function similar to those in place for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and LHIC. OIT and the Drug Overdose Lethality Review Team (DOLRT) are planning to meet, share and discuss data around achieving results.

At the March OIT meeting, small breakout groups reviewed two specific recommendations around educating communities and families of people who use drugs about substance abuse disorders, and medication for opioid use and harm reduction practices. The second discussion was to ensure Naloxone training and dispensing is accessible where overdoses occur. This goal is to get Naloxone in the hands of everyone. Over the next several meetings, we will work on an action plan, determine measurements, and decide how the data will be collected. At the April meeting, the Maryland Addiction Consultation Service gave a presentation on the supports available to prescribers and shared information about changes to buprenorphine prescribers. The waiver requirements and patient limits have been removed.

At the May meeting, the Maryland Department of Health Center for Harm Reduction Services presented about the rapid analysis of drug programs to test paraphernalia. Baltimore County has a lower proportion supply of illicit drugs than other jurisdictions with about 18%-20% samples. Surprisingly, heroin was not found in any paraphernalia that was tested. It has been reported that heroin is not available anymore on the streets, everything is fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. The Daniel Carl Torch Foundation, which is a community harm reduction program that participates in paraphernalia collection gave a



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presentation to the OIT on the insight they have learned from participating in the program.

Baltimore County was the only County directly funded by the CDC to attend the CDC Overdose Data Action Conference. An application has been submitted for another five years. We have heard encouraging news about refunding. We have learned great information to share amongst jurisdictions, in the states and across the County.

If anyone is interested in joining the Opioid Intervention Team, please contact Ms. Andrews at eandrews@baltimorecountymd.gov. The meeting occurs the third Friday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Tobacco Coalition

Ms. Hall reported that Nicole Garbarino is the new Human Services Program Manager for the Tobacco Program. The department has been able to fill more vacancies with hopes to having a fully staffed program including a bilingual staff member soon. The program continues to offer cessation classes with potential for virtual classes in the future for more accessibility to individuals interested in participating. The program has meet with every retailer in the County to provide tobacco education and guidance on the legal age to purchase tobacco. Enforcement activities have been implemented and compliance checks will start in July. The program recently met with the legal resource center at a conference to learn and network with other programs about strategies to engage with the youth population. The hope is that these initiatives will bring on youth ambassadors to work with younger people. The legislation for Senate Bill 259 to ban flavored tobacco products including menthol was not passed. The bill would have carried penalties including jail time. The program will try again next year.

Low Birth Weight

Ms. Messler reported partnerships with Behavioral Health and the Maternal Child divisions to continue work on FIMR Community Action objectives 1A and 3A. The goal is to strengthen partnerships between Baltimore County Department of Health, maternal health providers, and enhance partnerships with faith and community-based organizations to provide support staff and volunteers to connect pregnant women resources. On May 9, Baltimore County hosted a symposium on Maternal Child Resources. Dr. Branch was the feature guest speaker. A program participant from Baltimore County's Prenatal Enrichment Program provided testimony on their experience with the program for three different pregnancies. The invitation was shared with OBGYN providers, social workers, hospitals, the Maryland Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Care Collaborative (MDPQC), faith and community-based organizations and the Miracle and Patient Safety Center. The turnout was great with 121 participants. The presentation and



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resources were sent to all participants who requested. The event was recorded and will be placed on the website once available.

Community Health Workers from Babies Born Healthy continue to promote our programs. These workers are spending one day a week at Woodlawn and Eastern Family Resource WIC Centers.

Ms. Leister reported that there have been lots of questions related to the low-birth-weight FIMR subcommittee. We would love to have OBGYN providers join us. If you have questions or would like to join the group, please contact Ms. Messler at tmessler@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Food Insecurity

Ms. Wallington reported the committee has been maintaining current priorities and initiatives. There was a meeting over the past week with the community and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) to address feedback on improvements, hours of service, and ways community members can sign up for services for transportation. One of the improvements is to look at partnering with St. Matthew's Church as a point of contact for seniors in the community to sign up for services. Ms. Massa, Nutritionist from the Chronic Disease Program hosted a virtual nutrition education class on May 10 for parents in the community. The outreach team continues to distribute bilingual resource flyers at ten different community locations weekly in the 21222 zip code. A special thanks to the outreach team on the amazing job they are doing. In April, we performed over 30 prediabetes risk assessment screenings and 20 screenings in May at three central locations. We continue to create additional synergy and will be distributing a survey across county agencies to gain a better understanding of programming centered around food or any grants that may have a full component.

We are assessing additional opportunities to connect housing residents and low-access areas with transportation. We will continue to work with the agriculture development specialist to bring more farmers market to low-access and low-income communities. In the next subcommittee meeting, we will review data presented at the food security work group. Invitations were sent to some Baltimore County employees for the meeting to participate in the discussion. The data and information discussed will trickle down to the food security subcommittee and LHIC. We will continue to work with the University of Maryland Extension Office outlining a new initiative to brainstorm a senior access food initiative that will have shuttles that serve different housing and apartment complexes that serve resident 50 to 65 and older. We have senior food delivery through the Maryland Food Bank partner that will conduct senior nutrition education, senior chronic disease resources, cooking demonstrations and ensuring seniors are connected to



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benefits that suit their needs. We are working closely with the Department of Economic and Workforce Development to identify communities that have a need for grocers and communities that have vacant properties. This is important as we head into the next comprehensive zoning process. Identifying properties for the appropriate zoning so elected officials can make great land use decision for communities and food access.

Chronic Disease

Dr. Baucom-Myers reported the continuation of providing educational resources on prediabetes, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular, obesity and weight management issues which support nutrition and food security challenges. We are looking at self-monitoring for blood pressure screenings to identify citizens at risk for hypertension, and to provide linkages to care and education specifically related to the complication of comorbidities secondary to hypertension such as kidney failure, and helping them identify preventive measures. We continue to assess clients at risk for prediabetes since many go undiagnosed. The priority is to provide education on complications, lifestyle modification and linkage to care in the community.

We are increasing awareness to the barriers to accessing healthcare and continue to provide resource triage and navigation for those at risk. Our goals related to the progress of those initiatives is to continue to attend and do outreach events, health fairs, diabetes assessments, blood pressure measurements and partnerships with other agencies.

We are working on the standard operating procedures for selfcare, monitoring hypertension, diabetes, and stroke recognition by implementing the American Heart Association stroke prevention BEFAST acronym (Balance, Eyes, Facial, Arms, Speech, Time). We have partnered with other community agencies which included the homeless shelters to provide health education and presentations, a series on nutrition and chronic disease, and work with the westside community garden to increase access to fresh produce.

We have exceeded the goals for the Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Weight Management Program in Woodlawn and Randallstown. We are planning to expand another chapter in Parkville, Baltimore Highlands, Essex and Randallstown to include the LatinX community. We met with Randallstown Senior Resource Center to potentially start a TOPS Weight Management Program. We have been reviewing the FY24 grant for expansion opportunities and partnerships with Baltimore County Schools to establish a weight management group for youth to build healthy family programs in the four areas identified targeting youth 7–12 years old using the family approach to childhood obesity. The program will incorporate two hours per week of physical exercise over twelve weeks with sustainable monitoring for an additional six month. Families will work with the school



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June 7, 2023 | 3PM WEBEX

system and Park's Recreation Agriculture Center to increase access to fresh produce through gardening projects indoors and outdoors. The goal is to integrate our services with the cancer and tobacco programs for opportunities to integrate prediabetes risks, blood pressure initiatives and stroke prevention along with providing nutrition and weight management support through TOPS, healthy eating and working external organization to promote in faith and community-based organizations to other agencies outside of our department.

Introductions

Ms. Leister welcomed and provided an opportunity for introductions from new members. Cierra Jones, Director of Noble Gems Community Health Services is excited to join the group. Ms. Jones is interested in joining the food security and chronic disease prevention subcommittees.

Announcements

Ms. Leister reported that much of the work of the collaboration for Baltimore County takes place in other places than the coalition meetings. We welcome opportunities and new ways to collaborate. The State is offering infrastructure grants and we are hoping to secure a grant by the next meeting that will allow us to hire a LHIC Coordinator. The coordinator will lead this group and take the discussions and provide coordination of population health activities forward. Our goal is to take this group further by having someone that can link resources throughout the County.

Ms. Smith reported that the Baltimore County Public Library is running a Summer Reading Challenge Program. This is a great program for anyone faces reading challenges. There will be 11 library branches serving summer lunches Monday through Friday from June 20 to August 18 to youth 18 years and younger. For information on the Summer Reading Challenge Program and Summer Meals please click the following link: <https://www.bcpl.info/youth/summer-reading.html>.

Ms. Selby reported UMSJMC is hosting a webinar on Family Health and Fitness, June 21 for health literacy. Webinars are available each month except the summer months. Information on previously recorded webinars and the current webinar and registration can be found by clicking the following link: <https://www.umms.org/community/conversations/lets-talk-about-health>.

Ms. Leister reported on behalf of Ms. DeRocco from MedStar Franklin Square. Partners are encouraged to promote the breastfeeding support groups. The groups are available Wednesdays in person at the Essex library from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursdays at North Point library from 11:00 am to 1 p.m. Virtual support groups are also available from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Bilingual flyers will be delivered to Essex Health Centers and WIC sites on the eastside and the Center for Family Success. The flyers will be distributed electronically to LHIC members and



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providers to let expectant mothers know about the groups. Lunch will be provided for participants and the group will be staffed with a lactation specialist from the department.

Ms. Leister reported that the September meeting may be in-person if a location is found that can accommodate a large group. We will continue to offer a hybrid option for all to attend. Meeting in-person once a year will allow more opportunities for data presentations, brainstorming and networking. Ms. Leister thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next meeting date is September 6, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.