



Local Health Improvement Coalition Minutes
Baltimore County Department of Health 6401
York Road, Third Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21212



September 6, 2023 | 3PM WEBEX

Welcome and Introduction

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

Data Review – Suicide

Mr. Gilbert gave a presentation on data for suicide from 2016 to 2022 in Baltimore County. The age adjusted rates and linear regression rates of suicides have been consistent from 2016 to 2022. Firearms, followed by hanging, suffocation and drug poison ingestion were the most frequent methods of suicide. Male residents had a higher rate of suicide compared to female residents in Baltimore County. Baltimore County residents over the age of 84 years had the highest rates of suicide, but were similar for age groups between 20 and 64 years old. Youth suicides accounted for 6% of suicides. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2021 to 2022 indicates that girls were more likely to report symptoms of depression, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts compared to boys in middle and high school. The proportion of middle and high school students who reported symptoms of depression or suicidal behavior were similar between Baltimore County and Maryland. According to statistics, 50% of Hispanic middle and high school students reported feelings of sadness and hopelessness which was the highest out of all groups which included American Indian, black, white and multiracial. Hispanic middle and high school students has the highest rate with 21% of suicide attempts compared to the other groups. Lastly, multiracial middle and high school students had the highest rates of suicidal ideation. If you are interested in more information about the report, please contact Mr. Gilbert at igilbart@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Community Health Needs Assessment

Ms. Leister reported that the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is being done in conjunction with three of the four hospital partners. The fourth hospital partner is involved in a different time frame. The Baltimore County Health Department and hospital partners are working with healthcare services vendor Ascendient to collect and analyze data to produce a report to publish next spring. The CHNA is broken down into three areas in need of assistance from coalition members. The first part of the CHNA is the community survey. There is a link available for community members to participate in a brief survey to identify health needs in their community. We ask all coalition members to send the survey out far and wide to gather as much input from the community. The survey will collect basic geographic and demographic information. The second part of the CHNA is the input of key stakeholders. The key stakeholder's input is different than the community survey. Their data is based on the members they serve and identify the need of the organization. The third part of the CHNA are focus groups. We have identified specific groups focused on women's issues, Native Americans, faith-based organizations, and chronic disease clients to name a few. We have broken down the areas and each taken assignments as to where we think our strengths working with those populations or engage Ascendient to facilitate those focus groups. Baltimore City is doing their CHNA in a similar fashion and key stakeholders that serve multiple jurisdictions may receive request to provide



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input more than once. We ask that you are indulgent if you serve more than jurisdiction, we would like your input for each separately for the county and the city. We want to have a robust assessment process to gather as much input from the community and key stakeholders.

Hospital Reports Population Health

Ms. Dashiell reported that Lifebridge Northwest is working on the CHNA. The mobile unit has been down for a while, but the goal is to be fully staffed and up and running by October to resume activities in the community. We are working with partners to distribute information throughout the schools. We have received requests for hands on CPR training due to the highly publicized site of cardiac arrest in some athletes.

Ms. Anderson reported GBMC is working on focus groups for the fall and the community survey for Baltimore County to provide data for Ascendient for the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). GBMC is producing their first annual community benefits report to highlight the work done for the past two years. GBMC is also working on a community benefits website. The report will be available on the website and a few copies will be printed.

Ms. Brown reported the University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center (UMSJMC) is working on the CHNA, community survey which was uploaded for a lot of events. The key stakeholder surveys were sent out to those identified. The flu clinics have been scheduled in the community. We reached out to our affiliated religious organization to utilize their outreach as a focus group. We have a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion of areas in need. We have reached out to faith-based organizations opportunities for screenings and events in areas outside of the Towson area. The Community benefits report is due in January, but we hope to have it finalized by the end of September. We are working on the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), events, screenings, and flu shots for the fall.

Subcommittee Reports

Homelessness

Ms. Leister report on behalf 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 rapid 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



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providers, rehabilitation and 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. Ms. Leister reported the continuum of care brings together all homeless services stakeholder to discuss systematic issues. The committee is currently expanding their coordinated entry system. That team responds to about 1,500 calls monthly. They are planning to expand the system to make referrals to housing resources easier for individuals seeking services related to homelessness. They will soon start the process of responding to the HUD's notice of funding award to renew up to \$2.8 million dollars in federal continuum of care funds that will support homeless outreach, coordinate entry, short-term rental assistance and 100 unites of permanent supported housing for chronically homeless individuals with a disability. If you are interested in joining the conversation on systematic responses to high utilizers of the emergency room, emergency systems coordinated work with crisis response, homeless outreach providers and rehabilitation and substance disorders, please contact Mr. Ruppert at kruppert@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Opioid Intervention Team (OIT)

Ms. Leister reported the Opioid Intervention Team (OIT) has continued to meet. The Overdose to Action (OD2A) grant funds help to coordinate some of the opioid intervention team activities. The OIT has been able to work with the consultant, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE). PIRE has done surveys of both the OIT members and the Drug Overdose Lethality Review (DOLRT) members to integrate recommendations from one group to the other, maintaining confidentiality of patient cases that are discussed, and making recommendations for the Drug Overdose Lethality Review Team (DOLRT). We are happy to announce that we are getting refunded for the OD2A group. Baltimore County Health Department is 1 of 40 local jurisdictions nationwide that are receiving funding. We will be able to continue data collection done under OD2A 1.0 to move forward to OD2A 2.0 Those data collections will allow us to continue our efforts between fire and police to determine the appropriate interventions to decrease opioid overdoses both fatal and non-fatal moving forward. This is a 5-year grant that started September 1. We are going to be held to strict reporting requirements and outcome measurements. The CDC provides much assistance. The Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center (O OCC) will be holding townhall meetings in each jurisdiction. The Baltimore County Townhall meeting is Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk. The townhall information is also available on O OCC state website. We encourage you share information with clients in outpatient units, emergency departments, and doctors. There is a form to testify in-person or put in written comments related to what you are seeing in Baltimore County and interventions that would help stem the tide of overdoses. We are looking forward to hearing more about that next Thursday. If anyone is interested in joining the Opioid Intervention Team, please contact Ms. Andrews at eandrews@baltimorecountymd.gov.



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Tobacco Coalition

Ms. Garbarino reported that the Tobacco Program is continuously working on preventing initiation among youth and young adults, promoting quitting among youth and young adults, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke and identifying tobacco related disparities. The program will hold a virtual cessation class September 11. A class is underway at Eastern Family Resource Center. We are currently making arrangements for our new bilingual staff member to be certified as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist to provide cessation services directly in both English and Spanish without the use of interpretation services. Enforcement efforts restarted in June and we have issued 150 citations. The state SYNAR will be in Baltimore County between now and the end of September. We receive feedback when they have been around the County and have a percentage rate of retail violators that sell to under age purchasers. A federal court order requires major cigarette manufacturers display signs with certain factual statements about the health risks and addictiveness of smoking. Companies have to post these signs in the retail stores in which they have contract to sell cigarettes which includes over 3,400 retailers in the state of Maryland. The order went into effect July 1 and the signs have to be posted from October 2023 to June 30, 2025. Auditors will be conducting inspections for compliance and a tip line will be established for retailers out of compliance.

Low Birth Weight

Ms. Messler reported ongoing work of the FIMR Community Action objectives from the Strategic Plan. On May 9, Baltimore County hosted a symposium on maternal child health resources and information in collaboration with the bureau of behavior health. A recording of the symposium is available on the website. We have collaborated with WIC and the maternal health division to host tables at the farmers markets. We are also working with the public libraries and students from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. We will host an in-person pregnancy support group on Tuesdays at Owings Mills Library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The virtual group will continue on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. We have been working on ways to utilize the new Baltimore County Department of Health mobile van to provide education and services to faith and community-based organizations. The Healthy Baby Equity Act went into effect July 1. This expands benefits for non-U.S. citizens through Medicaid to cover prenatal and postpartum care for up to 4 months. We attended an event at the Baltimore County Public Schools to spread the word about the Medicaid changes. We are actively recruiting for a Social Worker I and Social Worker II with Baltimore County's New Hope Program, Healthy Outcomes and Pregnancy in Early Childhood. This is adaptive from an evidence-based maternal health program out of Michigan. The program will provide services we currently offer plus, a social worker, registered dietician, infant and maternal specialist, provide consultations, referrals, childbirth and parenting education classes. The FIMR case review team reported just over 10% of mothers who had losses had no prenatal care. We do not have data on the low birth weight of pre-term babies, but we are working on ways to gather data. The FIMR case review team noted a high incidence of short birth spacing and has considered linking both items together on a campaign. The FIMR grant and



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Baby's Born Healthy grant may have funding to print flyers. We are exploring the possibility of working with students from the University of Maryland to work on the campaign. If you any questions, please contact Ms. Messler at tmessler@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Food Insecurity

Ms. Wallington reported the committee has agreed to look at Sollers Point Recreation Center as a central location in the community to bringing a farmers' market. The food shuttle and chronic disease screenings, and diabetes risks assessment are currently offered in the Turner Station community. The committee will take a closer look at the senior farmers market nutrition program which offers vouchers to local seniors to purchase fresh produce from famers markets brought into the community. The committee has connected local food partners with the University of Maryland Extension office to ensure access to educational resources and trainings. The University of Maryland will hold virtual trainings for pantry partners on several topics and we anticipate these training to take place later this month. We are also exploring the possibility of hosting a hunger symposium to highlight healthy food access. The goal of the symposium is to take a deeper dive and explore roots causes and barriers to access to healthy food and food security. Kara Panowitz from No Kid Hungry Maryland will join and help us with this initiative. We are expanding the food shuttle to include an additional stop at St. Matthews Church in Turner's Station as a point of contact for community members as we transition to a planned ride model. We are removing the barrier of residents calling county ride directly. We plan to use the planned ride model that has been success in other shuttle pilot programs. We will run this model to see how it increases ridership. The outreach team continues to conduct outreach in 21222 zip code and we are expanding that outreach. We were able to connect with community schools and some leaders at our Southeast Network and we look forward to expanding outreach within the community. We are planning to hold our third nutrition class and couple that with an educational trip to the grocery store. This will allow us to not only talk about healthy food options, but show community members what it looks and how to select ripe options. We will be hosting our first cooking demonstration this fall in partnership with University of Maryland Extension and possible provide fresh produce to those participants. The outreach staff continue to administer risk assessments and disseminate and refer individuals who score five or higher for additional services. For questions or more information about food security, please contact Ms. Wallington at awallington@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Chronic Disease

Ms. Wilmoth reported the current priorities goals for chronic disease prevention are preventing and screening of chronic diseases, performing client navigation and linkage to care. Since our last meeting, we now have a newly onboarded health educator who is working in direct collaboration with our two newly hired community health workers. They are performing data driven, targeted outreach to communities at highest risk for the development of chronic diseases. If there is an event, chronic disease prevention will be there. We are also working on expanding our Taking Off



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Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) to some of the most vulnerable areas in Baltimore County where there are lapses in services, which include Lansdown, Essex, Randallstown and Parkville. We currently in the recruitment and implementation planning phase to establish our building healthy family program. This is an evidence-based family weight loss program that focuses on childhood obesity and healthy lifestyle and families as a whole. Dr. Baucom continues to do extensive networking with providers in order to form a collaborative network like client navigation and linkage to care. If you have any questions, please contact cwilmoth@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Homelessness

Ms. Leister presented a table showing the progress of Collaborative Continuum since its creation. Though membership has changed, progress is still occurring.

Announcements

Ms. Leister reported the COVID numbers are slightly rising in the hospital setting, but from a local health department perspective, we are status quo. Testing and vaccine is still available through the health department. We are waiting on the decision from the CDC and FDA about the new formulation of the new vaccine. It will hopefully be ready by the end of September or middle of October. We are still waiting to hear how the vaccine will be distributed since it is on the open market. We are not sure if individuals will go their physicians or if the physicians will carry the vaccine. We anticipate that we will be a safety net provider as we have been for other vaccines in the community. Our flu campaign, Super Saturday will be held October 14 across Baltimore County all on one day, in all 7 council districts.

The County Executive started a new work group called New Americans Work Group. The group is being led by his liaison. This is a large work group representing academic, nonprofits, and individuals in the city/county working on similar initiatives. There is a subcommittee on health safety and outreach of which Ms. Leister and another Health Department staff member participate. I may reach out to some of the healthcare partners on how new Americans can access healthcare from some of our providers, and potential barriers.

The health department acquired a mobile medical unit. Internally, we will hold ribbon cutting next week. We hope to have it out on the road to provide outreach activities, clinical services directly, provide a forum to promote public health activities, vaccine, and testing.

The health department received additional grant funding. Some of the grant funding will be used to hire someone whose job along with other duties will be to take over all the administrative activities for this group. We were fortunate Laura was able to dedicate time to do that when she was the Chief of Quality Improvement, but things have changed. In addition, this individual will oversee all the outreach the department does and work with all the hospitals to be sure we are moving forward on our goals for Baltimore County to move those initiative forward as a larger



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group. Some of the other jurisdictions have had staff dedicated around the LHIC, community health needs assessment and the plan. The position is currently posted on the County's website.

Ms. Messler announced the in-person pregnancy support groups on Tuesdays at Owings Mills Library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., and virtually on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. If you know anyone interested in applying for the Social Worker positions, please contact me tmessler@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Introductions

Ms. Baez, Director of Maternal Child Health, Baltimore Medical System.

The next meeting date is December 6, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.