

**Worcester County Health Department
Worcester County Health Planning Advisory Council
Thursday, February 18, 2021
Virtual – 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Jennifer LaMade, *Worcester County Health Department (WCHD)*, Teresa Tyndall, *Wor-Wic Community College*, Derek Jarmon *Worcester County Recreation and Parks*, Crystal Bell, *WCHD*, Twila Fykes *WCHD*, Abigail Bridges, *University of Maryland Public Health*, Erica Joseph, *Community Foundation*, Jessica Sexauer, *Local Management Board (LMB)/Local Behavioral Health Authority*, Josh Davis, *Ocean Pines Association, Inc.*, Julinda Massey, *Maryland Department of Health (MDH)*, Lisa Shockley, *LMB*, Donna Nordstrom, *Atlantic General Hospital (AGH)*, Audrey Wahl, *Community Member*, Ellen Willingham, *Priority Partners MCO*, Blair Inniss, *University of Maryland Legal Resource Center*, Jill Kenney, *MAC Inc.*, Jackie Ward, *WCHD*, Ron Fisher, *Community Member*, Crystal Heiser, *Home Instead*, Tamara Mills, *Worcester County Public Schools*, Dawn Blades, *Worcester County Department of Social Services*, Keristen Baker, *Deer’s Head Hospital*, Trish Kesecker, *Maryland Physicians Care*, Jahniqua Johnson, *Worcester County Judy Center*, Sara Seitz, *State Office of Rural Health*, Alane Capen, *Coastal Hospice*, Darlene Jackson-Bowen, *Mosaic Community Services, Inc.*, Mary Beth Waide, *Deer’s Head Hospital*, Kim Justice, *AGH*

Minutes by: Lisa Shockley

Discussion	Action
<p>Welcome Teresa Tyndall opened the meeting with introductions at 8:32am.</p>	
<p>Minutes Minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jackie Ward and seconded by Audrey Wahl. The minutes were unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Prevent Chronic Disease <u>COVID-19 and Flu Updates - Jennifer LaMade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently Worcester County has 3,201 positive cases of COVID-19 ● Positivity Rate is 5.32% for Worcester County, Maryland rate is 4.23% ● 68,153 tests have been processed. Of those 58,228 are PCR laboratory tests and 9,925 Rapid Antigen tests. ● There have been 88 confirmed deaths in Worcester County - average age over 75 years old. 	

- 2 Nursing Homes are currently managing outbreaks - Harrison Senior Living in Snow Hill and Peak/Hartley Hall in Pocomoke
- At this time there are no schools with outbreaks.
- AGH currently has 6 positive cases admitted with 2 of those on ventalators.
- COVID-19 Testing - Due to falling numbers, the WCHD discontinued COVID-19 testing in West Ocean City earlier this month. There are only 8 scheduled appointments for testing tomorrow at the Commission on Aging site, and no appointments scheduled at this time for next Monday in Pocomoke. WCHD will sunset COVID-19 testing by the end of the month. Testing is still available 7 days a week at urgent care centers in the county as well as some pharmacies. Resources will be reallocated to vaccination clinics.
- COVID-19 Vaccine - The WCHD established a call center a little more than one week ago to start one waitlist for residents. The number is 667-252-2140. They received over 3,500 calls the first day. The call line has been received really well as people have been very frustrated with computer registration. There are currently 5,445 people on the waitlist. WCHD has partnered with Worcester County Library Staff and the Worcester County Commission on Aging to help staff this call center. When the Ocean City Fire Department saw the volume of calls being received, they also offered assistance.

Despite advocacy from our Town Leaders and County Commissioners, allocation for Worcester County has only been given 300 1st doses per week. This is based on the year round population of 52,000. We are following the Governor's priorities by serving those over the age of 65, assisted living and senior living centers, developmental disability group homes and educators.

WCHD has stood up and staffed 4 vaccination clinics per week at the Worcester Recreations Center, Snow Hill Health Department, Elks Lodge in Pocomoke and Northside Park in Ocean City. Currently these have been held as mostly second dose clinics.

8,957 Worcester Residents have received their first dose and 3,045 have received the second doses. This includes all providers such as AGH, TidalHealth, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS. WCHD has provided 4,486 of those 1st and 2nd doses.

When more vaccines are received our plans include using our mobile treatment van to take vaccines into our underserved areas to reach our minority populations.

A mass vaccination site on the Eastern Shore is also under discussion/planning with the State possibly in March. Our hope is to be able to use our waiting list to schedule those appointments. More details to follow on this.

- Darlene Jackson-Bowen - Is there a racial breakdown of positive tests, or for individuals that have received treatment? It is reported nationwide that minorities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
 - Jennifer LaMade - Although I don't have those numbers to provide today, I would echo that what you're saying is correct. Will look at having that data available for the next meeting. I would add that we need to get the message out that the vaccine is safe. We believe that going into the community with the mobile van would be a good step, but we need the doses to give.
- Ellen Willingham - Are you seeing any resistance regarding the vaccine, especially in the minority demographics?
 - Jennifer LaMade - There is some resistance to vaccines and some people are still uncomfortable. The WCHD is planning a Public Health Conference. James McGinnis from AGH will be delivering a keynote speech regarding vaccines. Darlene added that James does great work and has been working with her, and the faith based community, to address vaccine hesitancy and make people aware of issues within the communities of color.
- COVID-19 Food Service Enforcement - WCHD is still charged with enforcement and complaint investigations which have been ongoing this past year.

Tobacco Enforcement - Lawrence Carter

- Presentation
- Provided overview of tobacco enforcement activities and related data for the tri-county area
- lawrence.carter@maryland.gov

Worcester County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)

LHICs and Community Engagement - Abbie Bridges

- Presentation
- The point of the survey is to assess community engagement in the county and will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Asking all members to please take a moment to complete the survey.
- mdlhic@umd.edu

Jackie Ward: Send out survey

- Abbie has been meeting with LHIC and providing technical assistance to improve the meetings while sharing updates and learning more about community resources. Abbie will be graduating with her Masters in Public Health. Thank you Abbie for all your hard work!

Partner Updates

- Worcester County Recreation and Parks, Derek Jarmon
 - Programming is open and on Tuesdays host vaccination clinics with the WCHD.
 - Spring programming is ready to kick off in March.
- Worcester County Public Schools, Tamara Mills
 - Schools are at 80% in-person hybrid instruction.
 - Have been able to secure PPE for all music classes for next year.
 - There is an Opioid Operation Command Center in March that WCPS will participate in, along with Worcester Goes Purple and Debbie Smullen.
 - Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) at Snow Hill Middle School and Stephen Decatur Middle School will be participating in Herren Wellness Week. Pocumoke High School SADD is creating a new bulletin board for students returning to school.
 - There have been changes in the family life curriculum. There are 7 high school teachers being trained this year for the pilot program, and will be implemented next year.
 - There will be new focus groups for parents and teachers coming soon.
 - We are continuing with 6th grade DARE this year. Due to Sheriff's Department staffing issues, we may miss Berlin Intermediate School this year, but hope to go back to normal DARE next year.
- Community Foundation - Erica Joseph
 - Grant deadlines are coming up. Monday February 22nd Women's fund deadline, added a letter of inquiry.
 - Have an education grants program in a similar format. It is usually provided in the fall but providing it now in the hopes of getting funds for teachers. \$1500.00 for support for virtual or in-person curriculum. Deadline is February 28th.
 - Will continue to have a variety of professional development and capacity building things posted through the website.
 - www.cfes.org ejoseph@cfes.org
- Coastal Hospice - Alane Capen

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 beds are available at the residential facility, Stansell House in Ocean Pines. Also 4 beds are available at the in-patient facility. Stansell House is entirely Hospice beds and room and board is private pay on a sliding scale. ○ Alane Capen will be retiring in August and is currently searching for her replacement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wish you the best in your retirement Alane! ● Ocean Pines Community Member - Audrey Wahl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audrey received both vaccinations and stated that everyone is doing a wonderful job. ● Legal Resource Center - Blair Inniss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tracking a variety of public health bills at this time during the Maryland legislative session. If you want to be included on the email list for tracking legislation, or participate in calls, contact Blair at publichealth@law.umaryland.edu ● Worcester County Health Department Prevention - Crystal Bell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No updates ● Worcester County Department of Social Services - Dawn Blades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No updates ● Priority Partners - Ellen Willingham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be a Vulnerable Populations One Stop Event in Crisfield Saturday, February 20 with information tables. Will provide flyers. ○ Moving ahead with the Worcester County Vulnerable Populations One Stop Shop in Pocomoke. The event will take place on March 20th at the Pocomoke Middle School. These events are not limited to the host county and are open to all. Besides food boxes, community organizations are welcome to set up information sharing tables, provide health screenings etc. ○ If anyone would like information about the Pocomoke One Stop Shop or any other Vulnerable Populations events in Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset - please email: ewillinghan@jhhc.com. ● Home Instead - Crystal Heiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moving forward in 2021, the name has changed from Home Instead Senior Care to Home Instead. ○ Provides services to individuals 18 and older in Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. ● Worcester County Judy Center - Janiqua Johnson 	<p>Ellen: Send flyers to Jackie</p> <p>Jackie Ward: Send out flyers with follow up email</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing with the local food pantry at Snow Hill Elementary School. It is open daily, and provides food on Mondays. Started a backpack program for students in school to bring home food for the weekends. ○ Hosting a virtual storytime every Wednesday at 9:00am via Zoom. ○ Working with Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers at Snow Hill Elementary School and Pocomoke Elementary Schools to make sure they have materials that they need. ○ Started a virtual home visiting program, and have been supplying families with STEM kits and materials to help prepare them for Pre-K and Kindergarten. ○ Got good news that the grant will not be competitive and will be moving to a 3 year grant. ● Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA)/Local Management Board - Jessica Sexauer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LBHA going full steam ahead with the fiscal year 2022 behavioral health plan. That plan is due tomorrow at 5pm. Looking at strategies with partners to help continue moving forward with the integration of mental health and substance use services. ○ Received the Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the LMB. Planning to continue several programs including: Building Bridges to Stable Families which impacts the effects of incarcerations; and Worcester Connects which connects at risk youth to mentors to combat truancy and bullying. The LMB is also looking at including Bounce Back. The Jesse Klump Memorial Foundation would implement this program for elementary aged youth which targets Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and includes a trauma focused treatment modality that looks at cognitive interventions in individual, group and family sessions. ● MAC, Inc - Jill Kenney <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offers services for Dorchester, Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset counties. ○ Excited to be able to expand virtual offerings through funding for a loaner program with Verizon 4G tablets, that are preloaded with Zoom. Just received 20 more tablets to be able to provide program participants. ○ Offers evidence based programs including: chronic pain self management; diabetes management and more. Allowed to offer fall programs via tablets. ○ Programs are available to any adult, free of charge. ● Ocean Pines Association - Josh Davis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No updates ● MDH - Julinda Massey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No updates 	
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- Deer's Head Hospital - Keirsten Baker
 - Have held 3 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and 64% of employees received full shot series.
 - Will continue to encourage staff to take every public health safety measure.
- State Office of Rural Health - Sara Seitz
 - One of 50 state offices across the nation and we are beginning to do a circuit of the LHIC meetings.
 - They are an office meant to be a clearinghouse for rural information in Maryland.
 - Almost all of the census tracts in Worcester County are federally designated as rural. That makes many programs eligible for rural programming and grant funding. One of the services they offer is technical assistance to access those funds.
 - One of the reasons they are interested in connecting with LHICs is to get more names and make connections so that information can be forwarded as it becomes available.
 - In FY22 all of Worcester County will become federally and state designated as rural.
 - This office also sponsors the small rural hospital improvement program that will include in the coming fiscal year, Atlantic General Hospital.
 - Also within their office, there is the office of workforce development. This office has a wide variety of health provider programming, like loan repayment and tax credits for preceptors of clinical rotations for students. This is meant to attract and retain practitioners to the rural areas in the state.
 - State Office of Rural Health: <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Rural-health.aspx>
- Maryland Physicians Care - Trish Kesecker
 - Community advisory board is looking for people that are interested in joining. To be eligible to join, the individual must be a Maryland Physicians Care member and commit to bi-monthly meetings. Looking to achieve a diverse group, so individuals with chronic illness, or health concerns are encouraged to join. Members will receive a \$75 stipend for every meeting they attend. Enrollment is open for a limited time.
 - Maryland Physicians Care is always looking for new ways to serve their members. They are willing to go the extra mile to make sure your voices are heard and issues are addressed. They take your opinion and suggestions very seriously and recognize you are what makes Maryland Physicians Care successful.

- Trish Kesecker - Community Engagement Coordinator – Eastern Shore
tkesecker@mpcmedicaid.com marylandphysicianscare.com 410.507.6784

Prevention Updates

Cancer Prevention Update - Twila Fykes

- Colorectal cancer program. Concerns regarding a decrease in preventative screenings. Working to encourage people to resume screening. Worcester County Health Department can help with paying for the colonoscopy (if eligible for the program).
- Please call Twila at 410-632-1100 ext 1103

Tobacco Update - Crystal Bell

- Applying for grant funding available through the Community Health Resource Commission (CHRC) to expand upon their LHIC efforts to build upon our local diabetes strategies to implement the State of Maryland Diabetes Action Plan. The application was submitted yesterday. (Jackie Ward will send out all flyers in promotion of new tobacco classes and walk events).
- For more information please email crystal.bell1@maryland.gov
- Thank you to all that volunteered to serve on the LHIC Diabetes Subcommittee and Mini-grant review panel!
- **CRF Tobacco:** In efforts to continue supporting residents in quitting, Tobacco Cessation classes are currently being offered both online and in-person at the Snow Hill Health Department and Atlantic Club. Those needing (Nicotine Gum, Lozenges, or Nicotine patches) are being referred to the Maryland Tobacco Quitline. New spring dates have been released (Jackie will share flyers with new dates).
- **Tobacco Enforcement/Education:** Program is going well. Worcester County Sheriff's Office has begun conducting compliance checks in the county and no retailers have failed. Tobacco retail education is now being conducted in-person, 2021 Tobacco retailer packages have been received from MDH. Our Enforcement Coordinator is distributing signage.
- **Enforcement funds** are still available to fund (1) non-governmental entity in the amount of \$2,000 to provide tobacco retailer education about the laws related to youth access to tobacco to 40 retailers in the county. For more information, please email me at crystal.bell1@maryland.gov.
- **New Online Youth Cessation Program:** Implementing a new 10-week evidence-based youth tobacco cessation program through the American Lung Association called In-Depth for

