



Wicomico County Local Health Improvement Coalition Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 4, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Name:	<i>Wicomico Local Health Improvement Coalition</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Virtual Meeting</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>Friday, June 4, 2021</i>	Minutes Recorder:	<i>Cathey Insley</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	Minutes Reviewer:	<i>Group</i>
Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	<i>Mary Beth Waide (DHHC), Miya Horsey (Wicomico LMB), Deborah Stanley (CEC), Doug Wilson (Community), Lisa Renegar (WiCHD), Steve Walas (Encompass Health), Grace Kaeding (CRISP), Lori Brewster (WiCHD), Tuesday Trott (Holly Center), Cathey Insley (WiCHD), Dhruvi Patel (UM Cooperative Extension), Michelle Hardy (WiCHD), Tracy Ritter (United Way), Abbie Bridges (Horowitz Center for Health Literacy), Nicole Acle (County Council)</i>		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
WELCOME	Mary Beth Waide called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and members announced themselves.	
APRIL MINUTES	Lori Brewster made a motion to approve April minutes as written, seconded by Doug Wilson, and carried.	
PRESENTER	<p>Grace Kaeding, Data Analyst CRISP Reporting Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace shared her screen to provide an overview of the public health data dashboard. Data on the dashboard is typically posted at a 2 month lag. April data will be released on June 11th. Doug Wilson asked if there are customizations beyond CRISP definitions? Not through this dashboard. Lisa Renegar asked if claims are reported based on residents zip code or where services are rendered? Zip code is generated based on the patient's zip code at the time of service. For a copy of the CRISP user guide, or to request access, contact Grace at grace.kaeding@crisphealth.org. Questions can be directed to Grace or to CRISP support email: support@crisphealth.org or by phone at (443) 817-9587. Lori thanked Grace for her time in sharing the dashboard features, stating that local health departments find the dashboard very helpful. 	<p>To request access to the dashboard, contact Grace.</p>
Health Officer Updates	<p>COVID Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass vax clinic is demobilizing, with downsizing beginning last week. The state's last vaccine date will be the 19th. Volumes at all vaccination sites have been low after the first few weeks. Health Department has been asked to move back to the Civic Center. Will resume operations at the Civic Center the week of June 14th. 	

- Covid numbers are declining. We have had a few days lately with 0 new cases. County case rate has been below 10 and is currently below 5.
- Vaccination rate is not where we would like it.
- Currently at ~40% vaccination rate with individuals at least receiving 1st dose.
- Promoting through community events, sharing flyers, looking for additional locations to reach people where they are.
- Vaccine equity officer is visiting target areas where internet/access/transportation is an issue.
- ***Miya asked who our vaccine equity officer is?*** Tina Thomas from the Local Behavioral Health Authority.
- LHD will soon receive Pfizer to allow vaccinating younger individuals.
- Governor took away Local Health Officer's ability to take action on COVID compliance, which is concerning if herd immunity is not effective due to lower vaccination rate in Wicomico.
- ***Doug asked why vaccination rates on the shore are so much lower than the state?*** Vaccine hesitancy is a big issue in Somerset and Wicomico. Worcester has a higher vaccination rate, due to a larger number of older year round residents. Lori is hopeful that the return to school in the fall will increase vaccination in younger residents.

Behavioral Health Updates

- Overdose numbers continue to climb.
- ED is not seeing an increase in cases, so individuals are not making their way to the ED.
- COAT will soon be partnering with law enforcement to canvas areas and hopefully reach people and link to resources before an overdose occurs.
- Have seen an increase in mental health issues and suicides related to the pandemic. Hoping as things return to normal that numbers will continue to decline.

Health Department Updates

- 6/3/21: Health department was notified by the state that buildings can reopen 6/1. Working to add screening staff and people that can help direct individuals to where they need to go. Building has been closed since last March, with curbside services for birth/death certificates. Curbside service takes a longer amount of time
- Most of Lori's staff have been working in the building, and have continued to provide services.
- Additional staff will be returning to the building the week of June 7th.
- Lori has served as Health Officer for both Somerset and Wicomico since July 2018.
- In December, Lori started discussion about returning to only Wicomico, and as of May Lori is devoted 100% to Wicomico County, leaving Somerset in good hands with new Health Officer, Danielle Weber.

Partner Updates

Lisa Renegar (Wicomico County Health Department, Planning)

- LHIC bylaws were finalized at our April meeting. They are now posted on the health department's website, on

the Planning page. <https://www.wicomicohealth.org/planning/local-health-improvement-coalition-lhic/>

- Live Healthy Wicomico met in May to review county diabetes data. Numbers are still not good, but showing improvement trends in some areas.
- At the April meeting it was reported that a grant modification would be submitted to drop the walking component and increase the number of individuals trained to do academic detailing. That grant was not awarded and Lori, Lisa and Michelle met to discuss options.
- Other LHICs are hiring consultants to develop plans, look at barriers in signing individuals up for DPP. Would reach out to higher education to recruit this consultant.
- Other options are using funds for diabetic supplies.
- **Nicole asked if DPP classes are always held at the health department (transportation may be a barrier, and internet connection a barrier to virtual classes).** Michelle stated that HALT is typically offered in person and is only online currently due to building closure. Have found online platform to be unsuccessful for HALT, but Tobacco cessation has been very successful virtually, with most clients accessing the program by phone.

LHD Cancer program updates:

- BCCP has two grants for mammograms. A new grant for women aged 40-49 has reached 125% of their target.
- Second BCCP grant for women aged 50-64 is at 80% of their goal for the year.
- Colorectal Cancer has completed 25 of their targeted 27 screening colonoscopies. Of the 25 completed 33% had precancerous polyps removed, 92% were minorities, 36% male/64% female, and 18 of the 25 were new to the program.
- Colorectal has been able to reach 50% of their outreach goal, which is an accomplishment with COVID closures and program staff working at testing and vaccination clinics.

Michelle Hardy (Wicomico County Health Department, LBHA and Prevention)

- HALT online platform is a self paced program, not a set online meeting time. 8 started the current cohort, with only 1 still active. Have been told to close the session down due to lack of participation.
- Michelle has contacted the CDC for guidance on how to shut it down. Will not affect designation as a DPP provider.
- MAC Inc grant for violence intervention - virtual classes are going so well that the State wants to highlight the program at a State pre-recorded conference.
- Recruiting an Outreach Worker to supplement the work that the vaccine equity officer is doing. This outreach worker will be in the community and in their homes to increase vaccination rates. Interviews planned soon.
- Working with UMES as an evaluator on the project. The project is through the Office of Minorities and Disparities, working with historically black colleges to be an evaluating team.
- Dental office pediatric obesity screening - not able to sign providers other than the Village Dental Center.
- Will reach out to Chesapeake Healthcare and other dental providers. Hoping to offer over \$2300 in supplemental funds to their practice to improve provider participation.
- Will provide PPE and portion size plates for participating dental practices to share.
- LBHA Resource Guide will be modified for LEP clients. Hope to have this option available in FY22.
- Michelle thanked Dhruvi for participating in the subcommittee on this project.

Lisa will share data slides.

If you have input, please contact Lisa.

- Tracking cessation outcomes for those that have behavioral health issues.
- Tobacco and Data workgroups are combining in June to focus on that information.
- Wicomico Health Department will be the lead agency for the Hub and Spoke program. Will work with primary offices that can start patients on MAT, preferably Buprenorphine. Support funding is available to supply staff time, computers for telehealth. This one time grant ends September 2021. Dr. Cockey has championed this program, and we are close to signing an MOU with a local provider.

Tuesday Trott (Holly Center)

- Holly Center resident vaccination rate is 100%.
- Restricted campus with two buildings currently in quarantine.
- Family visitation in small groups began in April.
- Staff are starting to return from telework.

Dhruti Patel (University of Maryland Cooperative Extension)

- Working with professionals on a three session/90 minute program to build strong community programs.
- Go through evidenced based framework to build and optimize programs respective to the technology the organization is using.
- Goal is by the end of the program, everyone will have their own program framework in place.
- Connect to Wellbeing Program:
- Targeted for older adults and their caretakers. The phone based program helps those unable to access senior centers. The program is podcast style education with open conversation at the end of session.

Steve Walas (Encompass Heath)

- New beds are set to open on October 5, 2021. Encompass will then be a 74 bed acute rehab hospital.

Donna Clark (HOPE, Inc.)

- Dental funds are still available.
- Hope has a new email address: hope@hopesby.com

Deborah Stanley (Community Empowerment Center)

- Community Health Day event planned for June 19th beginning at 10 am.
- Flyer shared by email earlier in the week.
- Participation is welcome. Interested in offering information on COVID vaccine. If it is not possible to offer vaccines on site, would like to talk to the health department about providing space to offer vaccine.
- Funded by CRF tobacco grant.

**If interested,
contact Dhruti.**

NEXT MEETING	Friday, August 6, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m. ACTION: Cathey will look for meeting space to resume in person meetings, with a call in option for those that prefer to dial in.	
ADJOURNMENT	Steve Walas made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.	