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**Allegany County Health Planning Coalition**

Meeting Summary

November 12, 2024

This meeting was held via MS Teams.

**INDIVIDUALS PRESENT**

Stacey Blank, UPMC Melissa Nething, ACHD

Gena Spear, ACHD Elizabeth Little, UPMC

Paula McKenzie, ACHD Carla Leedy, UPMC

Susan Stewart, AHEC West Renee Page, DJS

Melissa Clark, AHEC West Carrie Duckworth, ACHD

Michelle Walker, CUW Lorena de Leon, MPC

Julie Teeter, AHEC West Rosanne Taylor, LBHA

Tracey Leonard, ACPS Kathy Condor, ACM

Amanda Woods, Grow West Corey Edmunds, Mountain Laurel

Tara Wetherell, MPC Mindy Bradshaw, MPC

Amanda Hawkins, UMD Jennifer Smith, ACHD

Jordan Lewis, ACHD Karlee Logsdon, TSCHC

Akin Akinwumi, ACHD Haley Guillot, ACHD

Matt Thomas Tahmya Delozier, PCM

Carey Moffatt, UPMC Jen Thomas, WellSky

Laura Knotts, ACHD Tricia Evix, ACHD

Theresa Stahl, ACHD Amanda Peterson, MPC

Karen Howsare, UPMC Jill Evans, UPMC

Gail Kenner, ACHD Sarah Bush, CareFirst

Lisa Beardsley, ACHD Tracy Bryant, MPC

Pam Jan, UPMC Juli McCoy, Chamber of Commerce

Andrea McCray, UPMC Susan Leftwich, The HealthWell Foundation

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME**

Stacey welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Co-chair Melissa Nething to introduce herself. Stacey asked if there were any Wins to report.

Theresa Stahl announced the Food Conference scheduled for 11/15/24 and shared information about the speakers and topics.

1. **ADOPT MINUTES of September 10, 2024**

Stacey asked if there were any changes or additions to the September 10, 2024, minutes, hearing none; Carey Moffatt made a motion to accept the minutes and Paula McKenzie seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

1. **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Susan Leftwich, Health Well Foundation, Community Engagement Manager – The HealthWell Foundation – When Heath Insurance is Not Enough.**

Susan provided an overview including background, covered and non-covered services, 90 disease funds and how to identify availability, 4 specialty funds not as disease-specific, pediatric funds, vitamins/supplements fund, and travel funds. Also shared eligibility requirements: some form of health insurance, MA, or Medicare, a diagnosis and currently receiving treatment or medicine that is covered in disease funds, (cannot be previous costs), health insurance covers some cost, income within 400-500% poverty level, and receiving treatment within US or territories. Additional information included who can apply and how to apply, what the grant process for online/phone is, a 5 step-by-step process, and 10-minute approval. She explained how grants can be used, length of time, and how and when eligible to reapply. Lastly, information about claims submission, tools for patients and providers, and information about the patient journey brochure. Stacey requested that Susan share the information to be emailed to the group.

Stacey asked about statistics of those provided help. Susan reported on the most recent audited numbers from 2023. They have given about 270,000 grants in 2023 and receive about 37,000 calls per month.

Beth Little asked about funding sources. Susan reported that most are corporate donations, however, individuals and/or families privately donate, but no repayment is required.

**Andrea McCray, LCSW, UPMC Western Maryland Community Social Worker – UPMC Western Maryland HealthWell Experience**

Andrea reported that she has been able to connect 35 outpatients with HealthWell grants. Most are cardiomyopathy patients with heart-related medications which save the patients from coming to the hospital unnecessarily. It is easy to apply and receive medication right away. The application was completed online, and approval was received quickly even before the patient left the office. Susan commented that it was nice to hear from someone that has used the process and with good results.

Andrea asked about Eliquis and Xarelto possibilities. Susan explained the process in trying to get medications added and said she would bring these up so that they are on the radar for potential funding.

Stacey suggested the possibility of Susan speaking at the Garrett County Health Department Coalition Meeting and is willing to introduce her to the coordinator if she is interested. Susan agreed.

1. **COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) UPDATES (previously called Local Health Action Plan)**

**CHIP** – There are no changes on how to submit tracking information. Please reach out to Melissa at melissaj.nething@maryland.gov or Stacey at blanksl@upmc.edu if you have data to add.

Current CHIP ends in June 2024. The Workgroup Meeting is 11/19/24 at 3pm and is starting the process of planning the next Community Health Assessment (CHA) that hopefully can be made available to the public in January and run through March. The Workgroup will report back to LHIC. When the survey closes, there will be focus groups to examine the top identified needs in the county.

1) A request for help from this group – In January many partners and LHIC will be asked to share and email the survey to collect survey responses within community in all areas and in all population levels. More specifics will be available at the January meeting.

2) A request to be thinking about an organization that can sponsor a prize or food money up to $100 for focus group meals. If anyone can do so, please let Melissa know. Maybe 4 focus groups throughout the county. Melissa Clark commented that AHEC West could help with food support.

Once the report is finished, it will be available for all LHIC members and the public and will help secure funding and support services in our county.

Stacey asked if any CHIP data is available for reporting, to please share it with her or Melissa.

1. **UPDATES**

***Cancer Committee Update: Paula McKenize, Director of Nursing reporting for Ellie Folk, Director of Cancer and Tobacco Cessation Programs***

* November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month – Shared information about annual screenings, eligibility, and helping patients navigate through the process.
* Maryland Cancer Fund receives MD tax donations and provides grants ($20,000/expires in a year) to individuals with cancer to help cover costs of treatment, medications, etc. Available through ACHD.
1. **PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UDPATES**
* Susan Stewart - AHEC West received the MRHA Western Maryland Economic Development Award.
* Beth Little - Diabetes Awareness Month education event is open to the public on 11/21.
* Lorena de Leon - Food delivery program beginning in Allegany County; a Community Café event called Up Your Game on 11/21 - partnering with ACHD for cooking classes for low-income constituents on how to prepare healthy venison recipes.
* Lisa Beardsley wanted to raise awareness about transportation changes and reported on an open discussion with County Transit related to changes in transit routes due to funding loss. Updates to come before the plan is finalized.
1. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. A meeting reminder will be sent.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Tana Wolfe