



**Allegany County Health Planning
Coalition
Meeting Summary
March 11, 2025**

This meeting was held via MS Teams.

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT

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| Stacey Blank, UPMC | Lydia Yoder, AHEC West |
| Melissa Nething, ACHD | Tana Wolfe, ACHD |
| Dr. Jennifer Corder, ACHD | Susan Stewart, AHEC West |
| Paula McKenzie, ACHD | Jim Raley, Archway |
| Carrie Duckworth, ACHD | Jill Evans, UPMC |
| Lisa McCoy, UMD | Mandy Hawkins, UMD |
| Tracey Leonard, ACPS | Corey Edmunds, Mountain Laurel Medical |
| Mindy Bradshaw, MPC | Matt Thomas, MPC |
| Jordan Rhoads, ACHD | Rhonda Pick, FCRC |
| Jordan Lewis, ACHD | Kim Rice, APPLES for Children |
| Ellie Folk, ACHD | Tahmya Delozier, PCM |
| Carey Moffatt, UPMC | Amanda Peterson, MPC |
| Laura Knotts, ACHD | Tricia Evix, ACHD |
| Paula Fuller, ACM | Theresa Stahl, ACHD |
| Renee Knisely, LMB | Wendolyn McKenzie, HRDC |
| Raghu Reddy, Western MD Surg Center | Gail Kenner, ACHD |
| Sarah Bush, CareFirst | Julie McCoy, Allegany Chamber of Commerce |
| Tara Wetherell, MPC | Lorena de Leon, MPC |
| George Townsend, Legal Resource Ctr, UMD | Jennifer Smith, ACHD |
| David Stewart, AHEC West | Michelle Walker CUW |
| Jessica Orndoff, ACM | Lisa Beardsley, ACHD |

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Stacey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carey Moffatt shared a “Win” – she had twenty-one participants at the 6am Smart Recovery meeting this week!

II. ADOPT MINUTES of January 14, 2025

Stacey asked if there were any changes or additions to January 14, 2025, meeting minutes. Hearing none, Theresa Stahl made a motion to accept the minutes and Carey Moffatt seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. PRESENTATION:

Susan Stewart, Maryland Area Health Education Center West (AHEC West), Lydia Yoder, Program Coordinator, and David Stewart, Program Director – Healthy Together Program

Susan shared a PowerPoint presentation related to the Garrett-Allegany Health Equity Alliance “Healthy Together” program that is grant funded through the Health Equity Resource Community (HERC) Grant. Objectives of the program include reducing health disparities, improving health outcomes, improving access to care, promoting primary and secondary prevention services and reducing health care costs and

hospital admissions/readmissions. Focus areas include food security, access to healthcare, economic stability and geographic location. Clinical/health disparities that will be targeted are substance use disorder and heart disease. Core partners throughout Allegany and Garrett counties include Mountain Laurel Medical Center, Allegany County Health Department, Garrett County Health Department, Allegany County Department of Social Services, Tri-State Community Health Center and others. This program will serve the most remote areas of Allegany/Garrett counties with specific zip codes being targeted, although outreach will be done throughout the counties. Also, there are no age limitations for AHEC screenings and resource referrals.

Lydia Yoder reported that she and her staff work in the community by attending all types of events to offer free health screenings to determine individual needs and refer event participants to programs funded by the grant who can assist or offer resources. Program staff also go out to senior events, schools, food banks and other community resources to offer these same services, with a focus on the most rural communities. Lydia discussed that program staff have contacted area laundromats to offer laundry supplies, screenings and resource referrals to patrons. She requested that members of the coalition contact her to discuss any upcoming events that AHEC staff may attend.

David Stewart discussed that the goal of this five-year grant is to establish and maintain coordination of services/referrals throughout the grant period and beyond. David discussed that the program researched a variety of data tools to capture needed statistical information (demographics, services provided, referrals made) and found that St. Mary's County had previously developed a data tool, Well Check, through their Pathways Grant. AHEC is currently working to modify and customize the Well Check data tool so that it fits the program's needs and that Well Check was the most affordable option for AHEC. Ultimately, the program will be able to determine eligibility for services using this tool and refer individuals, as needed. Lorena de Leon, interjected that MDH has required that all MCO members be screened once yearly for SDOH by the MCO and this information is sent to CRISP which may cause overlap in screening/services. David stated that, although double screening may occur, it will ensure that individuals receive needed services, that more program coordination is needed and AHEC's information will also link to CRISP. David stated that the program is on track with CHRC goals/objectives and the overall project goal is that 7,000 unique individuals receive one or more services within the five year grant period. Using the Well Check platform, screening will be agnostic but still allow for many referrals between programs. David added that AHEC will be adding new physical locations in Westernport and Oakland to better serve those areas.

David and Lydia discussed that food and housing insecurity are huge needs in the community. They gave examples of the types of assistance most often requested which included health insurance access, access to primary care, help with transportation and help with paying utility bills. Lydia explained that AHEC will offer transportation vouchers or bus passes and have utilized Broken Arrow, a local transportation service. Lisa Beardsley, ACHD Transportation Program, offered to meet to discuss transportation barriers and resources. Jill Evans, UPMC, discussed that many of her patients have SDOH needs and was encouraged to refer them to AHEC. David provided the Connector Call Center phone number for AHEC at 888-202-0212 where individuals may apply for health insurance.

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) UPDATES (previously Local Health Action Plan)

Melissa reported that the Community Needs Assessment survey has been widely distributed throughout the county and thanked partnering agencies for their help in this effort. She reported that, to date, 932 survey responses have been received with the goal of 1,000 total surveys completed. This survey will continue until April 15 and responses will be compiled and discussed at the April work group meeting. Thus far, 569 respondents stated that access to healthcare is the largest need, with mental health access,

job/employment and affordable housing receiving the highest number of additional responses. Eight focus groups will begin meeting in April to help identify priorities for addressing needs. Findings of the needs assessment survey will be shared with this group in the future and CHIP will be updated after the assessment is completed.

The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

V. UPDATES

Cancer Committee Update: Ellie Folk, Director of Cancer Screening Program

- Ellie reported that March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness month. Ellie’s program offers free colonoscopies or the newly offered Cologuard to income eligible clients who are uninsured or underinsured. Underinsured is defined as someone who has insurance, but they are charged a deductible or co-pay for the service. The cancer program can pick up the cost for the client.
- If you have any clients that need assistance obtaining their cancer screenings or have been recently diagnosed with cancer, they can be referred to Ellie’s program by calling 301-759-5083.
- The Maryland Cancer Fund assists in paying for cancer treatment, but the client must be a resident of MD for at least 6 months and recently diagnosed with cancer in the last 6 months. If someone is diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer the program can assist them in applying for D&T, which can help pay for breast and cervical cancer treatment.

VI. PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

- Please share upcoming events on the **Get Healthy Allegany County** Facebook page.
- George Townsend provided cannabis updates and informed the group that a webinar will take place March 20, 2025 at 1:00 pm to discuss cannabis advertising laws. He also stated that his office continues to monitor legislative updates related to cannabis bills.
- The Allegany Speaks calendar link was shared and group members are asked to share health related events to this calendar.
- Melissa reported that Tana Wolfe will be retiring in a few weeks and thanked her for her long-term support of this group.
- UPMC is currently celebrating Pulmonary Rehab Week and any clients having chronic lung disease should be referred to the Pulmonary Rehab program.
- Theresa Stahl reported that March is National Nutrition Month and there will be an event held at the Westernport Library on March 20, 2025 from 1-2:00 pm regarding healthy meal planning on a budget. She also discussed the other nutrition related programs that are offered at the health department and welcomes referrals to these programs.
- The YMCA Health and Wellness Expo will take place on May 7, 2025 from 3-6:00 pm.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. A meeting reminder will be sent.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Submitted by: Gail Kenner