



## Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Food Security Committee

Virtual via Zoom

June 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### Minutes

#### Members Present:

Anna Beavan, LindaBen Foundation Inc.  
Genesis Caplan, University of Maryland SNAP-Ed  
Danielle Clifford-Earles, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence  
Shakia Colbert, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield  
Laura Crovo, Grassroots Crisis Intervention  
Shannon Harris, Howard County Health Department.  
Laura Henderson, Howard County Health Department  
Rosslyn Jones, Rachell L. Gray Community Foundation  
Rachel Krut, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center  
Lauren McGee, Chase Brexton Health Care  
Jonathan McKinney, Community Ecology Institute  
Melissa Melton, Community Member  
Geneva Rieu, Howard County Dept of Social Services  
Antigone Vickery, Howard County Health Department

#### Staff Present:

Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Janet Afoakwah, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Reena Rambharat, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Ms. Reena Rambharat, Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC), called the meeting to order at 10:02am. She provided a welcome to members in attendance, shared the meeting goal of gathering partners to discuss collaborative efforts to address food and nutrition insecurity in Howard County.	Members are asked to review previous meeting minutes: <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?caid=365">https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?caid=365</a>

<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat announced the next Full LHIC meeting set to take place July 18, 2024 and invited members to share any announcements or community events.</p> <p>Ms. Anna Beavan encouraged to attend the mobile food market event on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Bryant Woods Elementary School. She also shared plans for a multi-purpose space in the Beltsville area, to serve as a hub for food stores and a family support center for Prince George’s County and Howard County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hopes to open the space by mid-July and mentioned a recent call from a family in the need of baby essentials in Howard County.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Roslyn Jones, Rachell L. Gray Community Foundation discussed upcoming events, including a Friday camp for youth, a clothing giveaway, and a book bag giveaway starting from June 28, until August 9, 2024. August 17<sup>th</sup> is the bookbag giveaway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also mentioned ongoing pantry events and produce pantry on the go.</li> </ul> <p><b>Introduction of New Co-Chair and Coordinator</b></p> <p>Ms. Rambharat announced the addition of a new Co-Chair and Community Engagement Coordinator to the workgroup.</p> <p>Ms. Genesis Caplan introduced herself as the new Co-Chair and shared her roles as a Nutrition Educator and project leader within Snap-Ed. Ms. Caplan encouraged organizations interested in nutrition education to connect with her.</p> <p>Ms. Janet Afoakwah introduced herself as the new Coordinator and expressed excitement about joining the group and her background in public health and previous work within United Healthcare.</p>	<p>Agendas for past full LHIC meetings:  <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/home/MeetingYears/1">https://www.hclhic.org/home/MeetingYears/1</a></p> <p>Register for the Full LHIC meeting:  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-726290964827?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-726290964827?aff=oddtcreator</a></p> <p>Backpack &amp; School Supplies:  <a href="https://www.rlgcommunityfoundationhelp.org/event-details/backpack-and-school-supplies">https://www.rlgcommunityfoundationhelp.org/event-details/backpack-and-school-supplies</a></p> <p>Pantry On the Go:  <a href="https://www.rlgcommunityfoundationhelp.org/">https://www.rlgcommunityfoundationhelp.org/</a></p> <p>Contact for Genesis Caplan:  <a href="mailto:gcaplan@umd.edu">gcaplan@umd.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Food Security Updates</b></p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat shared updates on the Howard County Food Connection Map, including the additions such as HCPSS summer meal sites, Farmers Market sites, mobile markets including Roving Radish and LindaBen sites.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat noted that the map received a 2024 NACo Achievement Award and mentioned the availability of food map posters and brochures in the multiple languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared that there are food map posters and brochures can be requested and are in five languages.</li> </ul>	<p>Food Connection Map link:  <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/foodmap">https://www.hclhic.org/foodmap</a></p> <p>Request Food Map posters and brochures:  <a href="https://forms.gle/WjjA4NN1xTXS92ra9">https://forms.gle/WjjA4NN1xTXS92ra9</a></p>
<p><b>WIC Program Overview</b></p>	<p>Ms. Laura Henderson, Director of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program provided an overview of the program, explaining its federal funding under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the provision of individual food packages for participants based on their specific needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared statistics about the number of participants served in Maryland and the positive health outcomes associated with WIC enrollment.</li> </ul>	<p>For WIC Support and Connection Services visit:  <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/wic/Pages/Home.aspx">https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/wic/Pages/Home.aspx</a></p> <p>For more information to</p>

- Mentioned the program’s requirement to make referrals for healthcare providers for participants without medical assistance.
- Discussed the specific food packages provided to pregnant individuals, breastfeeding individuals, and children up to the age of five.
- Explained the coverage period for pregnant individuals and postpartum people, as well as the eligibility criteria for WIC, including income-based qualifications and adjunct eligibility with other assistance programs.
- Discussed the WIC food package, emphasizing the support for breastfeeding and the variety of food options available, which are based on the dietary guidelines for Americans and update every 10 years by the USDA.
- Noted Maryland’s adoption of new food options in the WIC program to encourage longer participation, especially beyond the age of one for children.
- Explained that the cash value benefit in the WIC food package is now permanent and will not fluctuate, providing stable amounts for recipients.
- Detailed the cash value benefits for children, pregnant postpartum, and breastfeeding individuals, emphasizing the potential impact for families with multiple children.
- Discussed the expansion of non-dairy options, including plant-based yogurts and cheeses, to accommodate diverse dietary preferences.
- Noted changes in the availability of infant foods, breakfast cereals, whole grain being exciting change and canned fish, as well as increased flexibility for children with food allergies.

Ms. Colbert expressed excitement and interest in obtaining a one-sheet or one-pager to share at community resource fairs. Ms. Henderson mentioned the National WIC Association as a potential source for media toolkits and committed to checking for a clean summary to share.

Ms. Colbert requested information on WIC outreach representatives in specific counties and provided their email for further communication. Ms. Henderson advised putting the email in the chat to connect with the state outreach coordinator and offered to facilitate the connection.

Ms. Beavan expressed appreciation for the presentation and the evolution of WIC, and praised the usefulness of the mobile app.

Ms. Henderson encouraged reaching out for outreach materials and support, offering to share contact information and aid with client inquiries. She invited attendees to reach out with any questions about the food package.

Ms. Rambharat inquired about the possibility of swapping food package items and utilizing the card at farmers markets and mobile markets. Ms. Henderson explained the limitations of modifying the food package and the process for utilizing the card at farmers markets and mobile markets. She also shared information about upcoming changes and the need for technology updates to support them.

WIC commitment to breastfeeding visit:  
[American Academy of Pediatrics position on breastfeeding.](#)

For any follow-up questions with Laura:  
[lhenderson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lhenderson@howardcountymd.gov)

<p><b>Summer Pop-Up Market</b></p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat discussed the gap between the end of summer meals and the start of school, and the efforts to address it through mobile markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraged organizations to join the effort and offered to connect them with the Food Bank Director.</li> <li>• Shared the planned weeks for the pop-up market in August and the reason for choosing those weeks is that there is a three-week gap.</li> <li>• Confirmed the location as Deep Run Elementary due to previous success in reaching the community.</li> <li>• Discussed the distribution of flyers to specific families and the school community.</li> <li>• Emphasized the targeted promotion to the residents, community, and students in and around the Deep Run area.</li> <li>• Ms. Melton inquired about reaching out to students from reaching out to Mayfield Woods Middle School and Long Reach High School. Ms. Rambharat acknowledged the suggestion and mentioned the previous method of sending information through school administrators to families receiving free and reduced meals.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Roslyn Jones mentioned plans to partner with Deep Run for backpack distribution in August and offered additional resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the possibility of sharing information about the backpack program and collaborating efforts.</li> <li>• Acknowledged the need to solidify dates and times for the backpack program.</li> <li>• Mentioned collaboration with Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services for the backpack program.</li> </ul>	<p>Members interested in requesting print copies are asked to complete this form:  <a href="https://forms.gle/WjjA4NN1xTXS92ra9">https://forms.gle/WjjA4NN1xTXS92ra9</a></p>
<p><b>Wrap up and Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat announced the conclusion of the discussion and thanked the participants for joining.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared plans to distribute meeting minutes and updates for the upcoming meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Rambharat adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.</p>	<p>Email <a href="mailto:lhic@howardcountymd.gov">lhic@howardcountymd.gov</a> with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted:  <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=365">https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=365</a></p>

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ms. Janet Afoakwah, MPH  
Community Engagement Coordinator,  
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Website: <https://www.hclhic.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HCLHIC/> Twitter: [@hclhic](https://twitter.com/hclhic)