

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative (CHWLC)
March 13, 2025
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Heroes Room A

Minutes

Co-Chairs Present:

Amanda Toohey, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Chynáe Vicks, Howard County Health Department

Members Present:

Francisco Abate, Community Action Council
Margia Ahmed, Howard County Health Department
Miriam Anderson, Howard County Health Department
Linda Ashburn, Howard County Health Department
Shannon Blount, Howard County Public School System
Maria Candanoza, Howard County Health Department
Lidyamar Gonzalez, Howard County Health Department
Nyanie Henriquez, Howard County Health Department, P.E.A.C.E. Project
Rosemarie Jimenez, Howard County Health Department
Rachel Krut, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Vanda Lerdboon, Howard County Health Department
Nancy Moreno, Howard County Health Department
Kenia Quintanilla, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Reena Rambharat, Howard County Health Department
Kirk Rookwood, The Healthy Church
Sandy Roschli, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Nicki Sanders, Howard Community College
Amanda Vu, Horowitz Center for Health Literacy
Katrina Williams, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Sashani Williams, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Randell Young, Howard County Health Department

Staff Present:

Maribet Rivera-Brute, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Stephanie Foster, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Ashton Jordan, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Ashton Jordan, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.	Members are encouraged to review the past minutes available at: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=367
Announcements	<p>Ashton Jordan provided the following announcements to the workgroup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next HCLHIC Quarterly hybrid meeting is on April 17, 2025, at 9am. It will be hybrid, and refreshments will be available for in-person attendees. HCLHIC is hosting Community Health Forums in March. Registration below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 25 – Central Branch Library March 29 – ElkrIDGE Branch Library March 31 – North Laurel Community Center 	<p>Members can register for upcoming LHIC meetings here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-1022732690007?aff=oddttdcreator</p> <p>Members interested in attending any of the Community Health Forums can register here: https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/local-health-improvement-coalition</p>
CHW LC Action Plan Review	<p>Ashton Jordan reviewed the CHWLC Action Plan for the collaborative.</p> <p>CHWLC Action Plan Goals and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Develop coordination of Community Health Worker (CHW) networks across all organizations in Howard County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: By June 2028, empower and support CHWs across county to mobilize and expand workforce. Goal 2: Promote CHWs as trusted bridges to community access to health and social services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Develop standards and expectations for conducting work as a CHW Objective 2: Connect CHWs to community organizations and develop ongoing relationships and referral mechanisms to increase understanding of 	

	<p>CHW impact and capacity within the County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 3: Build workflows into current HCHD programs to integrate CHWs <p>- Goal 3: Develop systems of support that will promote growth and sustainability for the community health worker workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective 1: Explore CHW certification or similar competency/training measures ○ Objective 2: explore opportunities for sustainable and continued funding for CHW workforce programming in Howard County. 	
<p>Breakout Session: Defining a Community Health Worker</p>	<p>Chynáe Vicks, Howard County Health Department, led the breakout session and partnered collaborative members together to develop “definitions” of a CHW/CHW scope of work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants discussed the distribution of CHWs across various agencies. - Participants engaged in conversation about the significance of CHWs and the skills necessary for effective practice. - Participants acknowledged the importance of non-tangible skills such as empathy and communication in connecting with individuals navigating the healthcare system. - Participants highlighted how CHWs can help patients, especially those with new diagnoses, by providing assistance with appointments and understanding medical information. - Participants emphasized the need for CHWs to address communication barriers and improve health literacy. - There was also a discussion about the stigma surrounding seeking help and how CHWs can 	

	<p>alleviate fears associated with accessing healthcare services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further, Participants expressed the importance of CHWs as trusted community members bridging the gap to access health care and services. <p>Participants wrote down their responses on slips of paper and then shared them aloud with the group. As each response was shared, Chynáe connected the slips of paper to form a "chain link," creating a visual representation of how CHWs serve as a vital link between community members and local health and social resources.</p>	
Mindfulness Training Demonstration	Randell Young, Howard County Health Department, addressed the significance of mindfulness in managing the unique stressors and emotional demands of their roles. Randell also led a mindfulness demonstration for the collaborative.	
Next Steps & Wrap-up	<p>The next CHW LC meeting is June 12th at 10 am in Room A of the HCHD</p> <p>Ashton Jordan adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by:
Ashton Jordan, MSPH
Community Engagement Coordinator
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition