



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Healthy Minds and Suicide Prevention Coalition (HMSPC)

March 20, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Co-Chair Present:

Jessica Fisher, Howard County Health Department

Members Present:

- Barbara Allen, Opioid Crisis Community Council
- Brenda Granados, Coaching Salud Holística
- Natalie Hall, Howard County Health Department
- Shannon Harris, Howard County Health Department
- Karen Hull, Howard County Office of Aging and Independence
- Rosemarie Jimenez-Rosales, Howard County Health Department
- Sheri Koller, Brave Journeys LLC
- Genny LaPorte, Howard County Police Department and Grassroots
- Topaz Navarro, Facilitator
- Marlene L. Orantes, Horowitz Center for Health Literacy - University of Maryland
- Ana Riveria-Ortiz, Howard County Health Department
- Eileen Zeller, Moms Demand Action Howard County

Staff Present:

- Maribet Rivera-Brute, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
- Stephanie Foster, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome/Ice Breaker	<p>Jessica Fisher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Howard County Health Department (HCHD) called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm, warmly welcoming all attendees and led an Ice Breaker Activity.</p> <p>Jessica Fisher engaged members in a light conversation about spring activities and what members are looking forward to doing during the springtime.</p>	Members are urged to review the past minutes available here .
Announcements and Overview from the November 7, 2024 Meeting	<p>Jessica Fisher announced the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jessica LaFave has stepped down as Co-Chair and is no longer a member of the Coalition. She was a valued member of the group and will be missed.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC) Community Health Forums are scheduled for March 25th (Columbia Central Branch Library), 29th (Elkridge Branch Library, and 31st (North Laurel Community Center). The next Full LHIC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th, 9am-10:30am, held both in-person and virtual. ReIMAGINE the Rainbow Event, Friday, April 25 from 5:00 PM - 9:15 PM. The 4th Annual Light the Night 5K, Friday, April 4th, 2025, from 7:00 PM - 8:30PM, Oakland Mills High School Track and Field, 9410 Kilimanjaro Rd, Columbia, MD 21045. Save the Date: Good Vibes and Voices Concert and Event, June 5th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Rockburn Branch Park, West, 6105 Rockburn Branch Park Road Elkridge, MD 21075. Rain date: June 6th. <p>Ms. Fisher gave an overview of the November 7, 2024, meeting and acknowledged meetings scheduled to finalize and complete the Safe Homes Brochure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safe Homes Brochure was completed in February and has been printed and delivered to LHIC. Jessica acknowledged everyone involved with the creation of the Safe Homes Brochure for their hard work and dedication in producing a vital resource for the community. <p>Ms. Stephanie Foster presented the proposed new dates for the HMSPC Workgroup meeting and explained the reason for the changes. All new meeting dates were approved, except for the September meeting. Ms. Fisher and Ms. Foster will discuss a date that aligns with Coalition members’ schedules and email the group with the new date and time for September.</p>	<p>April Full LHIC Meeting: Click here to register for the April 17th Full LHIC Meeting</p> <p>ReIMAGINE the Rainbow Event, Friday, April 25 from 5:00PM - 9:15PM. Click here to register.</p> <p>The 4th Annual Light the Night 5K, Friday, April 4th, 2025, from 7:00 PM - 8:30PM, Oakland Mills High School Track and Field, 9410 Kilimanjaro Rd, Columbia, MD 21045. Click here to register.</p> <p>Good Vibes and Voices Concert and Event, June 5th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Fisher's led a discussion focused on the emotional challenges arising from recent job losses and current administrative actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants voiced significant worries about the rising number of individuals facing job loss. There was acknowledgment of increased stress and anxiety related to budget implications and the trickle-down effects from Federal Government agency closures and budget cuts. <p>Barbara Allen, Opioid Crisis Community Council, encouraged members to stay positive and to seek resources for support if needed.</p> <p>Ms. Fisher echoed the same sentiment and acknowledged the importance of recognizing and supporting each other during these difficult times.</p>	



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update and Presentation of Goals	<p>Maribet Rivera-Brute, LHIC Director, discussed the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) timeline (Phase I, II, and III), acknowledged the information gained from the Root Cause Analysis and Health Main Drivers, and the selected solutions from the Healthy Minds Roundtable meetings that were on January 30th and February 25th.</p> <p>In addition, Maribet Rivera-Brute discussed the process of ranking of the solutions and action steps that would be discussed during the upcoming Community Health Forums that will take place in March.</p> <p>Ms. Stephanie Foster, LHIC Community Engagement Coordinator, presented the possible goals that will be included in the 2026-2028 Action Plan, and asked the Coalition members for feedback and actions items to be added to the FY26-28 Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some suggestions for action plans were to increase the messaging when addressing the importance of safe home practices for storage of medication, firearms, and harmful materials in the home.• Create collaborations with parents and HCPSS in the efforts to establish support services for youth.	
Next Steps & Wrap-up	<p>Due to the length of the meeting, Ms. Foster couldn't present Goal #4 and will email it to Coalitions members for their feedback and action items.</p> <p>Lastly, Ms. Fisher acknowledged the next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2025, at 11 am via Zoom and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them well.</p> <p>Ms. Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by
Ms. Stephanie Foster
Community Engagement Coordinator
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition