



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition

July 11, 2024

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Erin Anderson, Howard County Health Department
Jessica Fisher, Howard County Health Department
Karen Hull, Office on Aging, and Independence/MAP
Jessica LaFave, Department of Veterans Affairs (Maryland)
Genny LaPorte, Howard County Police Department and Grassroots
Deb Lattimer, Moms Demand Action
Sarah McCoy, Grassroots Crisis Intervention
Chris Miller, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center

Staff Present:

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

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome/Ice Breaker	Jessica Fisher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Ms. Fisher welcomed members in attendance and had them introduce themselves in the chat box.	Members are urged to review the past minutes available at: https://www.hclhic.org/home/MeetingYears/36_3
Recap of Previous Meeting Presentations	Jessica Fisher provided a summary of the previous meeting's presentations, including successes in Narcan training and overdose response programs, as well as a presentation on safe storage initiatives and gun violence programs. Ms. Fisher concluded by highlighting the positive meeting discussions and upcoming activities.	

HMSPC Action Plan Update

Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
Ashton Jordan from the HC Local Health Improvement Coalition gave an overview of the goal to increase awareness of culturally appropriate, accessible, and inclusive mental health resources and supports to reduce stigma around mental health, promote brain health, and promote social engagement across the lifespan in collaboration with the coalition and community partners in Howard County.

Topics discussed during the Action Plan Update overview included:

- Introduction of a new objective to promote mental health and suicide prevention classes among priority populations in Howard County, outlining steps to achieve this objective.
- Plans to track evidence-based programs and classes offered by partners, as well as outreach events and their impact on community members.
- Plans to track the number of events and attendees, as well as the completion rates of evidence-based classes.
- Emphasis on the importance of tracking efforts, especially after the current quarter ends.

Ms. Fisher invited questions from attendees regarding the update and the support needed to track the information.

- Reflected on Mental Health Awareness Month activities, including the initiative to light up Green for Mental Health Awareness Month, and encouraged attendees to share any related pictures in the chat.
- Provided a website address for attendees to view a list of statewide places that participated in Lighting Up Green for Mental Health Awareness Month.

Light up Green related information can be found [here](#)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highlighted the participation of various Howard County organizations in the initiative, reflected on the success of lighting up various buildings and the lakefront in Green, and expressed gratitude to all organizations that participated. <p>Ms. Fisher mentioned upcoming awareness months and days, including Suicide Awareness Month in September, Overdose Awareness Day in August, and Take Back Day in October.</p> <p>Ms. Fisher invited attendees to discuss and plan activities for these upcoming awareness events. Jessica LaFave from the Department of Veterans Affairs (Maryland) inquired about the possibility of coalition participation in the “Out of the Darkness Walk” and suggested manning a coalition table.</p> <p>Erin Anderson from the Howard County Health Department expressed interest in participating in the walk and mentioned bringing it up at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Fisher confirmed the date for the “Out of the Darkness Walk” as September 21st at Color Burst Park, with a potential move to September 28th.</p> <p>Ms. Fisher expressed hope for a successful event and appreciated the idea of coalition participation.</p> <p>Ms. LaFave shared information about the annual drag show hosted by the Veteran Pride Suicide Prevention Coalition in Baltimore City on September 28, from 5 pm to 8 pm.</p> <p>Ms. LaFave mentioned a suicide prevention walk at Perry Point in September and suggested planning events at community centers in the future.</p> <p>Mr. Jordan expanded on the idea of hosting events at community centers and suggested making it a recurring movement every September.</p> <p>Janet Afoakwah from the HC Local Health Improvement Coalition supported the idea of</p>	<p>Out of Darkness Walks information can be found here</p> <p>Out of The Darkness (coalition members to sign up on our team): https://supporting.afsp.org/team/HCLHIC-HMSPC</p>
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making it a movement and suggested creating a collaborative video for September.

Ms. Fisher agreed with the idea but suggested starting smaller for this year, mentioning the Out of the Darkness Walk as a potential opportunity for coalition representation.

Genny LaPorte from the Howard County Police Department and Grassroots expressed support for the idea of coalition representation at the Out of the Darkness Walk and offered to provide outreach materials and swag items.

Ms. Fisher mentioned being part of the Walk Chair Committee and could be the point person.

Ms. LaFave supported the idea of the coalition walking together and networking at the event.

Ms. LaFave proposes registering as a coalition for the walk and setting up a table for sign-ups.

Sarah McCoy from Grassroots Crisis Intervention confirmed grassroots involvement in mental health awareness activities and expressed support for the committee's involvement in the walk.

Ms. McCoy admired the outreach efforts and the enrollment of the director of marketing and expressed a desire for better communication about ongoing events and activities.

Ms. Fisher expressed interest in creating coalition initiatives for social media and email signatures to promote awareness months.

Karen Hull from the Office on Aging and Independence/MAP shared involvement in mental health awareness activities, including outreach tables and presentations at senior centers regionally.

- Discussed collaboration with marketing and communication teams to promote mental health awareness through media, mentioned conducting PHQ-9 screenings during outreach activities and noted a lower response rate compared to previous screenings.
- Mentioned that Stephanie Reed from the Health Department was at the Bains Center location and talked about how older adults can find resources.
- Expressed uncertainty about programming for September due to vacation plans but mentioned potential availability on the 21st.



	<p>Chris Miller from Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center introduced themselves as a new member and expressed a desire to learn and listen. Ms. Miller expressed a need to identify the greatest need and interest within the county for mental health training and support. Ms. Fisher emphasized the importance of addressing these issues and suggested further conversation with the coalition. Ms. Afoakwah introduced themselves and their background in public health work. Ms. Lattimer shared a link for her upcoming event in September and encouraged registration. Ms. Afoakwah reminded everyone of the Full LHIC meeting on July 18, 2024 and encouraged registration.</p>	<p>Full LHIC meeting sign-up here</p>
<p>Announcements Next Steps & Wrap-up</p>	<p>Ms. Fisher announced the next meeting in September and the need to pay attention to forthcoming emails regarding the Out of the Darkness Walk enrollment. Ms. Fisher thanked everyone and wished them well.</p> <p>The next HMSPC Meeting would be on July 11, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.</p> <p>Jessica Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.</p>	