



## Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Meeting

Virtual via Zoom, May 8, 2024

2:00pm – 3:00pm

### Minutes

#### Members Present:

Erin Anderson, HC Health Department  
Shannon Blount, HC Public School System  
Shakia Colbert, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield  
Samantha Cribbs, HC Health Department  
Marsha Dawson, HC Office of the Local Children’s Board  
Laura Henderson, HC Health Department  
Allysin Houle, HC Health Department  
Alexandra Simon, HC Health Department  
Connie Ford, HC Health Department  
D’Paul Nibber, Horizon Foundation  
Erin Bonzon, HC Office of Children and Families

Melissa Melton, HC Community Health Worker  
Carrie Singley, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center  
Lauren Soummers, HC Health Department  
Erica Taylor, HC Office of Children and Families  
Amber Wilson, Howard County Library System  
Patrice Tucker, UnitedHealthcare  
Natalie Hall, HC Health Department  
Lois Park, HC Health Department  
Linda Ashburn, HC Health Department

#### Staff Present:

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

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>Ms. Samantha Cribbs, Maternal &amp; Infant Health Program Supervisor, Bureau of Family Health Services Howard County Health Department, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. She provided a welcome to members in attendance, said the meeting will be recorded for note-taking purposes only, and shared the meeting goal of gathering partners to discuss collaborative efforts to improve birth outcomes for people of color in Howard County to advance efforts toward reducing health disparities.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat asked members to introduce themselves.</p>	<p>LHIC’s website: <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/">https://www.hclhic.org/</a></p> <p>Email LHIC with any other announcements or questions: <a href="mailto:lhic@howardcountymd.gov">lhic@howardcountymd.gov</a></p>

<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>Ms. Cribbs opened the floor for sharing of program announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P.E.A.C.E project Is partnering with HC Library/Elkridge Branch for a series of Classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early Literacy (Hatchlings)</li> <li>○ Prenatal (Baby on the Way, Baby and Me)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Howard County is looking at expanding the branches that these classes are held. HC Elkridge branch is holding a Baby on the Way class on 5/29/24. Dinner will be provided.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson stated that classes will rotate throughout the library branches.</p> <p>Ms. Melton asked about the sessions for Hatchlings and Baby on the Way/Baby and Me classes. Ms. Wilson responded that Howard County website lists events. Ms. Colbert offered to distribute flyers at the prenatal fitness class. The first class was 5/14 at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center and they will continue until August. They welcome feedback on additional centers to hold classes.</p> <p>Ms. Henderson shared that August is Breast Feeding Awareness and Celebration month. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program will host events at the Health Department in Columbia and North Laurel clinic. They are free and open to public and are awaiting final approval for farmer’s market. Flyers will be created once approval is given.</p> <p>Ms. Taylor shared that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and they are piloting a Fatherhood series. Two have occurred with two more coming on 5/16 and 6/08. There is a possible fathers’ event celebration in June. Flyer will be sent to group once created.</p>	<p>Next Baby on the Way class 5/29/24</p> <p>Next Baby and Me class in July for the Savage branch using this <a href="#">link</a>.</p> <p>Upcoming Prenatal Fitness Classes at Harriet Tubman Cultural Center:  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/howard-county-free-prenatal-fitness-classes-presented-by-fit4mom-tickets-880163070437">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/howard-county-free-prenatal-fitness-classes-presented-by-fit4mom-tickets-880163070437</a></p>
<p><b>Previous Meeting Recap</b></p>	<p>Ms. Cribbs said that the previous meeting minutes can be found on the LHIC webpage’s Meeting Portal. At the last meeting on February 14, 2024, we discussed the Family Support Center, Childbirth and Parent Education Programs and planning for Black Maternal Health Week.</p>	<p>Access previous meeting minutes:  <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=366">https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=366</a></p>
<p><b>Healthy Babies Equity Act</b></p>	<p>Ms. Allysin Houle, Deputy Director, Access to Healthcare Services, Howard County Health Department gave a presentation on the Healthy Babies Equity Act with the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor visits, dental care, prescription drugs, behavioral health care, hospital care, lab work and tests, mental health care and transportation services are offered for qualified Marylanders.</li> <li>• 7/1/23 – Medication Assistance (MA) Transportation program provided comprehensive coverage to non-citizen pregnant Marylanders (within income limits) and their children up to the age of one year.</li> <li>• Participants enrolled in Managed Care Organization (MCO) during prenatal and 4 months postpartum.</li> </ul>	<p>More info-MCHP 4103135845 or <a href="mailto:medicaid@howardcountymd.gov">medicaid@howardcountymd.gov</a>. m-f 8a-4p. walk in intake and phone intake available.</p> <p>MA transportation  1-877-263-5823 or email <a href="mailto:matransport@howardcountymd.gov">matransport@howardcountymd.gov</a></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents who think they may be eligible can contact the Health Department. There are multilingual staff and language line.</li> <li>• Application can be completed online, in person, or phone. Verification documents will need to be submitted. First time applicants will have to enroll in MCO. Primary Care Provider (PCP) will be assigned, specialist appointments may require referral from PCP.</li> <li>• ACCU-and transportation program are programs provided by Medicaid.</li> <li>• CAREAPP used to refer services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions-</u> Ms. Henderson stated that Occupational Therapy and speech pathology is needed for many parents’ children. Kennedy Krieger wait times can be 8 months – 2 years. Is ACCU someplace we could send them in the interim?</p> <p>Response- ACCU would be an appropriate program to refer to and you can reach out to nurse manager if needed.</p>	
<p><b>Black Maternal Health Week Event Recap &amp; discussion</b></p>	<p>Ms. Cribbs provided an update on the Black Maternal Health Week event with the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event held on 4/20 at Elkridge branch</li> <li>• Had a meaningful turnout</li> <li>• Partners (P.E.A.C.E, WIC, Office of Children and Families, CareFirst, United HealthCare, Trinity Wellness, Brightminds, JustLiving Advocacy, Food at the Center, ACCU, Blossom and Grow Wellness and Howard County Food Bank).</li> <li>• Thanks to planning committee; awesome collaboration!</li> <li>• Participants received great bags. Erica donated lots of items, Patrice coordinated massages and reiki</li> <li>• Improvements – more time to give more opportunity to enjoy services, etc.</li> <li>• Panel discussion at beginning of event with Dr. Beedle-Holder, Ashley form Blossom and Grow, Shay Stancil from UHC, and Dr. Marilyn Berchie from Trinity Wellness.</li> <li>• Ms. Henriquez was Panel moderator and there was meaningful interaction with audience. 15-20 audience members in attendance.</li> <li>• Improvements: Bigger space; needs-separate room for reiki and massage was great</li> <li>• Questions regarding Father participation. Although there weren’t partners or Fathers there, there are thoughts to bring Fathers into the Doula conversation, Doula meet and greet, etc.</li> <li>• Feedback from participants was helpful and positive.</li> <li>• Possibly combine event with other vendors that were at the library branch that day.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Anderson thanked Ms. Cribbs and Ms. Henriquez for</p>	

	their tremendous efforts in putting the BMHW event together.	
<b>Maternal / Infant Child Resources Page</b>	<p>Ms. Erica Taylor, Home Visiting Program Manager, Howard County Office of Children and Families, Department of Community Resources and Services, led the discussion related to the Maternal and Infant Child Resources Page with the following feedback noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the goals of the action plan is to increase awareness of Maternal Infant health resources in Howard County.</li> <li>• Ms. Taylor shared the Maternal Infant and Child Health Resources page and asked for suggestions or thoughts about possibly better organizing the page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Tucker suggested categorizing resources (by topic or age group)</li> <li>○ Mr. Jordan also suggested possibly showing local resources, then State and then branch out Nationwide if needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ms. Rambharat solicited opinions from the group about provider trainings, such as implicit bias or other trainings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura mentioned that Dr. Bada stated that providers should take the trainings and how to incentive them. Possibly offer food, virtual training. Ms. Blount mentioned (in Chat) to offer CEU's. Ms. Dawson stated that the virtual trainings can accommodate up to 100 people, so it's good to fill those with participants.</li> <li>• Ms. Rambharat pointed out Ms. Singley and the possibility of sharing with Hospital providers.</li> </ul>	<p>Howard County LHIC website link to Healthy Beginnings &gt; Maternal Infant Child resources:</p> <p><a href="https://www.hclhic.org/healthy/child">https://www.hclhic.org/healthy/child</a></p> <p>Ms. Singley stated that she would ask her colleague and the internal provider newsletter. Newsletter isn't frequent but may be a good way to reach providers</p>
<b>Wrap up and Next Steps</b>	Ms. Cribbs said that the next meeting will be Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 2pm to 3pm.	<p>Email <a href="mailto:lhic@howardcountymd.gov">lhic@howardcountymd.gov</a> with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: <a href="http://www.hclhic.org/">http://www.hclhic.org/</a></p>

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ms. LaTonya Love  
Administrative Assistant,  
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