

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC)

October 16, 2025

9:00 to 11:00 am

Hybrid (Howard County Health Department, Heroes Conference Room and Zoom)

Minutes

Coalition Co-chairs Present:

Dr. Maura Rossman – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Dr. Jeanette Nazarian – Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC)

Members Present:

Aetna Better Health Maryland

Amanda Toohey – Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC)

Antigone Vickery – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Barbara Allen – James Place

Beatrice Osei-Amoh – African Immigrants Dream

Bernadette Bindewald – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Brenda Granados – Coaching Salud Holística

Carla Gates – Reclaiming Health Learning Lab (RHLL)

Chris Mason-Hale (MCDD) – Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities

Chris Miller – Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC)

Cris Oviedo – CO Communications

Donna Phillips – Everstand Behavioral Health

Dr. Himide Hardy-Pointer – Gamahi Group

Dr. Kelly Russo – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Frank Likpeh – American Caregivers

George Townsend – Legal Resource Center

Gerardo Benavides – The Horizon Foundation

Harsana Showunmi – Feel Better Health Center

Jamie Corrick - Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Jarmonay Nelson – Enjoui Farm

Joan Webb Scornaienchi – HC DrugFree

Johnia Curtis – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Julie Kwedar – Maryland Highway Safety Office

Kala Jenkins – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Kara Griggs-Goldheim – American Heart Association

Kelly Kryspin – Autism Society of Maryland

Kirk Rookwood – Healthy Church

LaTonya Love – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)

Lauren Synan – R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
Lesley McDonald – Howard County Office of Consumer Protection
Lois Joellenbeck – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Matt Castner – Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC)
Matt Wilson – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Morgan Spliedt – Howard County Office of Aging and Independence (OAI)
Natalie Hall – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Nayanie Henríquez – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Nicolas Dorsey – University of Maryland Medical Center
Patrice Tucker – United HealthCare Community Plan
Rachel Filar - Howard County Office of Aging and Independence (OAI)
Rachel Krug – University of Maryland Medical System Shock Trauma
Reena Rambharat – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Samantha Cribbs – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Samuel Wilson - Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington
Sheri Koller – Brave Journeys LLC
Sierra Ross – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Sonya Lloyd – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Sophia Lin - Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC)
Stacey Ibekweh – Loving Support Center, Inc. (LSC)
Stephanie Reid – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Sun Nicolas – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Tamara Myers – Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS)
Tavia Patusky – Columbia Association (CA)
Tina Laboy- Howard County Office Emergency Management (OEM)
Vanda Lerdboon – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Xingxing Liu – Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSCGW)
Yekatit Bezooayehu – Howard County Health Department (HCHD)
Yvonne Akukwe - Zinure Foundation
Zitao Weng — Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSCGW)

Staff Present:

Ashton Jordan – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
María José Candanoza – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Miriam Anderson – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Nancy Moreno - Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Stephanie Foster – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition
Maribet Rivera-Brute – Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Ms. Maribet Rivera-Brute, MPH, welcomed everyone virtually and in person to the Full LHIC Meeting. Ms. Rivera-Brute set meeting rules (chat box to submit questions, raise virtual hand), housekeeping items and non-recording notification rules. Ms. Rivera-Brute reviewed the agenda before introducing Dr. Maura Rossman, Director, Howard County Health Department for Welcome & Opening Remarks. Dr. Rossman welcomed in person and virtual members to the Full LHIC meeting and returned the floor to Ms. Rivera-Brute. The agenda for this meeting included the following topics: • Welcome & Introductions • Howard County Consumer Protection and HCHD Community Assets Profile (CAP) Project Presentations • HCLHIC Workgroup Updates • LHIC and JHHCMC Updates • Member Announcements, Resource Sharing, and Networking • Next Steps and Wrap-Up Ms. Rivera-Brute introduced Ms. Leslie MacDonald, Outreach and Engagement Manager from the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection to the group for her presentation.	LHIC website: https://www.hclhic.org/ Community Request Form: https://www.hclhic.org/about/contact Link to the Captions: https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=HamiltonRelayRCC-LHIC-MD1241
Member Presentation	Ms. MacDonald Introduced herself to the Group. Ms. MacDonald Began with an introduction of the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) and services provided. Financial Empowerment Center (Free Public Service for Residents): • Paying Down Debt • Improving Credit Scores • Saving For Emergencies and the Future • Connecting to Safe, Low-Cost Financial Products • Legacy Planning	Ms. Leslie MacDonald IMacDonald@howardcountymd.gov Howard County FEC: www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer-protection

Agenda For Presentation:

- Financial Stability as a Health Issue
- Financial Stability and Economic Mobility
- The FEC Model
- Next Steps

Ms. MacDonald stated that financial literacy and capabilities are Social Determinates of Health in the following ways:

- Capability Equals Knowledge (Financial Literacy) + Behavior (Taking Action)
- Improves access to basic needs (Nutritious Food, Stable Housing, Healthcare) Improving Physical & Mental Health Outcomes.
- Reduces Stress: Better Sleep, Self-Esteem, Relationships, Productivity.

Ms. MacDonald Reviewed National League of Cities (NLC) Economic Opportunity and Mobility Framework:

- **Economic Stability** - Basic needs are met, such as three healthy meals, housing, access to health insurance and job opportunities. (Anti-Hunger Efforts, Connection to Social Benefits, Tax Credits, Job Readiness and Job Search Programs).
- **Economic Security** - Stable, full-time, living wage employment with benefits; affordable housing; access to safe affordable financial services and non-predatory loans; savings to cover basic needs. (Workforce Development to Advance Employment, Bankon and Financial Counseling: Coaching, Credit Building, Debt Reduction and Savings Strategies, Safety from Fraud).
- **Wealth Building** - Opportunities to advance career through education and training, business development and entrepreneurship, long term savings, homeownership, saving for children's education. (Children's Savings Accounts (CSA), homeownership Programs and Incentives, Down Payment Assistance, Small Business Support).

Ms. MacDonald reviewed the FEC structure and shared a chart. FEC is working with 57 different partners across the country (37 have opened their own FEC's) and works with communities of all sizes. FEC has also worked with over 189,000 clients, reduced debt by 315 million and increased savings by 61 million.

Ms. MacDonald also laid out the benefits of working with FEC, as well as some core elements of the FEC Model, varied community partnerships and reiterating who could benefit from the services provided.

Member Presentation	• It's free and open for all city residents as a public service of the city. • Service is delivered by professionally trained counselors who help consumers, most of them low to middle incomes, manage their finances and achieve their financial goals • Counseling is integrated into other social services, such as housing and foreclosure prevention, workforce development, prisoner reentry, benefits access, and more. • It's also data-driven model, where data is systematically tracked across a set of defined and quantifiable outcomes to understand the impact on clients' financial lives, enhance program credibility, and justify public funding. • It's a government-led initiative. Local government is a trusted voice for residents amidst a sea of scams and complicated financial choices and is a natural convener of partners in this field. • Partnership and collaboration between local government, community-based organizations, and philanthropy is foundational for counseling delivery, resident engagement and outcome achievement, and program sustainability. Ms. MacDonald shared next steps for FEC: • Implementation plan submitted to FEC July 2025 • Create partnership agreements • Help us make the Howard County FEC a reality! • Partners • Funders Ms. MacDonald thanked the audience and finished her presentation. Ms. Rivera-Brute transitioned the group to the next topic, as well as introducing the next Presenter: Ms. María José Candanoza, MPH, CCHW, HCLHIC to speak on the project that the Community Health Workers (CHW's) have been working on for the last six months. Ms. Candanoza began describing what a Community Asset Profile (CAP) is and the components of the project. Assets Based Community Development (ABCD) –ABCD Methodology Prioritizes: • Community-Led Efforts - Over Top-Down Programs • Capacity Building – Lasting Change Comes from Within • Relationship Building – To Systematic Change • Redistribution Of Power – Not Just Distribution of Resources Purpose And Goals	María José Candanoza: mblanco@howardcountymd.gov
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	• Identify and map existing community resources • Understand and highlight community strengths • Identify areas with health disparities • Inform planning and decision-making • Amplify community voices and promote resident engagement • Build trust between CHWs the HCHD and the community • Facilitate collaboration and coordination Process (Step by Step Approach) • Planning and Preparation • Staff Training • Asset Identification • Community Engagement • Data Collection • Assets Review and Verification • Asset Mapping • Profile Development • Sharing and Action Planning Ms. Candanoza Reviewed the SVI (Social Vulnerability Map) and Described it as a community's ability to respond to hazardous event or external stress to human health, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or economic hardship. It reflects how well or poorly people can prepare for, respond to, and recover from these events. She also shared the High SVI Census Tracts, which showed Howard County's Individual Zip Codes and the ones with High SVI (Parts Of 21043, 21044, 21045, 21075 And 20794). Ms. Candanoza then reviewed identified assets in 21075 (Elkridge), such as the Howard Co. Public Works, Howard Co. Fire Department, MD State Highway Patrol, CVS Pharmacy, PM Pediatrics, various schools, Cultural/Religious Centers, and neighborhood resources as well as the asset categories of communities, which include: • Emergency Services • Social & Cultural Orgs. • Local & State Gov't • Education • Healthcare • Neighborhood Resources Impact On Community Partner Engagement • Strengthened Relationships • Shared Understanding of Community Strengths	
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	• Increased Participation in Community Initiatives • Enhanced Visibility and Recognition • Sustainability Of Community Health Efforts Ms. Candanoza stated that another project would be included in the Community Assets Profile, and it's called Photovoice. She described Photovoice as participatory visual qualitative research method that combines photography and narrative storytelling. It is used to capture the images, our experiences and raise a voice represented in the pictures. Why Photovoice: • Led By CHW's • Natural extension of our work • Embedded in the CAP • Community Engagement and Awareness Safety Protocols That the CHW's Follow Whenever They Are in The Community Was Also Shared and Includes: • Work in pairs or teams whenever possible • Inform supervisors of your location and expected return time • Wear HCHD attire and vest • Carry a charged phone, ID badge, and emergency contact information • Be aware of your surroundings and exit routes • Be mindful of cultural norms and privacy • Ensure safe and reliable transportation to and from the field, car magnets • Be cautious in extreme weather or unfamiliar areas Key Strategies for Success: • Assets-based approach • Community Participation and Engagement • Collaborative Partnership • Mixed-Method Data Collection - Apply 1-mile radius • Mapping and Visualization – Geographic Information System (GIS) Map • Photovoice – Narrative Storytelling • Feedback and Validation • Action-Oriented Reporting Ms. Candanoza closed by recapping the strategies that are important in this project: • Assets-Based Approach • Community Participation and Engagement • Data Collection' • Feedback And Validation	"Through the Eyes of a Community Health Worker", registration link: bit.ly/CHWEIkrige
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Workgroup Updates	Contact information about the CHW program: chw@howardcountymd.gov. Mrs. Rivera-Brute presented the co-chairs of the following workgroups for updates: • Healthy Beginnings – Growing Healthy Families Workgroup • Healthy Living – Healthy Lifestyle Workgroup • Healthy Minds – Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition • Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative Ms. Rivera-Brute presented Ms. Samantha Cribbs, Bureau of Family Health Services to present the updates of the Growing Healthy Families workgroup. Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Updates: • Community Baby Shower Held 7/26/25 – 42 attendees • Presentation Regarding Mama Circle Program • Women Health Focus Groups Coming in November, December and January. Registration is live. Ms. Cribbs concluded her presentation. Ms. Rivera-Brute presented Mr. Ashton Jordan, HCLHIC to present updates on the Healthy Lifestyle workgroup. Healthy Lifestyle Workgroup Updates: • Successfully combined the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management workgroup, Security Committee and Moving workgroup into a Health Lifestyle workgroup. Goals and objectives were developed for the action plan. • LHIC and Healthy Lifestyle workgroup members attended multiple Fall Prevention-Related forums or community events hosted by Enterprise Residential Properties that included the Fall Prevention Retreat, the Awareness Kick-Off event as well as the Falls Prevention Resource Fair. • LHIC promoted classes and resources on our webpage under the Health Action item during September for Falls Prevention Awareness Month. • The following resident communities have walking groups: Legacy at Twin Rivers, Park View at Ellicott City, Park View at Snowden River and Park View at Columbia. • Successfully achieved the goal of placing over 100 events on the 2025 Walk-Tober calendar. • 171 events, not only doubling totals from last year but	
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Member Announcements, Resource Sharing and Networking	adding to last year's 71 events by 100 events. Mr. Jordan concluded his presentation. Ms. Rivera-Brute presented Ms. Stephanie Foster, HCLHIC to present the updates of the Healthy Minds and Suicide Prevention Coalition. Healthy Minds and Suicide Prevention Coalition Updates: Meeting held on 10/09/25 that discussed the possibility of creating a Firearms Safe Storage Workshop for our community residents. Newest Member, Ken Abrams from Tactical 52llc, will provide Information to the Community About Safe Gun Ownership and Safety for Storing Their Firearms (Possibly March 2026). Ms. Foster concluded her presentation. Ms. Rivera-Brute presented Ms. María José Candanoza to present updates for the Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative. • Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative (CHWLC) Updates: • Engaged And Busy with Community Profile Project • Photovoice Exhibition On 11/10/25. Ms. Candanoza concluded her presentation. Ms. Rivera Brute provided the 2026-2028 HCLHIC updates on the FY26-28 Strategic Plan Summary Report which is now available to download from the HCLHIC website. Updated Action plan will be available on the website Ms. Rivera-Brute proceeded with Member Announcements. 2026 Full LHIC Quarterly Meetings – Schedule is available now and open for registrations. Congratulations Were Given to the CHW Team for being awarded the 2025 APHA CHW Group of the Year (to be provided on 11/03/25 at the APHA Conference in Washington, DC)!	https://www.hclhlc.org/community/action-plans/267 Printed copy requests to: LHIC@howardcountymd.gov https://www.hclhlc.org/ https://www.hclhlc.org/community/action-plans/267 Registration for 2026 Full LHIC meetings: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1428672962289?aff=oddtcreator
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	Howard Co. Food Council is now located on the LHIC Website. In need of LHIC Digital Content Tools (Newsletter Content, E-Banners, etc.)? HCLHIC website has tools to include the information in the newsletter from organizations. Ms. Rivera-Brute Introduced Ms. Vanda Lerdboon to present Information About the Healthy Heart Ambassador (HHA) Program: Program is looking for additional partners who would be interested in hosting this forum (Groups of About Eight to Ten People Who Are Interested in Managing and Learning More About Self-Monitoring of Blood Pressure Can Meet Together and Get Some Tips and Advice in An Encouraging and Judgment-Free Environment), to Improve their overall health. Interested people or organizations are asked to reach out to Shannon Harris. P.E.A.C.E Project Diaper Giveaway Days, October 21, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Women’s Health Focus Groups Multiple Sessions: November 5, 2025 (12:30-2 pm, in-person), December 3, 2025 (6:00-7:30 pm, virtual) and January 10, 2026 (10:00 -11:30 am, in-person) Medication Disposal: Drive-Thru Event, October 25, 2025, 10 am-2 pm Free Class for Parents and Grandparents: Taking HoCo Families to the next level: Multiple Sessions, Tuesday/Thursday November 11, 13, 18, 20, 2025 And December 2, 2025 (Noon-1:30 pm) SNAP and Diabetes Prevention Resources. To request materials:	https://www.hclhic.org/council https://www.hclhic.org/membership/newsletter-tools HHA Partner Info: sharris@howardcountymd.gov https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/diaper-giveaway-1 Women’s Health Focus Group registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1743833355509?aff=oddttdtcreator https://hcdrugfree.org/drug-take-back-day-1/ https://tinyurl.com/GGC-Fall2025 https://www.hclHIC.org/healthy/chronic-disease
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	Autumn Community Day – October 26, 2025 (1-6 pm)	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/autumn-community-day-tickets-1627000856359?aff=CEI&mc_cid=f3485ebb15&mc_eid=a24ec4b561
	Walktober 2025 – The State Of Maryland proclaimed October to be Walktober! Events are posted on the HCHD Website. Promotional Flyers in multiple languages and giveaways are available. Link on the website to learn more and order printed Copies.	https://www.hclhlc.org/healthy/physical-activity
	Free Latin Dance Fitness Classes: Through October 25, 2025	https://sjcolumbia.org/latin-dance-fitness/
	Bain 50+ Center's 4 th Annual Walktober Event: October 30, 2025 (11:00a)	https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/howardcounty/activity/search/detail/155784?onlineSiteId=0&fromOriginalCui=true
	Ms. Rivera-Brute Introduced Ms. Natalie Hall to present updates about Tobacco & Cannabis program:	https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/tobacco-cannabis
	HCHD Tobacco and Cannabis website created that has Information, printable resources, and videos for parents and youth.	snicolas@howardcountymd.gov
	HCHD Cancer & Tobacco Coalition Meeting, October 28, 2025, at 3:00 pm via Teams. Email Sun Nicolas to learn how to join.	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKLx2fIC7IRkgIjzzUMcFeDHDHlTs4x1Ca5li2l8x6MksLYQ/viewform
	Requests for Tobacco & Cannabis Prevention presentations and materials	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u3A8F2MDQoO-bPQ3Xwz4gg?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=88
	PAVe's next 2025 Clear the Vapor Conversations event, November 5, 2025 (6 pm)	

Next Steps & Wrap-up	Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center	https://grassrootscrisis.org/
	Free Handgun Lockbox & Cable lock Drive-Thru giveaway, October 26, 2025 (11 am-2 pm)	https://hchdeppod01.clinappia.com/app/BIO779201
	Free Gun locks “Safe Storage Saves Lives” (not affiliated with above event)	https://www.howardcountymd.gov/health/free-gun-locks
	Voices of Change: Embracing the Power of Us! October 30, 2025 (5:15-8 pm)	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voices-of-change-embracing-the-power-of-we-tickets-1595818398789?aff=oddtcreator
	Safeguard Your Home brochures and resources	https://www.hclhlc.org/healthy/suicide-prevention
	HCLHIC Post- Meeting Survey – Responses are needed!	Post-meeting survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/83FVZRD
	2026 Quarterly Hybrid Full Coalition Meetings; Registration on website. Next meeting is January 15, 2026 (9-11 am).	2026 HCLHIC Meeting registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1428672962289?aff=oddtcreator

Respectfully submitted by LaTonya Love,
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Bureau of Assessment, Planning & Community Engagement,
Howard County Health Department