



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Meeting

Virtual via Zoom, August 14, 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
Shannon Harris, HC Health Department
Laura Henderson, HC Health
Department
Nyanie Henriquez, HC Health
Department

Cheryl Johnson, Bright Minds Foundation
LaTonya Love, HC Health Department
Tricia Mangold, HC Health Department
Victoria Rain, Hope Works
Sadija A. Smiley, Stillborn and Infant Loss
Support (SAILS)
Amber Wilson, Howard County Library System

Staff Present:

Janet Afoakwah, HC Local Health Improvement
Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Ms. Samantha Cribbs, Maternal & Infant Health Program Supervisor, Bureau of Family Health Services Howard County Health Department, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs welcomed the members and invited everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs formerly introduced Ms. Cheryl Johnson.</p>	<p>LHIC’s website: https://www.hclhic.org/</p> <p>Email LHIC with any other announcements or questions: lhic@howardcountymd.gov</p>

<p>Presentation</p>	<p>Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Program Manager, Bright Minds Foundation introduced herself and shared her educational background experiences.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson outlined the various programs and initiatives aimed at supporting families, children, and educators, including addressing barriers to learning, early literacy, school readiness, college access, and teacher support and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed providing resources to teachers during COVID, conducting an access to learning funds, and supporting families with emergency stabilization to prevent homelessness. • Highlighted their early literacy program, which has provided over 60,000 books to preschoolers in Howard County and emphasizes the importance of measuring the program’s impact on literacy. • Mentioned partnerships with various organizations and the intention to focus on reaching families in areas with the greatest need. • Also discussed college access initiatives, including the Jumpstart program, student scholarships, as well as teacher support and development through classroom innovation projects and teacher grants. • Discussed the teacher externship program (Teacher Support & Development), and the worksites involved, such as WR Grace, Boeing, Howard Hughes Foundation. • Mentioned the number of grantees and teacher’s projects, totaling over 190,000.00, and the impact on Howard County students over 17 years, including raising over \$3 million for schools and gifting 53,000 books to students. • Also mentioned plans for a computer giveaway and upcoming fundraising events, including Bright Minds Futures Spring Reception, Bright Minds Gold Classic, a Breakfast with the Superintendent & HCPSS Showcase, and a Stuff the Bus event Friday August 16, at Walmart in Ellicott City in partnership with WBAL. 	<p>To reach out to Bright Minds Foundation:</p> <p>Visit: brightmindsfoundation.org</p> <p>Bright Minds Foundation 0910 Clarksville Pike Ellicott City MD 21042 410-313-8992</p> <p>Email: about@brightmindsfoundation.org</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invited attendees to reach out for more information and provide contact details. <p>Ms. Janet Afoakwah, Community Engagement Coordinator Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition expressed admiration for the work being done and praised the presentation.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs asked about a listserv or other means to stay informed about upcoming events and mentions a cool cooking event at the library for younger kids.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson shared details about the Reading House tool and the partnership with the Howard County Child Care Association to provide diverse books to childcare providers and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasized the importance of measuring literacy levels and offered to share the tool with the group. Discussed plans for family playgroups and cooking events for kids, offering to include the group in their newsletter. Expressed gratitude for the opportunity and prepared to leave the meeting. <p>Ms. Afoakwah thanked Ms. Johnson and asked if anyone else has questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed appreciation for the presentation and its coverage of various age groups and support for the teachers. Invited Ms. Cribbs to provide a recap/announcement. 	
<p>Announcement</p>	<p>Ms. Cribbs acknowledged Shakia’s chat announcement and requests Janet to introduce herself.</p> <p>Ms. Afoakwah introduced herself as a public health worker and community engagement coordinator and expressed gratitude for the opportunity.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs welcomed Janet and expressed excitement about her presence.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs mentioned upcoming farmers market events and invited Laura Henderson to explain the</p>	<p>Access previous meeting minutes: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=366</p>

details.

Ms. Lauren Henderson, Director, Howard County WIC, Bureau Family Health Services provided information about the upcoming farmers market pop-up events, including dates, locations, and forms of payment accepted.

- Explained that the local farm accepts cash, credit cards, SNAP benefits, and WIC benefits.
- Highlighted the availability of Sunbucks for children enrolled in the public school system and getting free or reduced meals, which can be used at the farmer's market.
- Discussed funding from the Maryland Department of Agriculture for WIC to spend on fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer months.
- Explained the process of obtaining vouchers and their expiration in November, emphasizing that they can be used anywhere in the state with participating farmers.
- Offered to share the flyers with the team.

Ms. Cribbs expressed excitement about the farmer's market and the positive impact on the community.

- Provides details about an upcoming breastfeeding event and PEACE giveaways, including the schedule and eligibility requirements.
- Announced a change in the frequency of giveaways from monthly to quarterly, with the next one scheduled for October.
- Plans to hold the giveaways at the health department to coincide with other events.
- Seeks resources for moms who don't qualify for specific services but are interested in dual care.
- Encouraged others to share updates and information.

Ms. Amber Wilson, Supervisor, Howard County

Howard County Library System
website: <https://hclibrary.org/>

Library System Savage Branch shared information about a school supply collection at the Howard County Library System and ongoing summer reading programs.

- Mentioned the provision of book prizes to young library customers.
- Informed about the end date of the summer reading program and encourages participants to collect prizes at the public library through August 31, 2024.
- Discussed the availability of hatchling classes for parents and babies at various branches throughout the county.
- Shared links to the library's website and event calendar for more information on hatchling classes and other literacy program.
- Offered to share flyers and contact information for the vents.

Ms. Marsha Dawson, Board Manager, HC Office of the Local Children's Board announced two upcoming events on August 24, 9:00am – 12:00pm including a free clothing drive (Pre-Loved Event) to be held at the DCRL Patuxent Wood Campus and a school supply giveaway at the local community center (North Laurel).

Ms. Wilson requested contact information for events at the North Laurel Community Center to facilitate library support.

Ms. Dawson agreed to provide contact details and information for the requested events.

Ms. Cribbs shares information about a Chromebook Distribution event for residents 18 or older through the Office of Children and Families.

Missed Cribbs planned to share information details to Ms. Janet for distribution.

Website Update

Ms. Afoakwah discussed efforts to update the website with a new look and improved organization.

- Offered to show a sample of the updated webpage and welcomes feedback from the group.

Howard County Library System event calendar for hatchling classes:

<https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/>

Howard County Library System (Amber Wilson):

amber.wilson@hclibrary.org

The DCRS Family Pre-loved Event

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/community-resources-services>

The Multi-Service Center School Supply Giveaway is happening at the Multi-Service Center and not North Laurel Community Center August 24 at 11am.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/office-local-childrens-board/multiservice-center>

Chromebook Distribution Event
Tuesday, August 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 4 to 7 p.m.
Department of Community Resources & Services
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

- Outlines the goal of creating a clean, simple, and organized web page for easy navigation
- Described the current state of the website as a skeleton with limited resources and a mock-up to follow.
- Shared the layout of the current webpage, including a welcome note and organized resource links.
- Expressed the intention to add a focus link for partner resources and requests feedback from the group.

Ms. Cribbs suggested adding local event announcements to the webpage.

Ms. Afoakwah acknowledges the suggestion and mentions plans to enhance the webpage in the future.

Ms. Cribbs expressed appreciation for the improvements made to the webpage.

Ms. Afoakwah invited questions, suggestions, and feedback from the group.

Ms. Dawson shared that she had forwarded the pre-loved event to Ms. Afoakwah.

Ms. Dawson shared information about funding opportunities from the governors' office for children.

Ms. Cribbs thanked Ms. Dawson for the information.

Ms. Nyanie Henriquez, Perinatal Care Navigator, Bureau of Family Health Services provided an update on a program with upcoming events and member births.

- Shared instances of assisting individuals with childcare needs and requests referrals for additional resources.
- Shared an example of providing burial services for a client who lost her baby, emphasizing the importance of community connections and relationships.
- Requests information on individuals doing work in Howard County to amplify their efforts and helps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Cribbs updated the group on upcoming training for doulas and highlights the impact of trained doulas in the community. • Ms. Afoakwah announces the date for the next work group meeting and plans to send out the minutes and announcements. • Offered to resend any missed announcements and asked for questions or concerns. • Wrapped up the meeting, thanking everyone for joining and expressing excitement for future discussions. 	
<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Afoakwah said that the next meeting will be Wednesday, November August 14, 2024, at 2pm to 3pm.</p>	<p>Email lhic@howardcountymd.gov with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: http://www.hclhic.org/</p>

Respectfully submitted by:
 Janet Afoakwah
 Community Engagement Coordinator
 Howard County Health Department

Website: <https://www.hclhic.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HCLHIC/> Twitter: [@hclhic](https://twitter.com/hclhic)