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**Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)**  
Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative Meeting (CHWLC)  
Howard County Health Department  
Heroes Room B  
June 12, 2025  
10:00 am – 11:30 am  
8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD 21045

## Minutes

### Co-Chairs Present:

Amanda Toohey, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center  
Maria Candanoza, Howard County Health Department

### Members Present:

Francisco Abate, Community Action Council  
Margia Ahmed, Howard County Health Department  
Miriam Anderson, Howard County Health Department  
Samantha Cribbs, Howard County Health Department  
Alyssa Cuyun, Howard County Health Department  
Stephanie Foster, Howard County Health Department  
Shannon Harris, Howard County Health Department  
Rosemarie Jimenez, Howard County Health Department  
Nancy Moreno, Howard County Health Department  
Kenia Quintanilla, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center  
Reena Rambharat, Howard County Health Department  
Stephanie Reid, Howard County Health Department  
Kirk Rookwood, The Healthy Church  
Nicki Sanders, Howard Community College  
Lauren Soummers, Howard County Health Department  
Chyn  e Vicks, Howard County Health Department  
Amanda Vu, Horowitz Center for Health Literacy

### Staff Present:

Maribet Rivera-Brute, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Stephanie Foster, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Ashton Jordan, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Ashton Jordan, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.	Members are encouraged to review the past minutes available at: <a href="https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=367">https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catId=367</a>
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>Ashton Jordan provided the following announcements to the workgroup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next HCLHIC Quarterly hybrid meeting is on July 17, 2025, at 9am. It will be hybrid, and refreshments will be available for in-person attendees.</li> <li>The <a href="#">HCLHIC Strategic Plan FY26-28 Survey</a> is available to complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Deadline to complete is June 13, 2025</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>There is an upcoming <a href="#">Fatherhood Engagement Training - Fathers As Protective Factors</a> – How Dads Can Mitigate the Impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences June 23, 2025 at 1:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Deadline to sign up is June 17, 2025</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Members can register for upcoming LHIC meetings here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-1022732690007?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-1022732690007?aff=oddtcreator</a></p> <p>Members interested in completing the HCLHIC Strategic Plan FY26-28 Survey can complete here: <a href="#">HCLHIC Strategic Plan FY26-28 Survey</a></p> <p>Members interested in attending the Fatherhood Engagement Training – Fathers as Protective Factors can register here: <a href="#">Fatherhood Engagement Training - Fathers As Protective Factors</a></p>
<b>Sharing CHW Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<p>Maria Candanoza opened with a Sharing CHW Roles and Responsibilities Activity.</p> <p>Ms. Candanoza iterated 3 things before starting the activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CHWs from different organizations can significantly support each other's work to maximize impact and promote positive change in communities.</li> <li>MUTUAL SUPPORT enhances our reach, strengthens the community.</li> <li>Significantly contributes to improving access to care, addressing social determinants of health, and advancing health equity.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Members in the CHW LC are from the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Howard County Health Department</li><li>- Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition</li><li>- Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center</li><li>- Howard Community College</li><li>- University of Maryland-Extension</li><li>- Community Action Council</li><li>- CAREFIRST</li><li>- The Healthy Church</li></ul>	
<b>Community Health Worker Certification: The Healthy Church</b>	<p>Kirk Rookwood, The Healthy Church, gave a presentation on the Community Health Worker Certification program that The Healthy Church is offering.</p> <p>The Healthy Church's vision, goal, and mission are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vision - To create a community where individuals can thrive in all aspects of their lives.</li><li>- Goal - That spiritual well-being goes hand in hand with physical and mental welling.</li><li>- Mission - We consider ourselves a wholistic ministry.</li></ul> <p>Mr. Rookwood shared the benefits of CHW certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Supplement income</li><li>- Promote health and equity needs in the community</li><li>- Learn more about community resources</li><li>- Flexible online training</li></ul> <p>Details about The Healthy Church CHW Certification Program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Certification is accredited through the Maryland Department of Health</li><li>- Programs runs between 9-12 weeks</li><li>- 3 hours, 2 – 3 days weekly</li><li>- Comprehensive competency exam that aligns with Maryland's 9 Core Competencies</li><li>- Virtual and in-person</li><li>- Scholarships are available</li></ul>	

	<p>Mr. Rookwood highlighted the need for CHWs in faith-based organizations, sharing insights from a recent conference in Austin, Texas. He aims to partner with local churches to promote health and provide necessary information to congregants. Mr. Rookwood also mentioned the importance of funding and partnerships to support these initiatives.</p>	
<p><b>Survey Analysis: Future Topics to Cover in Collaborative</b></p>	<p>Maria Candanoza led the survey analysis for the future topics to cover in the CHW LC survey. Ms. Candanoza shared that the 12 responses received helped with guidance on collaborative direction, prioritize group preferences, and plan future activities.</p> <p>Survey Responses were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question 1: What motivates you to attend CHW LC meetings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Resources in Howard County</li> <li>o Networking</li> <li>o Professional Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Question 2: What activities would improve group dynamics and learning opportunities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Case Scenarios Activities</li> <li>o Problem Solving</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Question 3: What topics would like to learn at future collaborative meetings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Community Outreach</li> <li>o Social Determinants of Health</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Plans for future meetings will include problem solving case scenario activities, focusing on resources in Howard County, and emphasizing community outreach.</p>	
<p><b>Continued Education for CHW's/CHW Program Providers</b></p>	<p>Amanda Toohey, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center, led a discussion on continued education for CHWs and CHW program leaders. Ms. Toohey asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What specific skills or topics do CHWs and program providers need more training in?</li> <li>- What are the ongoing education or recertification requirements, and how are CHWs supported in meeting them?</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What funding sources exist (grants, scholarships, state programs), and how can CHWs access them?</li><li>- How does continued education help CHWs advance in their roles or transition into new positions?</li></ul> <p>Collaborative members mentioned SNAP application training, first aid/CPR/AED training, de-escalation training, maternal and infant health training, and climate change ambassador training. Further collaborative members expressed concerns about the dwindling funding for inclusive initiatives and community care options. It was noted that there was a shift in funding for CHW's post-pandemic and the necessity for advocacy skills to navigate changing resources. The discussion concluded with plans to enhance existing training lists and address gaps in social services training.</p>	
<b>Next Steps &amp; Wrap-up</b>	<p>The next CHW LC meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Room A of the Howard County Health Department.</p> <p>Ashton Jordan adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.</p>	

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashton Jordan, MSPH

Community Engagement Coordinator

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition