

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Meeting

May 14, 2025

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Co-Chair Present:

Samantha Cribbs, Howard County Health Department

Erica Taylor, Howard County Office of Children and Families

Members Present:

Beatrice Osei-Amoh, African Immigrants Dream Inc.

Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas, Trinity Wellness

Marsha Dawson, Howard County Office of the Local Children's Board

Dr. Joi Egbuniwe, Center for Prenatal Wellness and Physical Therapy

Allison Houle, Howard County Health Department

Nayanie Henríquez, Howard County Health Department

Colleen Nester, Howard County Public School System

Kenia Quintanilla, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center

Reena Rambharat, Howard County Health Department

Lauren Soummers, Howard County Health Department

Patrice Tucker, United Healthcare Community Plan

Chynae Vicks, Howard County Health Department

Amber Wilson, Howard County Library System – Savage Branch

Staff Present:

Stephanie Foster, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Maribet Rivera-Brute, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Ms. Stephanie Foster called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm, welcomed members, invited everyone to introduce themselves, and provided a recap from the February 12, 2024, meeting.	LHIC's website: https://www.hclhic.org/ Email LHIC with any other announcements or questions: lhic@howardcountymd.gov
Black Maternal Health Week Event Recap	<p>Ms. Samantha Cribbs provided a recap of the Black Maternal Health Week (BMHW) event held on April 26th from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Miller Library. She highlighted the success of this year's event, noting the significant community engagement, with nineteen community members and forty-eight community partners in attendance – the highest turnout for this year.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs emphasized the value of the diverse perspectives at the event, including those of providers and students from Wilde Lake High School. She commended the overall execution of the event, particularly the effectiveness of the panel discussion and the contributions of everyone involved. She also acknowledged the positive impact of the intimate setting on the participants' openness to share their experiences.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Cribbs expressed her sincere gratitude for the passion, dedication, and wisdom demonstrated by the community members in attendance, as reflected in the powerful stories shared, the emotions expressed, and the connections made. She also expressed her appreciation for the partnerships that contributed to the event's success.</p>	<p>Access previous meeting minutes: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?catelid=366</p>
Community Health Improvement Plan FY26-28 Update	Ms. Maribet Rivera-Brute gave an update on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) FY26-FY28. Reviewed the strategic and action plans that will be incorporated into the CHIP, and reported the focus will be on understanding how these plans foster collaboration among partners and improve communication regarding community initiatives to address public health needs.	

<p>Pre and post Eclampsia Presentation and Summer Event Announcements from Workgroup Members</p>	<p>Ms. Cribbs gave a presentation on Preeclampsia. She highlighted that May is National Preeclampsia Awareness Month, and the theme for 2025 is "ask me about preeclampsia."</p> <p>During her presentation, Ms. Cribbs shared some important statistics, including the fact that 60% of maternal deaths due to Preeclampsia are preventable. She emphasized the critical need to recognize and understand persistent high blood pressure not only during pregnancy, which is typically diagnosed after the 20th week, but also throughout the postpartum period.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs explained that the symptoms of Preeclampsia can sometimes be confused with normal pregnancy signs, which can lead to underdiagnosis. She also noted the concerning rise in rates of both preeclampsia and gestational hypertension. Furthermore, she stressed that postpartum preeclampsia is a serious risk that can occur up to six weeks after delivery.</p>	<p>Please visit the LHIC Growing Healthy Families webpage and send any updates needed to kfoster@howardcountymd.gov</p> <p><u>Pregnancy and Parents with Babies Program (Session on the Impact of Smoking on Pregnancy)</u> – Coaching Salud Holistica is partnering with MedStar Health to support families! For women are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or just want to learn more about maternal health. May 27, 2025, 6pm – 7pm. Held virtually via Zoom.</p> <p><u>Creating a Calming Corner: Tools to Support Your Child’s Emotional Growth</u> - Learn how creating a calming space in your home can support a child's emotional development and build healthy coping skills. May 29, 2025, 6pm – 7pm. Held virtually via Webex.</p>
<p>Community Baby Shower</p>	<p>Ms. Erica Taylor, Home Visiting Program Manager, Howard County Office of Children and Families, outlined the initial plans for a community baby shower scheduled for July 26th, 2025, inviting community partners to participate by hosting tables to share resources. She highlighted the goal of reaching families who are not currently engaged with their office. Ms. Taylor also mentioned the potential for supplemental funding to provide car seats and bassinets to registered families.</p>	
<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Foster wrapped up by highlighting some upcoming events and thanking everyone for their participation. She also announced that our next meeting will be on August 13th at 2 PM via Zoom.</p>	<p>Email lhic@howardcountymd.gov with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: http://www.hclhic.org/</p>

		<p>The next Full LHIC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17th, 9:00am – 11:00am in-person and via Zoom.</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1022732690007?aff=oddtcreator</p>
--	--	--

Respectfully submitted by:
Ms. Stephanie Foster
Community Engagement Coordinator
Howard County Health Department