



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Meeting

Virtual via Zoom, November 8, 2023

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Senam Attipoe, Stillborn and Infant Loss Support
 Oluwafunmilola Bada, HC Health Department
 Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas, Trinity Wellness
 Shannon Blount, HC Public School System
 Dawn Brooks-Tharps, Bethany United Methodist Church
 Dana Couch, NAACP, Howard County Branch
 Sam Cribbs, HC Health Department
 Marsha Dawson, HC Office of Local Children’s Board
 Loretta Hoepfner, Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Nyanie Henriquez, HC Health Department
 Ilise Marrazzo, HC Health Department
 Melissa Melton, HC Community Health Worker
 D’Paul Nibber, The Horizon Foundation
 Lisa Pearson, Chase Brexton
 Tamisha Ponder, Sankofa Yoga + Wellness Center
 Darshal Smith, National Black Doula Association
 Shay Stancil, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
 Robin Stimson, Columbia Association
 Erica Taylor, HC Office of Children and Families
 Patricia Tucker, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan
 Amber Wilson, Howard County Library System

Staff Present:

Lindsay Hall, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
 Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
 Sonya Lloyd, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
 Reena Rambharat, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Ms. Sonya Lloyd, Community Engagement Coordinator, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC), called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. 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. Lloyd is excited about the tremendous interest in this workgroup and believes that we can all collectively make a difference. She believes everyone in this workgroup can contribute something valuable to our goal. She then asked members to introduce themselves and share what brings them to this workgroup and what they are excited about.</p>	<p>LHIC’s website: https://www.hclhic.org/</p>
Quarterly Meeting Schedule	<p>Ms. Lloyd said as the Coordinator, she will schedule the meetings, send out the Zoom Calendar invitations, share the agenda and take meeting minutes. She will also update</p>	<p>Maternal / Infant / webpage: https://www.hclhic.org/healthy/child</p>

	<p>the Maternal / Infant / Child webpage on LHIC’s website and add any related events to the LHIC calendar and promote via LHIC’s social media.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd shared that this workgroup would meet quarterly; the 2nd Wednesday of every 3 months. The following meeting dates and times will occur on Wednesdays from 2pm to 3pm on February 14, 2024, May 8, 2024, and August 14, 2024.</p>	
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd shared information about the next quarterly full LHIC meeting on January 18, 2024, at 8:30am. The meeting will be hybrid. When you attend the full LHIC meeting you can network and share opportunities among members.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd shared that Safe Kids Howard County is having an Infant and Toddler Home Safety Class on Friday, January 12, 2024, 6pm to 7:30pm in Clarksville. This class is designed for the caretakers of infants and toddlers. In this class, you’ll learn the biggest home safety risks for children under the age of four and how to prevent serious or deadly injuries.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd said that the Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services is hosting a 2023 Holiday Food Support Project to provide food and other resources to families in need this holiday season on Tuesday, November 21st at various distribution locations. Ms. Lloyd will share the flyer when the meeting minutes are emailed.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd said Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center is looking to hire a Community Health Worker as part of the Hospital’s Community Care Team, to improve the health of complex, chronically ill Howard County residents.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd then asked the members to share any other announcements with the group.</p> <p>Ms. Sam Cribbs, Howard County Health Department (HCHD), shared that the Howard County Library is holds a monthly class called Hatchlings Baby on the Way.</p>	<p>Agendas for past full LHIC meetings: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2023?catelId=1</p> <p>Register for next full LHIC meeting: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-hclhic-full-coalition-meetingtickets726290964827?aff=oddtcreator</p> <p>Registration for infant / toddler home safety class: http://21548323.hs-sites.com/infant-toddler-home-safety.</p> <p>Email Triston Cooper, DCRS with questions about Holiday Food Support Project: tcooper@howardcountymd.gov</p> <p>Job Application for CHW: Allied Health/Clinical Professional Job: Community Health Worker at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center, Columbia, MD</p> <p>Baby on the Way future classes: Month Calendar Howard County Library System (librarycalendar.com)</p>

Action Plan Overview

Ms. Lloyd introduced Dr. Oluwafunmilola Bada, Clinical Director for Sexual & Reproductive Health Services, HCHD, to discuss the Growing Healthy Families action plan, which is a living document that outlines the 4 goals and multiple objectives of this workgroup based on HCHD’s Strategic Plan of reducing health disparities. This document allows for ongoing review and editing while implementing the goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Improve early access to respectful prenatal care experience for reproductive-aged women of color.

From this goal there are 3 objectives:

Objective 1.1: Assess the barriers to Prenatal care for women of color.

Action Steps: Optimizing first visit for prenatal care to encourage retention. Acknowledge and address barriers that exist for women of color.

Objective 1.2: Increase early enrollment into prenatal care for women of color.

Action Steps: Communications to women in communities of focus and providers using CHWs and partners to share messages and help connect people in the community to pre-natal care (PNC.)

Encourage OBs to start PNC early and promote pre-conception care in OB/GYN practices.

Objective 1.3:

Increase access to implicit bias training for healthcare providers and staff

Action Steps: Create a central resource for training opportunities on implicit bias “HUB”.

Create a toolkit for onboarding maternal health workers, doulas, CHWs to include anti-racism cultural bias training.

Goal 2: Decrease disparities in pre-term and low birth weight births.

Objective 2.1 (SP):

Support community efforts to close gaps in Prenatal support and education especially in Columbia, Ellicott City, Laurel, and Elkridge.

Action Steps: Identify and support community efforts in PN support and education in identified communities

Plan and implement outreach to selected communities and their providers

Goal 3: Promote equitable access to bias-free and culturally congruent prenatal and post-partum support services.

Objective 3.1 (SP):

Improve equitable access to doula and midwifery services by increasing awareness of their availability and benefits among prenatal providers.

Action Steps: Collect information from NH Black and Hispanic women on interest in doulas.

	<p>Provide information to prenatal providers about doulas and midwives. Create a doula supportive environment within Howard County.</p> <p>Objective 3.2 (SP): Facilitate access to anti-racist and culturally congruent education for home visiting programs staff. Action Steps: Engage the community, specifically cultural organizations, in information practice and connecting families with home visiting services. Black Maternal Health Week activities: start October/November 2023 for Spring 2024.</p> <p>Goal 4: Increase awareness of Maternal and Infant Health resources in Howard County through LHIC communication channels.</p> <p>Objective 4.1: By June 2025, conduct quarterly review and update of the HCLHIC website and Healthy Beginnings> Maternal/Infant/Child Health Resources webpage and promote healthy beginnings resources and information widely among partners and community members. Action Steps: Review and update HCLHIC website’s Healthy Beginnings> Maternal/Infant/Child Health Resources webpage quarterly.</p> <p>Objective 4.2: Share healthy beginnings resources and information through LHIC communications including at meetings, newsletters, and social media social media.</p>	
<p>Action Plan Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Shannon Blount, Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), suggested that the Action Plan includes the time between pregnancies – spacing them, planning them, long-acting contraceptives, and education. How to prepare yourself for another pregnancy.</p> <p>Mr. Ashton Jordan, HCLHIC, said that Health Literacy Advisory Committee (HLAC) can help with reviewing communications relating to maternal, infant health. Mr. Jordan asked if there are any possible ways to have people take implicit bias training. Dr. Bada said that we can brainstorm ways to encourage people to take this training.</p> <p>Ms. Marsha Dawson, Howard County Office of the Local Children’s Board, said her office offers risk equity training around the historical perspective of implicit bias and ACES training, and will share this information with the workgroup and the action plan’s Hub.</p> <p>Ms. Melissa Melton, Howard County Community Health Worker, HCHD, said a lot of the action plan outcomes are focused on maternal or infant mortality and morbidity rates. Ms. Melton would like to see some of the action plan’s focus on a woman’s maternal birthing experience and their post-partum experiences. She would like to see that midwifery care be the standard of care for OB care.</p>	

Dr. Bada suggested Ms. Melton work on creating a metric for a qualitative way to gather information on a woman's birthing experience in Howard County. Ms. Sam Cribbs, HCHD, said the Health Department is working with an Intern to create a program evaluation tool that will include a person's perspective on their birth experience. She said we are still working on the quantitative numbers and trying to get them to come down.

Ms. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas, Trinity Wellness, wants a copy of the Strategic Plan to review and make suggestions. She would like to focus on services and support for post-partum moms, which she believes is lacking in Howard County. She would like to see more providers educated in implicit bias, since post-partum moms tend to get lost in the shuffle 6 weeks after giving birth.

Ms. Lisa Person, Clinical Social Worker, Chase Brexton, suggested that the group develop a definition of Howard County Excellence. How can we vet folks through the process, not requiring things? Can we create a space for people to get a "gold star" if they do x, y, and z for example, implicit bias training? Ms. Pearson would like for it to be evidence based with community support that includes street credibility and accountability. Dr. Bada, will do applicable research about Ms. Pearson's suggestion. Dr. Bada said we will need to ensure it is evidence based and to integrate this into the Action Plan objectives.

Ms. Nyanie Henriquez, HCHD, is a full-spectrum Doula and was wondering how to target people not in child-rearing years. How can we be a community and encourage all members to be included in the conversation even those that are no longer having babies? Dr. Bada said there is value in not neglecting those people who do not have children or do not plan on having children anymore. We need to figure out that connection during the life course.

Mr. Ashton Jordan, HCLHIC, said black men need to be included in this discussion and be included in the workgroup. Dr. Bada and Ms. Cribbs both agreed that men and fathers need to be part of this group. Dr. Bada asked if anyone knew if there are any community organizations that provide a positive male role model for men of color or emerging young men to be part of this conversation. Ms. Darshal Smith, National Black Doula Association, said she can share with the group the NPHC fraternities here in Howard County and invite them to this workgroup.

<p>Workgroup Vision and Planning</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd introduced Ms. Sam Cribbs, Nurse Supervisor, Bureau of Family Health Services, HCHD, to discuss member recruitment and short-term initiatives, including Black Maternal Health Week activities in Spring 2024 and Doula Training. Ms. Cribbs discussed who is missing from this workgroup and that we want to ensure all parties are included.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs said for black maternal health week in 2023, the HCHD put on a small program based on the National Black Maternal Health Week theme “Our Bodies Belong to Us” from Black Mamas Matter. Some of the events in 2023 included a preconception workshop, birthing roundtable, Saint John Baptist Church Panel about bodily autonomy, and birth justice with community organizations participating. Ms. Cribbs would like more eyes on the program for next year’s Black Maternal Health Week in April 2024. She would also like to share additional resources. Ms. Cribbs said the HCHD was open to any suggestions about expansion into Black Maternal Health Month.</p> <p>Ms. Cribbs said the HCHD is doing a four-day Doula training with MOMCares, a partner organization. The 4-person cohort will complete their training on November 19, 2023. All of the Doulas are from Howard County. Ms. Cribbs said it would be great to have these newly trained Doulas share their experience with the group at a later meeting.</p>	
<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd said that the next meeting will be in February and will send out the meeting minutes, the action plan document and February Zoom meeting invite in the next week. The Growing Healthy Families workgroup will meet again on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 2pm to 3pm.</p>	<p>Email hic@howardcountymd.gov with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: http://www.hclhic.org/</p>

Respectfully submitted by,
Ms. Sonya Lloyd, MA
Community Engagement Coordinator
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition