



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Food Security Committee

Virtual via Zoom

October 31, 2024, 10:00 -11:00 AM

Minutes

Members Present:

Bernadette Bindewald, Howard County Health Department
Genesis Caplan, University of Maryland, SNAP-Ed Program
Laura Crovo, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center
Danielle Clifford-Earles, Howard County Office on Aging and Independence
Shannon Harris, Howard County Health Department
Laura Henderson, Howard County Health Department
Lois Jollenbeck, Howard County Health Department
Roslyn Jones, Rachel L. Gray Community Foundation
Rachel Krut, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center
Xingxing Liu, Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington
Jonathan McKinney, The Community Ecology Institute
Reena Rambharat, Howard County Health Department
Kendra Robinson, Howard County Health Department
Carrie Ross, Community Action Council of Howard County
Samuel Wilson, Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington
Linda Zumbrun, Howard County Dept. of Social Services

Staff Present:

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

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Ms. Stephanie Foster, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC), called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. She introduced herself to the group as the new LHIC Community Engagement Coordinator and welcomed members in attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>In addition, Ms. Foster gave an overview of information presented at the August 29th Food Security Committee.</p>	<p>Members are asked to review previous meeting minutes: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2024?categoryId=365</p>
Announcements	<p>Ms. Reena Rambharat introduced Ms. Maribet Rivera-Brute as the new LHIC Director.</p> <p>Ms. Rivera-Brute expressed excitement to work with all the wonderful</p>	

community partners on the Food Security Committee and the amazing colleagues in LHIC. Ms. Rivera-Brute background is a Public Health professional with over ten years of experience in project coordination of community health programs and the health communications industry.

Ms. Carrie Ross, Community Action Council (CAC), shared information regarding the meeting she and Ms. Rambharat had with the Hispanic Liaison Supervisor for Howard County Public Schools and as a result, were invited to the Hispanic Heritage Resource Fair held on October 6th at Deep Run Elementary School. Two CAC staff members attended and acknowledged the event was very successful:

- Bags of produce were given to 63 households
- Provided CAC resources to the attendees of the event
- Introduced the new CAC Community Navigator to residents and he was able to connect families with resources in the county.
- Looks forward to more partnerships and helping families to provide them with preparations for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Ms. Rambharat thanked Ms. Ross for all her efforts in connecting with the residents during the Oct. 6th event and being a valuable resource for families in the community.

Ms. Roslyn Jones, Rachel L. Gray Community Foundation, shared information about the Thanksgiving meals hosting event scheduled on Nov. 23rd, 1:00pm -3:00pm at 6327 Meadowridge Rd, ElkrIDGE, MD 21075. Registration is required and it opens November 1st.

Ms. Genesis Caplan, SNAP-Ed Project Leader & Nutrition Educator at the University of Maryland, Extension and part of the Healthier Choices Coalition, provided details about the Howard County Public Schools System (HCPSS) Food and Nutrition Services hosting its very first-ever Taste Test event in the Guilford Park High School cafeteria, on Nov. 14, 2024, 6:00pm -7:00pm. Participants must register by November 7th.

Ms. Laura Henderson, Family Health Services, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), announced in partnership with the Office of Children and Families, they will be conducting free webinar sessions for families regarding topics on nutrition and general wellness. In addition, they will be visiting every HeadStart location in the county starting in November and visited Wilde Lake High School to provide information on WIC programs available for families. Please contact Ms. Henderson if interested in WIC participating in any outreach events or engaging with the families to provide information about resources available to residents in the community.

Ms. Laura Crovo, Grassroots Crisis Intervention, shared The Mall in Columbia will hold its annual Holiday Food Drive on behalf of Grassroots near the plaza entrance across from Lululemon. It will run from Nov. 21 through Jan. 1, to support Grassroots in their effort to

Rachel L. Gray
Community
Foundation
Thanksgiving Meals
hosting event:

<https://www.rlgcommunityfoundationhelp.org/event-details/thanksgiving-baskets/form>

Taste Test event in the
Guilford Park High
School cafeteria:

<https://news.hcpss.org/news-posts/2024/10/taste-test-event/>

For a list of webinars
and other events,
please visit the Office
of Children and
Families Parent Page
<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Check-out-fall-Family-Support-Center->

	<p>stock items in their food pantry and be ready to assist individuals during the holidays and winter season.</p> <p>In addition, starting Monday, November 4th, Grassroots will start receiving donations of Thanksgiving bags containing items to assist preparing Thanksgiving dinners. The bags will also contain \$25 gift cards so that individuals can purchase protein to go along with Thanksgiving meals. Information will be posted on social media once the bags are delivered and will be available for anyone who stops by and will be available while supplies last.</p>	<p>programs-and-family-activities.html?soid=1125003728366&aid=uqOum-VWLY</p> <p>For more information, visit https://grassrootscrisis.org/events/</p>
<p>Presentations</p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat introduced Ms. Rachel Krut, Community Health Worker on the Community Care Team at Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center (JHHCMC).</p> <p>Rachel’s presentation gave an overview of the Discharge Food Program at JHHCMC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since January 2024, JHHCMC has been screening admitted patients, who are 18 years or older, on the five social determinants of health (Food insecurity, Housing instability, Transportation needs, Utility difficulties, and Interpersonal safety). • Of those screened 7.76% reported not having enough money to buy food. • JHHCMC is partnering with Giant to provide bags of shelf-stable food to patients identified as food insecure. • The bags will contain ingredients for provided recipes and county food resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food items will include recipe cards on how to cook given food. ○ Information and referrals for patients to seek education from the team at Healthy Living at Giant, and ○ Howard County Food Connection Map • Patients will have the option to pick from different recipes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Breakfast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instant Oatmeal Cup ▪ Cereal Cup ○ Dinner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chicken and Veggie Fried Rice ▪ Vegetarian Chili and, ▪ Whole Grain Penne with Tuna • JHHCMC Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Specialist will identify a patient as facing food insecurity as part of the SDOH screening, retrieve a bag and bring it to the Discharge Hospitality Suite or the patient room. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SDOH specialist will conduct weekly follow ups with discharged patients who have received food to ensure connection with Healthy Living at Giant, and Utilization of given food <i>or</i> barriers to food utilization. <p>Suggestions were made from committee members:</p>	<p>Please contact Rachel Krut, rkrut2@jh.edu, for questions and feedback regarding the HCMC at Discharge Food Program.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be aware of possible food allergies when giving out bags of food to patients and to provide information regarding additional food resources available to residents in the county. • Be aware of patients with dental issues that may need soft food options available to patients. • Members had concerns regarding the limitations of serving many diverse populations in the community, and to possibly having a modified plan to address those who are unhoused and will not have a proper place to store food that is given out to patients when they're discharged. 	
<p>CHIP Strategic Plan Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat gave an overview of the FY 26-28 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and stages of the planning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHIP is the Community Strategic Plan and LHIC is responsible for the strategic plan every 3 years. • Ms. Rambharat would appreciate members being a part of the steering committee, and/or joining various work groups to share feedback during the process, as well as participating in the Full LHIC meeting. • The final CHIP Strategic Plan will be presented at the July 17, 2025 Full LHIC Meeting. • The CHIP Strategic Plan will be aligned with the Hospital Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). • Plans are to streamline the number of workgroups from six to four: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growing Healthy Families ○ Health Minds & Suicide Prevention ○ Community Healthcare Worker Learning Collaborative ○ Combine the Movement Group, Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Group, and Food Security Committee into the Healthy Lifestyles Workgroup, that will focus on the aspect of physical activity as well as access to healthy food. • Ms. Rambharat acknowledged all the projects/programs LHIC has participated in over the years (round tables with partners, hosting pop-up pantries in area schools, the creation of the food connection map that can be accessed via mobile phones, etc.). • Ms. Rambharat requested feedback from the group on the LHIC Food Security Workgroup successes, improvements needed, any issues needing to be addressed, and potential solutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing Container Gardens that helped people feel more independent. ○ The creation of the Food Connection Map that has become the most visited page on the LHIC website. ○ The creation of Resource Guides in multiple languages and are broken down by zip codes. ○ Providing awareness and assistance with obtaining and 	<p>If members are interested in joining the CHIP Steering Committee, please email Reena Rambharat at brambharat@howardcountymd.gov</p>

	<p>maintaining SNAP benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better communication regarding assistance with the homeless population and other resources available to residents in the community. 	
<p>Updates</p>	<p>Few announcements were shared: Ms. Carrie Ross, Community Action Council (CAC), announced the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The County has purchased land on the Route 1 corridor to build a brand-new food bank in Howard County to better meet the needs of residents in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new facility will focus on their partnerships with the other organizations, where people can come in for food but will also have partners on-site to provide information regarding available resources (SNAP, WIC, Social Services, etc.). ○ The new facility is due to be completed within the next two years and the current location will be kept with plans to possibly convert it into a community kitchen and provide education around nutrition and other initiatives. ○ CAC will be opening of their sixth Head Start Center. This new facility will be available for children 0 to five years of age, fill the gap of Head Start and daycare for infants and toddlers in the community, and will be located next door to the new Food Bank location. ○ In addition, CAC opened the Children’s Learning Center on the Howard Community College campus, currently has children aged three to five, but have plans to accommodate infants to three years of age. ○ Lastly, CAC clients can start shopping for Thanksgiving meals at the food bank on Tuesday, November 5th: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing lots of different meal options for families who are staying in hotel rooms and are unable to cook Thanksgiving dinner. ▪ Encouraged group members to send over any information providers may have regarding other Thanksgiving meal options available for residents so they can place them in their waiting room area. 	
<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Foster announced the conclusion of the discussion and thanked the participants for joining.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared plans to distribute meeting minutes. ● Due to the efforts to combine the Food Security Committee into the Healthy Lifestyles Committee, the previously announced date for the next Food Security Committee is now TBD and updates for upcoming meetings is forthcoming. <p>Ms. Foster adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.</p>	<p>Email hlic@howardcountymd.gov with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: http://www.hclhc.org/</p>

Respectfully submitted by
Ms. Stephanie Foster
Community Engagement Coordinator
Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

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