

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Food Insecurity Virtual Meeting

June 6, 2022

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Virtual via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Linda Ashburn, HC Health Department
Tracy Broccolino, HC Community Action Council
Willie Flowers, HC NAACP
Laura Henderson, HC Health Department
Lois Joellenbeck, HC Health Department
Paloma Leon, Luminus
Tehani Mundy, HCGH
Brian Ralph, HCPSS
Kendra Robinson, HC Health Department
Carrie Ross, HC Community Action Council
Razan Sahuri, Univ. of MD Extension Snap Ed
Jackie Scott, HC Dept. of Community Resources & Services
Nette Stokes, Just Living Advocacy

Staff Present:

Reena Rambharat, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
Rodney Oldham, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
Vanda Lerdboon, HC Health Department

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Reena Rambharat, HCLHIC Manager for the Howard County Health Department (HCHD), called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat provided a welcome to members in attendance and asked members to introduce themselves.</p>	
Food Insecurity in Howard County	<p>Ms. Rambharat talked about the Maryland Department of Health grant funding HCHD recently received to establish a Food Security Committee. She also discussed the purpose of the funding, which is to establish a food security committee in collaboration with partner agencies and doing needs assessments in the community to find out what the needs of residents are related to accessing healthy foods.</p>	

	<p>Ms. Rambharat talked about wanting to gain insight from residents about food insecurity in Howard County through survey and data analysis.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat held an open discussion and asked participants to share what information they're already collecting on food insecurity within their respective organizations.</p> <p>Carrie Ross from Community Action Council mentioned that they collect various types of information such as demographics, employment status, education level, number of people in a household, number of homebound seniors they service and tracking of number of food delivery to households by zip codes.</p> <p>Participants shared barriers that residents face to obtain healthy foods. Examples are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transportation • Lack of access • Lack of places to get healthy food near their communities (Food Deserts) • Lack of available culturally diverse foods • Costs <p>Partners also shared possible solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More mobile food pantries throughout the County • Look at mapping where food pantry services or farmer's markets are taking place by various organizations to avoid duplication of services • Accessibility to healthy food items • How can we leverage the assets we already have and continue to collaborate? 	
<p>Information Gathering: Planning Phase</p>	<p>Mr. Flowers from HC NAACP mentioned the possibility of Community Health Workers to reach people and help connect people to organizations at the grassroot level. Linda Ashburn stated that HCHD has applied for a grant to create a Community Health Worker initiative in Howard County.</p> <p>Mr. Flowers brought up the correlation between housing and healthy foods choices. Ms. Rambharat shared information about CareApp and its purpose to connect residents to various Social Determinants of Health including Housing.</p> <p>Ms. Henderson from HCHD brought up the possibility of asking people in the survey to state how do they get their information</p>	



	<p>(e.g. social media platforms, internet) and how do we get resources to the residents.</p> <p>Long Term goals/objects/activities of this committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents have access to healthy nutrition food and resources • Culturally diverse foods • Delivery of healthy foods 	
<p>Next Steps & Wrap-up</p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat will put all the potential survey questions into a document and send it to the committee for review. Once the committee reviews and approves the questions, they will then be sent to MDH for review as well.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat launched a poll to ask the committee how often should we meet and how should we meet (e.g. in-person, hybrid, or virtual)? Based on the poll results, most participants would like to meet every other month virtually.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Ms. Rambharat will send out a draft of the survey questions for review and doodle poll for the next meeting day/time followed by a meeting invite.</p>

Respectfully submitted by
 Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT
 Community Health Education Program Coordinator
 Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition