

8930 Stanford Blvd | Columbia, MD 21045 410.313.6204 - Voice/Relay 410.313.6108 - Fax 1.866.313.6300 - Toll Free www.hclhic.org

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC) Growing Healthy Families Workgroup Meeting

August 13, 2025 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Virtual via Zoom **Minutes**

Co-Chairs Present:

Samantha Cribbs, Howard County Health Department Erica Taylor, Howard County Office of Children and Families

Members Present:

Erin Anderson, Howard County Health Department Shannon Blount, Howard County Public School System Beatrice Osei-Amoh, African Immigrants Dream Inc. Dr. Marilyn Berchie-Gialamas, Trinity Wellness Marsha Dawson, Howard County Office of the Local Children's Board Nayanie Henríguez, Howard County Health Department Johnette Josiah, United Healthcare Community Plan Nancy Moreno, Howard County Health Department Heidi Marine, Chase Brexton Joy Okorafor, Howard County Health Department Tori Rain, HopeWorks Reena Rambharat, Howard County Health Department Lauren Soummers, Howard County Health Department Ashton Sullivan, Howard County Office of Children and Families Patrice Tucker, United Healthcare Community Plan Amber Wilson, Howard County Library System, Savage Branch

Staff Present:

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

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Welcome,	Ms. Stephanie Foster called the meeting to order at	LHIC's website:
Introductions, and	2:01 pm, welcomed members, invited everyone to	https://www.hclhic.org/
Previous Meeting	introduce themselves in the chat, and provided a	
Recap	recap of the May 15, 2025, meeting.	Email LHIC with any other
		announcements or questions:
		lhic@howardcountymd.gov
		Access previous meeting
		minutes:
		https://www.hclhic.org/home/
		meeting/2024?cateId=366
Announcements	Walktober Event - Ashton Jordan (AJ)	Let's walk, roll, ride, MOVE! Get
		active in Howard County during
	Mr. Ashton Jordan (AJ) shared details about the	Walktober 2025:
	upcoming Walktober event, which runs throughout	https://www.howardcountymd.
	the entire month of October. While the name	gov/walktober.
	emphasizes walking, the initiative promotes all forms	
	of physical activity, encouraging broad community	To take advantage of this
	engagement.	opportunity, please:
	Companie 20 contains also and with home of	• Complete the HoCo
	Currently, 30 events are planned, with hopes of	Walktober 2025 Interest
	surpassing last year's total of 70 events. Mr. Jordan	Form.
	invited participants to submit their event names and links for inclusion in the official Walktober calendar.	Add the Howard County Walltobar 2025 large to
	illiks for inclusion in the official warktober calendar.	Walktober 2025 logo to
		your event's promotional materials.
		Share the attached
		Walktober flyers with
		your communities,
		offices, and networks.
		(Request more flyers in
		different
		languages <u>here</u> .)
		Email your promotional
		materials to Ashton
		Jordan
		at <u>ajordan@howardcoun</u>
		tymd.gov.
	Other announcements:	
	FREE Diaper Giveaway Day	
	Hosted by the Howard County Health	
	Department Perinatal Equity and Care for	

Everyone (P.E.A.C.E.) Project

Friday, August 15, 2025 | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Howard County Health Department,
Room Heroes B8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia,
MD 21045

• **MIC Celebrates World Breastfeeding**Month

Join the WIC team for local farmers market goods, games, giveaways, and breastfeeding education. Open to all!

- Event Dates & Locations:
 - Friday, August 15 | 10:00 AM –
 12:00 PM
 Howard County Health Department –
 8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD
 - Friday, August 22 | 10:00 AM –
 12:00 North Laurel Community Center 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd, Laurel,
 MD

• ii Dads and Strollers

Whether jogging with your child in a stroller or walking side-by-side, this family-friendly event promotes movement and bonding.

iii Wednesday, August 21, 2025 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM

• Centennial Park South, 10000 Clarksville Pikes, Ellicott City, MD 21042

• it's Dad Time at the Library

Join the WIC team for local farmers market goods, games, giveaways, and breastfeeding education. Open to all!

iii Wednesday, September 13, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fast Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way Columbia, MD 21045

• <u>the Bronze Villagers 2025 Community</u> Summit

The Bronze Villagers Community Summit is to bring the African American community together to brainstorm ideas to galvanize,

	mobilize and empower the African American	
	community to make a critical mindset shift to	
	early learning for infants, toddlers, and	
	preschoolers to increase kindergarten	
	readiness.	
	iii Saturday, October 4, 2025 10:30 AM –	
	1:00 PM	
	St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive	
	Columbia, MD 21044	
	Columbia, IVID 21044	
	Full LHIC Coalition Meeting	
	Ⅲ Thursday, October 16, 2025 ④ 9:00	
	AM	
	In-person & virtual options available	
	Register Here	
Community Baby	Ms. Erica Taylor (Howard County Office of Children &	
Shower – Report from	Families) highlighted the success of the Community	
Ms. Erica Taylor	Baby Shower held on July 26. Sixty families	
	registered and forty-two people attended, marking a	
	significant increase from last year. The event	
	featured 11 community partners and provided	
	families with resources, interactive activities	
	(including vision board making), and giveaways such	
	and the section and \$400 Terral officer de Estad	
	las diaber bags and \$100 larget gift cards. Erica	
	as diaper bags and \$100 Target gift cards. Erica expressed enthusiasm about making this an annual	
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Ms. Stephanie Foster assisted by sharing the form in the chat and offered support to anyone experiencing access issues.

Upcoming Women's Health Focus Groups:

Ms. Cribbs outlined the objectives of the Women's Health Focus Groups, which will address:

- Women's health information sources
- Pregnancy and childbirth
- Mental health

The focus groups will primarily engage Black and Brown mothers, aiming to address disparities in health experiences.

Planned Strategies for Increasing Participation:

- Session Schedule:
 - November 2025 (in-person, weekday)
 - December 2025 (virtual, evening)
 - January 2026 (hybrid, evening or weekend)
- Locations: Utilize Howard County Library System (HCLS) sites.
- **Target Audience:** Parents who have given birth in the last 3 years (BIPOC focus).
- Supports & Incentives: Food, childcare, giveaways, and registration forms available in multiple languages.
- Outreach & Promotion: Pediatricians, OB-GYN offices, JHHCMC/Chase Brexton, WIC, and mother-support groups such as Mocha Moms and Columbia Area Moms of Multiples (CAMOM).

Additional Notes:

- Budget has been allocated for giveaways.
- Workgroup members emphasized the importance of language accessibility, encouraging bilingual materials and Spanish registration options.
- Members also encouraged feedback on specific discussion topics for future sessions.

Additional Workgroup Input

 Mr. Ashton Jordan suggested combining topics within focus groups to enhance data collection.

	Ms. Cribbs emphasized the importance of addressing multiple aspects of mental health and care.	
Wrap up and Next	Ms. Stephanie Foster concluded the meeting by	Email
Steps	highlighting upcoming events and thanking all	<u>lhic@howardcountymd.gov</u> with
	participants for their engagement. She announced	any questions.
	that the next meeting is scheduled for November 12,	
	2025, at 2:00 PM (via Zoom).	
		GHF Meeting minutes can be
		found at:
		https://www.hclhic.org/home/
		meeting/2025?cateId=366

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