

WELCOME! WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!!

Participants will be muted upon entry.

When the line is opened, please mute yourself during discussion/questions if not speaking



Please use the **Chat Box** to submit questions and share announcements!

This meeting will be recorded...Presentation and recording will be posted at www.hclhic.org

For additional information or questions contact lhic@howardcountymd.gov

HOWARD COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION

February 4, 2021



Howard County LHIC
Local Health Improvement Coalition

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WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Welcome

New Members and Guests

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PURPOSE, AGENDA & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GOAL: Provide Coalition members with COVID-19 vaccine distribution and other updates, provide an overview of expected LHIC priority-related activities during the 2021 Maryland General Assembly, and update Coalition members on the Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System (GBRICS) partnership to transform behavioral health response crisis services in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County and Howard County.

AGENDA:

- A. Welcome and New Member Introductions
- B. 2021 Maryland Legislative Preview
- C. COVID-19 Response and Vaccine Distribution Updates
- D. Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System (GBRICS)
- E. Member Announcements and Resource Sharing
- F. Next Steps and Wrap-up and open line for networking

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Legislative Summary 2020 and Peek into 2021 Maryland General Assembly Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Kathleen Hoke
February 2021



Did You Know . . .

The Legal Resource Center hosts a bi-weekly conference call during session on all public health legislation pending in the Maryland General Assembly.

We also track all public health legislation in a user-friendly chart, with a tab for tobacco bills.

To be added to the list to get call announcements and chart links, email the LRC at publichealth@law.umaryland.edu.

CHANGES DUE TO COVID

- ▶ Hearings are all virtual with varying limits on the number of witnesses (no limit on written testimony); sign-up and submit 2 days in advance.
- ▶ Extremely limited in-person meetings with members (really, none).
- ▶ Hearings, voting sessions, and Floor sessions are live streamed on Zoom and YouTube.
- ▶ 781 pre-filed bills; hearings started quickly; limited sponsors; access to written testimony.

TOBACCO & VAPE TAX BILL

*House Bill 732: Taxation - Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax, and Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax: PASSED . . . then VETOED**

- ✓ ESDs at 12% of the taxable price; vaping liquid containers of 5 ml or less at 60% of the taxable price;
- ✓ Cigarette packs of 20 at \$3.75/pack;
- ✓ Other tobacco products at 53% of the wholesale price;
- ✓ Cigars at 70% of the wholesale price; premium cigars at 15% of the wholesale price; and
- ✓ Pipe tobacco at 30% of the wholesale price.

Starting in fiscal year 2022, it also requires the Governor to include \$18.25 million in the annual budget for activities aimed at reducing tobacco consumption.

**Veto override vote expected February 8 (House) and 9 (Senate)*

FLAVORED TOBACCO BAN

Senate Bill 233/House Bill 3: Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition: FAILED

- ✓ Prohibited the manufacturing, shipping, importing, or selling into or within the State all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored electronic smoking devices.
- ✓ A person who violates its requirements would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.

HB 3 amendments would have made an exemption for flavored premium cigars and permitted on-premises consumption of flavored other tobacco products at "smoking bars." The amendments also would have prohibited the manufacture, sale, or importation of "closed ESDs" or "cartridge-based ESDs," but left "open ESDs" untouched.

*2021: Senate Bill 177 (hearing Jan. 28)/House Bill 134 (hearing Feb 10)
Same language; advocates concerned about amendments from 2020.*

PHARMACIST-PROVIDED CESSATION MEDS

Senate Bill 440/House Bill 1594: Pharmacists - Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use: FAILED

- ✓ Authorized a pharmacist to prescribe and dispense aids for the cessation of the use of tobacco products;
- ✓ Required the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children's Health Program to provide coverage for services rendered by a licensed pharmacist under the Act (SB 440 amendments would have eliminated this requirement).

Amendments in the Senate narrowed the bill so that pharmacists are only permitted to prescribe NRT. No hearing held in the House on the cross-file or the crossed-over version.

2021: RESTORING LOCAL POWER

Senate Bill 410: Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Law Authorization

This bill would authorize a county or municipality to enact and enforce local laws regulating the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices. The county or municipality may not regulate the issuance of licenses for cigarettes, other tobacco products, or electronic smoking devices and may not regulate the imposition of taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. If passed this bill will repeal the Court of Appeals' decision in *Altadis U.S.A., Inc. v. Prince George's County*, 431 Md. 30 (2013), which struck down as preempted Prince George's County's cigar minimum pack size ordinance (and had same impact on similar Baltimore City Health Commissioner regulation).

Hearing February 11.

2021: REGULATION OF ESDs

Senate Bill 273: Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021

- Prohibits the sale of ESDs by anyone except licensed vape shop vendors who exclusively sell ESDs and related items;
- Vape shop vendors pay license fee to local health department for enforcement (fee set by MDH);
- ESD manufacturer may no longer sell direct to consumer;
- No flavored disposable vapes (including menthol)
- Requires electronic scanning of IDs at the register
- Adds ESDs to Clean Indoor Air Act
- No one under 21 may enter the vape shop

Hearing Jan. 28!

Superficially sounds good but concerns about bill language, preemption, and Clean Indoor Air Act provisions.

2021: EXPLOITATION OF SENIORS

Senate Bill 327: Civil Actions – Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults (Maryland SAFE Act)

- Applies to elderly and vulnerable adults including those with disabilities, habitual drunkenness, and substance use disorder.
- Establishes a civil cause of action that a financially exploited vulnerable adult may bring against a financial exploiter of the vulnerable adult.
- Cause of action survives the death of the vulnerable adult so may be brought by the estate or other representatives.
- Adds to the existing criminal law to allow for recovery of damages.

Hearing was Feb. 3; looks like there will be amendments to add punitive damages.

***Note: Senate override veto on SB407 (2020), which created the OAG Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit; pending House override**

2021: FOOD BILLS

▶ *House Bill 101: Heat and Eat Program*

- Allows for a deduction from income for calculation of SNAP benefits based on utility payments.
- ▶ Nothing else of significance!
- ▶ Seriously, nothing really food security related.

2021: COVID BILLS

- ▶ Immunity Bills
 - For health care workers with expanded definition
 - For employers
- ▶ Worker Protection (including migrant workers)
 - Add ASH standards for prevention of COVID transmission
- ▶ Governor's RELIEF Act
 - Direct payments to individuals/families
 - Additional unemployment funding
 - Tax, unemployment, and PPP loan relief for businesses

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kathleen Hoke
Director



Phone: (410) 706-1294

Email: khoke@law.umaryland.edu

Website: www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/publichealth

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COVID 19 Update

Antigone Vickery, MPH

Deputy Health Officer, Howard County Health Department

Elizabeth Menachery, MD

Medical Director, Howard County Health Department

COVID-19 IMPACT *

To date in Howard County:

- 14,622 confirmed cases of COVID-19,
- 211 of our neighbors lost from this virus

7-day average positivity rate is at 5.62%

7-day average case rate per 100,000 is at 22.8.

Both metrics have declined respectively, over the past month and are holding steady at this point.

Both our positivity and case rates are below the State averages, and our rates are within the lower third of all jurisdictions.

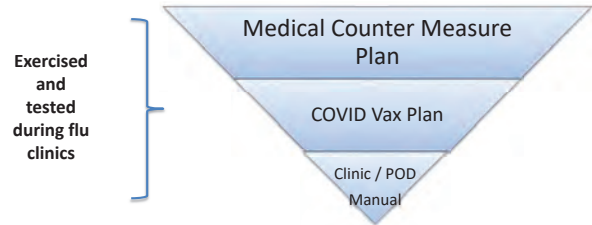
* as of 2/1/21

COVID Vaccination Planning

Overall Goal

To safely and efficiently vaccinate as many Howard County residents as possible based upon vaccine availability.

PLANS – 3 TIERS



COVID VAX PLAN

1. Phased Approach to Mass Vaccination
2. Vaccination Models and Sites
3. Vaccination Capacity and Expansion
4. Staffing and Vaccination Workforce
5. Public Communication and Community Outreach
6. Key Policies and Protocols
7. Vaccine Allotment, Ordering, Distribution and Inventory Management
8. Vaccine storage, handling, logistics
9. Safety and Security
10. Data and Quality Improvement

WHEN CAN I BE VACCINATED?

* Vaccine prioritization may be subject to change



Collaborative efforts to ensure that vaccines are distributed in a manner that protects public health and safeguards those at highest risk for severe COVID-19 disease

Access for ALL

Vaccinations

- HoCo Population over 16 years of age: 256,415
- 82,000 currently eligible (1A & 1B) to receive a vaccine; HCHD has administered 15,283 first doses,
- HCHD has capacity to do 20,000
- HCHD receives approximately 2000-3000 per week; Vaccine supply is stagnant

Finding a Vaccine

#1 Howard County Health Department at Ascend One & HoCo Community College



HCPSS Entrance – Back
Entrance of Ascend One



HCC Entrance –

Clinic layout and flow may differ depending on location.

Communication & Notifications

- Please visit hchealth.org to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine and priority group information. Site is updated regularly to include updates about priority groups as they are announced from the state.
- These are *pre-registration* surveys. **Filling out the survey does not create a vaccine appointment.**



Finding a Vaccine

#2 Other Providers:

- **Statewide-sites**
Feb. 5 – Baltimore Convention Center
- Retail pharmacies
- Hospitals
- large group practices – *in the future*



Baltimore Convention Center

Vaccine Locator:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine#locator>

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Currently two vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA:
 - Pfizer-BioNTech: 2 doses, 3 weeks apart (age 16 years and older)
 - Moderna: 2 doses, 4 weeks apart (age 18 years and older)

Please note: The FDA continues the process of evaluating other vaccine candidates for EUA.

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is reporting that it is 95% effective against COVID-19 infection.
- The Moderna vaccine is reporting that it is 94.1% effective against COVID-19 infection, with 100% effectiveness against severe illness from COVID-19.
- Read more about these vaccines and the vaccine administration phases at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

KEY FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION



Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19



People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated



COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19



COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html>

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?



- Stay Connected and help others get connected too!
 - HCHD Weekly Newsletter
 - Ball Bulletin
 - HCGH e-Wellness Matters
 - HCLHIC Digest
 - Vaccine.howardcountymd.gov
 - 410-313-6284 – **COVID LINE**
- Register for communication alerts / surveys
- Engage and support Personal and organized “buddy” systems
- “Open Doors” to increase confidence and access to make vaccine- related decisions
- Educate others to avoid vaccine scams

UNTIL I CAN GET THE VACCINE- AND AFTER

- Volunteer – Clinical and Non-Clinical Medical Reserve Corps (clinical and non-clinical) lawilliams@howardcountymd.gov
- Get your vaccine when it becomes available to you and encourage other to get vaccinated too! = CONFIDENCE
- Stay COVID Safe!!
 - Covering your mouth/nose with a mask
 - Washing hands often with soap and water, or use hand-sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
 - Staying at least 6 feet away from others
 - Get Tested
 - Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.



VACCINE TELEPHONE TOWNHALL

Howard County's COVID-19 Vaccine Telephone Townhall Monday, February 8th, at 6:00 p.m.

Residents can use this opportunity to learn more about the vaccines and understand how and when they will be able to receive their vaccinations.

Residents can call in at **(855) 756-7520 Ext. 71314#** OR pre-register **online**.

Email questions in advance to TownHall@HowardCountyMD.gov



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Education to Foster trust, Accessibility & adherence

HCHD has been intentionally working with community partners to build relationships and establish trust to increase testing and prepare for COVID-19 vaccination.

Outreach events have been linked with food distribution and other events to target high need individuals.

Partnerships to reach vulnerable communities through:

- Internal Pilot for Testing "pop-up" Sites (The Season's Apts.; Interfaith Center; FIRN Flu Clinic (June-July)
- HCGH COVID Testing (Faith-based Communities) (July-Present)
- FIRN Partnership (Foreign-born and New Immigrant Communities) (August – Present)
- Communities Impacted by Chronic Disease
- Disability Community

Education – Outreach, Prevention, & Accessibility

Pilot Testing of Modalities and Locations through "Pop-up" Sites (The Season's Apts.; Interfaith Center; FIRN Flu Clinic) (June-July)

139 community members tested

640 "sanitation – education" kits distributed through food distribution sites/events



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EDUCATION – OUTREACH, PREVENTION, & ACCESSIBILITY

FIRN Partnership (foreign-born and new immigrant communities) (August – Present)*

- Distributed over 200 sanitation kits that include gloves, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, masks, alcohol wipes and soap, as well as COVID testing and health education fliers in English and Spanish.
- Over a five-week period, FIRN passed out over 436 COVID testing fliers at multiple events.
- 3 webinars held informing 26 community members on COVID-related health topics. Additional webinars regarding COVID scheduled for December in addition to other communication methods including in person and WhatsApp.
- Provided Mandarin, Spanish and English translators at outreach events.
- Facilitated testing connection to 50 Latinx members.

*data as of 11/30/2020

EDUCATION – OUTREACH, PREVENTION, & ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Roundtable for Reaching Residents with Physical and/or Cognitive Disabilities (December)

- Advisory Group formed to strategize and connect with community groups such as Accessible Resources for Independence, ARC of Howard County, HCDFRS, Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services, and COAD to engage with Vulnerable Community members and ensure accessibility to vaccination among those with physical and/or cognitive disabilities



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Community COVID-19 Testing Final Report

Presented by: Tara Butler, MS, CWWPM CHES
Prepared for: LHIC Quarterly Meeting, February 2021

Objective of COVID-19 Testing

Leverage Journey to Better Health program to support vulnerable populations through community testing and seamless connection to resources and supports as well as to limit further transmission of the coronavirus.

Trust building efforts in the community related to public health

Mark J. DeHaven, Irby B. Hunter, Laura Wilder, James W. Walton, Jarett Berry, "Health Programs in Faith-Based Organizations: Are They Effective?", *American Journal of Public Health* 94, no. 6 (June 1, 2004): pp. 1030-1036. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.94.6.1030>

Details



- Transitioned to HCC West Garage and Howard County Fairgrounds for winter weather shelter
- 22 testing events July thru December 2020
 - Tested 5088 people
 - 3.5% positivity rate overall

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Aggregated Data thru 12/19/20 (22 events)



	Overall	Negative	Positive
Total # of people tested	5088	4910 (96.5%)	178 (3.5%)
Age (Standard Deviation)	46.0 (20.4)	46.2 (20.5)	39.4 (19.0)
Race/Ethnicity, n (%)			
Non-Hispanic White	2358 (46.3)	2307 (97.8)	51 (2.2)
Non-Hispanic Black	1609 (31.6)	1553 (96.5)	56 (3.5)
Hispanic	333 (6.5)	306 (91.9)	27 (8.1)
Asian	556 (10.9)	526 (94.6)	30 (5.4)
Other	164 (3.2)	154 (93.9)	10 (6.1)
Not reported	68 (1.3)	64 (94.1)	4 (4.9)

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Impact



- Increased access to testing for vulnerable populations
- Planned locations spread across Howard County
- Developed 3 new faith partnerships (Kittamaquindi Community Church, Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
- Engaged 20+ volunteers (community and faith)

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Thank you!



**All made possible by the
Howard County Health Department**

For additional information, please contact
Journey to Better Health:

Hcgh-J2BH@jhmi.edu or 410-740-7601

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GREATER BALTIMORE REGION INTEGRATED CRISIS SYSTEM (GBRICS) PARTNERSHIP

February 4, 2021

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP CATALYST GRANT PROGRAM

- Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) grant
- Includes “GBR” hospitals and requires community partnership and meaningful collaboration
- Behavioral Health: based on national *Crisis Now* Model
- Multi-million dollar investment in infrastructure that must be sustainable after 5-year grant term,
- GBRICS involves all hospitals and LBHAs, plus leaders in Baltimore City, Baltimore Co., Carroll Co., Howard Co.

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ALL 17 Hospitals / Medical Centers in the region are part of the GBRICS proposal

	System	Jurisdiction
Grace Medical Center	LifeBridge	Baltimore City
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center	Hopkins	Baltimore City
Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System	Hopkins	Baltimore City
MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital	MedStar	Baltimore City
MedStar Harbor Hospital	MedStar	Baltimore City
MedStar Union Memorial Hospital	MedStar	Baltimore City
Mercy Medical Center	Independent	Baltimore City
Sinai Hospital	LifeBridge	Baltimore City
St. Agnes Hospital	Ascension	Baltimore City
University of Maryland Medical Center	UMMS	Baltimore City
University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus	UMMS	Baltimore City
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	Independent	Baltimore Co.
MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center	MedStar	Baltimore Co.
Northwest Hospital	LifeBridge	Baltimore Co.
University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center	UMMS	Baltimore Co.
Carroll Hospital	LifeBridge	Carroll Co.
Howard County General Hospital	Hopkins	Howard Co.

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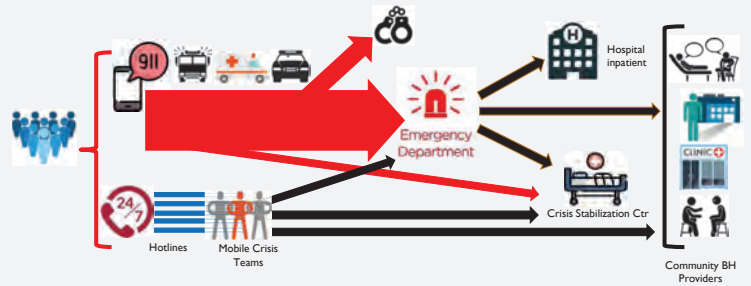
SHARED VISION AND PRINCIPLES

VISION: Establish behavioral health crisis care as a fundamental element of emergency response and of suicide prevention in the Baltimore region.

PRINCIPLES:

- Include elements of the Crisis Now model
- Ensure timely access to crisis treatment and support services
- Takes standardized approach in the region
- Substantively involves community partners
- Use data to drive decisions to:
 - Improve experiences and outcomes for individuals and families improve
 - Generate a clear Return on Investment (ROI) including reduced Total Cost of Care (TCOC)

PLAN: STEM THE FLOW OF PEOPLE GOING TO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

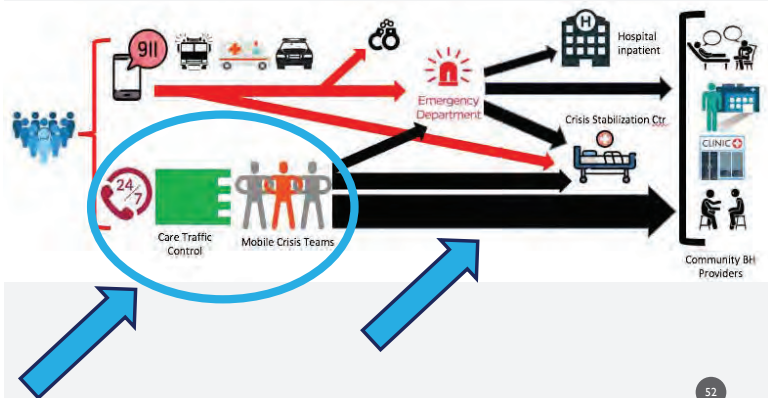


TOO many people wait in a hospital ED to get to an appropriate care setting. TOO many people end up in jail for behavioral health needs. Nearly ALL do not have timely access to needed care.

FOUR ELEMENTS OF GBRICS

1. **Care Traffic Control System (CTC)** for the region
2. **Mobile Crisis Teams:** Expand capacity, set regional standards and local protocols to work with CTC
3. **Same Day Access to Immediate-Need Services:** Support behavioral health providers in offering this
4. **Non-profit Multi-Stakeholder Oversight:** Drive GBRICS-funded activities and ensure accountability

NEW APPROACH: INTEGRATED SYSTEM WITH CTC AND MCT



CARE TRAFFIC CONTROL: TECHNICAL OPERATIONS CENTER

1. **Electronic Referral and Bed Tracking:** Real time inventory and coordination of every bed capacity available across the region
2. **Comprehensive real time database** showing every intensive referral waiting for care: how long they are waiting, where they are waiting
 - **Customizable dashboards and reports:** real time data to support resource allocation and accountability
2. **Electronic Mobile Crisis Dispatch and Monitoring:** GPS-enabled system to dispatch, communicate with, and track all MCTs in the region
3. **Call Management:** 24/7 digital access to routine or urgent outpatient appointment slots; integrates with separate call center software

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INTEGRATED SYSTEM WITH CTC AND MCT

1. CTC and MCTs will connect with each other
 - Regional Hotline to CTC to then dispatch MCTs based on the location and needs of the individual in crisis
2. Expand MCT capacity via local / regional approach
 - Enhance MCTs through development of regional standards
 - Expand the number of teams
 - Improve productivity of existing teams
 - MCTs back each other up as needed to meet peaks in demand

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SUPPORT EXPANDED SAME DAY ACCESS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- Help practices offer more Same Day Access to crisis or immediate-need services (virtual and walk-in)
- Competitive bid the Technical Assistance Consultant contract
- Offer seed funding for technology upgrade, staff training, etc.
- Regional performance expectations
- “Data-driven process reengineering with performance standards”



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CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

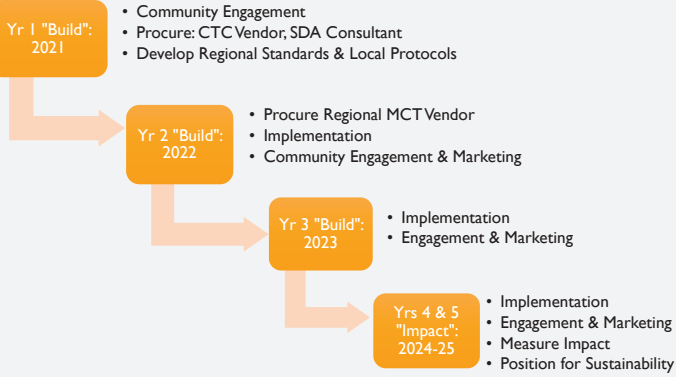
“NOTHING ABOUT ME WITHOUT ME”

- Broad and meaningful partnerships and diverse approaches to engaging communities”
 - ✓ Strategy, coordinated planning, and funding to reach individuals and communities who are impacted
 - ✓ Community groups and individuals with lived experience will be on Advisory Group and other GBRICS workgroups
 - ✓ Culture change for all: increase awareness and use of regional hotline (vs. 911 or ED) and same day services



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ANTICIPATED SEQUENCING: BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE, MEASURE IMPACT

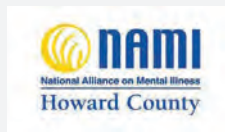


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HOW TO SUPPORT GBRICS

- View the GBRICS Webpage at <https://www.bhsbaltimore.org/learn/gbrics-partnership/>
 - Sign up for email updates
 - Participate in the monthly GBRICS forums/view recorded meeting
 - Express your interest in participating on a GBRICS workgroup

SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT & COLLABORATION OF:



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VIRTUAL STRETCH BREAK



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Strategic Planning Process

Extension of Current Plan through FY 21. New Plan developed and dated FY 22-25*

Participation by a wide range of community partners representing various sectors of the community – WITH us at the table AND CONTRIBUTING to the meal?

- To develop a responsive, timely plan that will guide the HCLHIC
- To clarify and refine role, scope, structure of HCLHIC
- To coordinate and amplify efforts of HCLHIC members
- *Communication and Engagement - Education and Access*
- *Health Equity; Chronic Disease Prevention; Wellness Across the Lifespan*

Please type your name/organization if you would like to be a part of the Spring 2021 Planning Process

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



CARE APP
NEWS!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heart Health Month Series - a collaboration between the Office on Aging and Independence, Local Health Improvement Coalition and the Howard County Health Department.



- Tasty Tidbits: Cooking Smart for Your Heart - Monday, February 8, 2021 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- Best Diets for Heart Health - Tuesday, February 9, 2021 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- Healthy Heart 101: Working Out - Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 12 noon – 1:00pm
- Healthy Heart 102: Settling Down - Friday, February 19, 2021 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- Stress and Mental Health - Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 11:00am – 12:00pm
- The Mind & Heart Connection - Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 1:00pm – 2:00pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- Part 4: Behavioral Trends in Youth Wednesday, February 17, 2021; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- Part 5: Growing Your Wellness Toolbox Wednesday, March 17, 2021; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- REGISTER AT: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/howard-county-behavioral-health-summit-series-tickets-126902794675>

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VACCINE TELEPHONE TOWNHALL

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Residents can call in at **(855) 756-7520 Ext. 71314#** OR pre-register [online](https://www.hclhic.org).

Email questions in advance to TownHall@HowardCountyMD.gov

NETWORKING ANNOUNCEMENTS & PARTNER UPDATES

Please share any updates by typing them into the Chat Box. The host may also unmute your microphone to speak.

Thank you!



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