

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC)

Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition (HMSPC) Workgroup Meeting

Virtual via Zoom

January 8, 2026

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Meeting Goal: To review current behavioral health and suicide-related data to better understand community needs, and to discuss the planning for the Firearms Safe Storage Workshop on March 21, 2026.

Meeting Agenda

Meeting will start promptly at 2 pm

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| 2:00 – 2:10 pm | Welcome
Ice Breaker
Previous Meeting Re-Cap
Announcements
<i>Jessica Fisher, Co-Chair</i>
<i>Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Bureau of Behavioral Health,</i>
<i>Howard County Health Department</i> |
| 2:10 – 2:30 pm | Behavioral Health Data Highlights: Suicide, Mental Health & Service Utilization Presentation
<i>Chimezie Ndukuba, MPH</i>
<i>Epidemiologist</i>
<i>Howard County Health Department</i> |
| 2:30 – 2:55 pm | Firearm Safe Storage Workshop Discussion
<i>Jessica Fisher, Co-Chair</i>
<i>Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Bureau of Behavioral Health,</i>
<i>Howard County Health Department</i> |
| 2:55 – 3:00 pm | Next Steps & Wrap-up
<i>Stephanie Foster,</i>
<i>Community Engagement Coordinator,</i>
<i>Howard County Health Department,</i>
<i>Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC)</i> |

Healthy Minds and Suicide Prevention Coalition Workgroup FY26-28 Goals and Objectives:

- **Goal 1.** Promote safe home practices such as safe storage of medications, firearms, and other harmful materials, and reduce stigma of mental health support through education and community engagement.
 - **Objective 1.1.** By June 2028, collaborate with workgroup members to create and promote culturally appropriate, accessible and inclusive materials to make homes safer to prevent suicide.
 - **Objective 1.2.** By June 2028, increase community engagement to support mental health among priority populations through local partnerships and peer support programs.
- **Goal 2.** Develop initiatives highlighting community violence intervention programs, promoting safe firearm storage and ownership practices, and collaborating with law enforcement agencies to address illegal firearms and reduce gun violence.
 - **Objective 2.1.** By June 2028, support community-based initiatives to reduce firearm-related deaths among priority populations in Howard County.
 - **Objective 2.2.** By June 2028, expand partnerships with local organizations, schools, and law enforcement agencies to provide support and address the unique mental health needs of priority populations in Howard County.
- **Goal 3.** Promote culturally appropriate and accessible mental health and behavioral resources through partnerships with local organizations and businesses serving priority populations.
 - **Objective 3.1.** By June 2028, collaborate with organizations and social groups hosting mentorship programs to promote culturally appropriate, accessible and inclusive mental health resources.
 - **Objective 3.2.** By June 2028, collaborate with organizations and social groups providing resources for community members seeking help to improve behavioral health priority populations.

HCLHIC Calendar of Events QR Code

