



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Food Security Committee

Virtual via Zoom

December 14, 2023, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Karen Basinger, U. of Maryland Extension
 Bernadette Bindewald, HC Health Department
 Michelle Clark, HC Health Department
 Laura Crovo, Grassroots Crisis Intervention
 Lisa Dolce, Glenelg United Methodist Church
 Nancy Ervin, U. of Maryland Extension
 Lois Joellenbeck, HC Health Department
 Roslyn Jones, Rachell L Gray Community Foundation

Jin Kim, HC Office on Aging & Independence
 Alice Lee, HC Health Department
 Paloma León, Community Member
 Lauren McGee, Chase Brexton
 Lynn Mejia, LindaBen Foundation
 Gabriel Moreno, Luminus Network
 Chimezie Ndukuba, HC Health Department
 Geneva Rieu, HC Department of Social Services
 Carrie Ross, Community Action Council of HC

Staff Present:

Ashton Jordan, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
 Sonya Lloyd, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition
 Reena Rambharat, HC Local Health Improvement Coalition

Topic/Agenda	Discussion	Action / Follow-up
Welcome and Introductions	Ms. Sonya Lloyd, Community Engagement Coordinator, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC), called the meeting to order at 11:02am. She provided a welcome to members in attendance, shared the meeting goal of gathering partners to discuss collaborative efforts to address food and nutrition insecurity in Howard County.	Members are asked to review previous meeting minutes: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2022?catId=365 .
Announcements	<p>Ms. Lloyd shared information about the next quarterly full LHIC meeting to be held on January 18, 2024, at 9:00am to 11am. The meeting will be hybrid via Zoom and at the HCHD Ascend One Building in Columbia.</p> <p>Whole Kids Foundation has available grants called Get Schools Cooking Grants for medium-sized school districts. Application opens early 2024 and closes in March 2024.</p> <p>Community Ecology Institute (CEI) Green SEEDS Winter 2024 Internship is accepting applications. This is a 7-week internship for local high school students that runs from January 24, 2024, to March 16, 2024, at Freetown Farm in Columbia.</p> <p>The Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops flyer is updated for the Winter.</p>	<p>Agendas for past full LHIC meetings: https://www.hclhic.org/home/meeting/2023?catId=1</p> <p>Register for the Full LHIC meeting on January 18, 2024: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-hclhic-full-coalition-meetings-tickets-726290964827?aff=oddtcreator</p> <p>Apply for Whole Kids Grant: https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/programs/get-</p>

	<p>Ms. Laura Crovo, Grassroots Crisis Center, announced their new walk In Crisis Center that has a 24-hour food and hygiene pantry at 8990 Old Annapolis Road, Suite A, Columbia 20145. At this pantry, bagged meals are provided, groceries and sometimes bus passes, gas cards and diapers along with personal hygiene items.</p> <p>Ms. Crovo also mentioned that Grassroots Day Resource Center on Guildford Rd has a pantry and is open 3 days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday which provides food and clothing items.</p>	<p>schools-cooking-grant/</p> <p>CEI Internship application: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b5ec40e5dc344c7485cf881f972f2c54?fbclid=IwAR3igv7fBWCRhvwsONoldX1CiYBDXabAFPHNddukGdtMXHdHCfw2mXOTx0</p> <p>Chronic Disease workshop flyer: https://www.hclhic.org/Content/Upload/page/445db739-37a1-4443-ba76-d984c5cb270c.pdf</p> <p>Email lhic@howardcountymd.gov with any announcements.</p>
<p>Coordinator Updates</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd shared that the food pantry and hot meal brochures are updated and are on the website. Physical copies can be requested by filling out the form on LHIC’s Healthy Eating webpage. The provider resource guide for food resources is updated and is on LHIC’s Healthy Eating webpage in PDF form.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd shared that the Food Connection Map was recently updated by Howard County Health Department’s (HCHD) Epidemiology team. Epidemiologists are updating the food connection map twice a year and there is running list. Please check to see if there are any additional changes needed.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd shared that CAREAPP has a Food Pantries and Hot Meals Favorite’s List that includes information on over 40 food pantry and nutrition programs in Howard County.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd shared a new project that LHIC will plan for the Spring of 2024 with Owen Brown Place residences. In February 2024, LHIC will receive donated vegetable seeds from Clark’s Ace Hardware in Ellicott City / Columbia. LHIC will need assistance from the LHIC community to start these seeds in little trays/containers. Once they are big enough to transplant, LHIC will deliver them to Owen Brown Place residents to plant in May.</p>	<p>LHIC Healthy Eating webpage: https://www.hclhic.org/healthy_eating.</p> <p>Request print copies of food brochures or food map posters: https://forms.gle/KSUvsYrPZCZbYy7X8</p> <p>Food Connection Map: https://www.hclhic.org/food_map.</p> <p>Food Resource Guide for Providers: https://www.hclhic.org/Content/Upload/page/ea25c252-f3f7-49d5-9060-6bdab9f94f52.pdf</p> <p>CAREAPP food pantries and hot meal favorite’s list: https://findhresources.org/v2/favorites/public/food-pantries-21?utm_medium=share_favorites_link&ref=favorites_food</p> <p>If interested in growing seeds for Owen Brown Place, email Lhic@howardcountymd.gov between now and mid-February.</p>

<p>Food Security Updates</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd introduced, Ms. Reena Rambharat, LHIC Director. Ms. Rambharat shared some key findings from the Food Security Roundtables Report on short-term and long-term solutions to collaboratively work together including the need for a Food Council to be set up in Howard County to focus on upstream policy solutions to address food insecurity. She mentioned that the Food Security Committee will continue to work on items from the Report.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat then discussed the HoCoHealth Podcast which focused on food insecurity and the work of the Food Security Committee, one of our partners, Food and Care for All and a Community Health Worker with lived experience of food insecurity.</p> <p>Ms. Rambharat shared the goal of the Food Pantry Spotlight Series and plans in 2024 to engage community members experiencing food insecurity to highlight their stories to advance food security initiatives. If anyone has any individuals in mind, please send us an email and we would love to follow-up with the individual(s).</p>	<p>Food security roundtables report: https://www.hclhic.org/Content/Upload/page/04b52e73-f61f-40ba-a043-bedc390b3b43.pdf</p> <p>HoCoHealth Podcast: https://hocohealth.podbean.com/e/food-insecurity-in-howard-county/</p> <p>Food Pantry Spotlight videos on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTxC9WcDh-2pbNs5jN4sDWA</p> <p>Partners interested in connecting LHIC with individuals experiencing food insecurity can email: LHIC@howardcountymd.gov.</p>
<p>Nutrition Education & Collaboration</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd introduced Ms. Nancy Ervin, Program Assistant, University of Maryland Extension (UME) – Howard County, who discussed the following items: Talbott Spring Elementary School’s Garden and nutrition education program.</p> <p>Ms. Ervin also discussed UME’s Teacher Toolkits for Nutrition Education which includes innovative programs such as Growing Healthy Habits and Read for Health. Ms. Ervin said the teacher toolkits are only in English. However, SNAP-Ed does have a lot of resources in Spanish.</p> <p>Ms. Ervin is filling in as the second co-chair to the Food Security Committee until the UME SNAP Educator role is filled. Ms. Ervin said that UME is in the process of interviewing for the position.</p>	<p>Teacher Toolkits for Nutrition Education: https://mdteachertoolkit.org/lessons-and-resources/curricula/</p>
<p>Community Action Council Food Bank Updates</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd introduced Ms. Carrie Ross, Food Bank Director, Community Action Council of Howard County. Ms. Ross discussed last month’s Thanksgiving food and meal distribution. She said that CAC is seeing record historic numbers and that 2200 unique families including 6,900 individuals within these families were served during Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Ms. Ross said that the Columbia Baptist Fellowship in collaboration with the Howard County Police Minority Officers Association fed 1600 families at the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center during 2 separate events. She said that that the Local Children’s Board did several different turkey giveaways after people registered to receive a turkey. Feedback from the turkey giveaway was that many senior citizens did not like using QR codes and would rather have phone numbers to talk to a live person. Some people do not have smart phones. Ms. Ross suggested better coordination would be better for next year and that better messaging is needed.</p> <p>Ms. Ross then discussed Howard County Public School System</p>	<p>Partners interested in assisting with the potential Spring Break Pop-Up Market can email: LHIC@howardcountymd.gov.</p>

(HCPSS) Spring Break Meals Assistance Pop-Up Pantry on Monday, March 25, 2024 or Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at Duckett's Lane Elementary School. Ms. Ross asked for volunteer assistance from Food Security members and is hoping for lots of collaboration between partners. CAC is focusing on the children's needs like fresh fruits and fresh produce and items that they can eat without cooking.

Ms. Rambharat said Spanish speaking volunteers would be greatly appreciated at this Pop-Up Pantry event.

Ms. Lloyd mentioned that the Howard County Health Department will be attending the Spring Break Pop Up Pantry and will be distributing tote bags with food scales, containers, jar openers, cutlery tools, and health resources. The HCHD is planning to have staff such as Community Health Workers, WIC, or Access to Healthcare attend the event.

Ms. Geneva Rieu, HC Department of Social Services, said she can help assist at the Pop-Up Pantry at Duckett's Lane Elementary School.

Ms. Roslyn Jones, Rachell L Gray Community Foundation, said she can also help assist at the Pop-Up Pantry at Duckett's Lane Elementary School.

Partner discussion then led to what kinds of items are still needed for the holidays. Are any partners having special food drives? Any additional needs like volunteers? Ms. Ross said that transportation is a barrier and that CAC received 113 first time clients who are income eligible and are living under the federal poverty line. People are struggling to pay for their electricity and heating bills and seeing an increase in people needing food assistance. Ms. Ross said there are lots of food drives happening all over the County now but that it drops off later during the Summer season.

Ms. Crovo said the Mall in Columbia in partnership with Grassroots is doing a food drive near the Carousal entrance and is also doing a Giving Machine at the Poinsettia tree at the Mall. The food drive is there until December 17th. Food drives would be amazing during March. Ms. Crovo said Grassroots is seeing a lot of people needing groceries. The Day Resource Center provides hot meals and sees a lot of individuals that live off the Route 1 corridor needing food assistance.

Ms. Jones with the Rachell L. Gray Foundation in Elkridge noticed that organizations were doing a lot for Thanksgiving. She would like to support more families during the Christmas season. She said they were able to help 150 families during Thanksgiving with turkeys and / or chickens and a bag of groceries. Their Pantry on the Go is starting back up on January 16, 2024 from 4 to 6pm.

Ms. Rambharat said we should work on the gaps with the food drives after the holidays, during Spring and Summer. Would it be possible for faith-based organizations to host some food drives and to be aware of the existing food drives? We need to work on coordinating and marketing to our most vulnerable populations.

	<p>Ms. Crovo said we should try and reach people who are needing all the resources, such as help with paying the electric bill and providing the resources on all the food pantries in the communities to those who need it.</p> <p>Ms. Ross said they have trained volunteers to help people with navigating all the resources in the community. It's important to help people help themselves.</p> <p>Ms. Clark, HCHD, said the goal of the Community Health Workers (CHW) program is to bridge the gap in the community to share all the Howard County resources. It's a pilot program and they are exploring referral mechanisms and how to connect the CHWs with the CAC Food Bank and other organizations to make referrals.</p>	
<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Lloyd shared a survey/launched a poll with the food security committee members to get feedback on future Food Security meetings including a new date and time to meet. Based on the poll responses, Monday and Thursdays are the most popular days and 10am to 11am is the most popular time, followed by 11am to 12pm.</p> <p>Ms. Lloyd will send out the meeting minutes and Zoom invite in the next week. The Food Security Committee will next meet in February 2024 and will review the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Email lhic@howardcountymd.gov with any questions.</p> <p>Minutes will be posted: http://www.hclhic.org/</p>

Respectfully submitted by,
Ms. Sonya Lloyd, MA
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)