



Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

Attendees: Jay Cutler, *MCHD*; Erika DeLange, *MyCare Health Center*; Lily Doher, *United Way SEM*; Diana Kott, *MCHD*; Whitney Litzner, *MCHD*; Erika Lojko, *MCHD*; Shannon Mallory, *MCA*; Ashley Mascagni, *MCHD*; Joyce Moultrie, *MC Veterans Services*; Susan Rhein, *MCHD*; Lillian Schreiber, *MCHD*; Maria Swiatkowski, *MCHD*; Carolyn Thomas, *MISD*; Megan Vinyard, *MCC*; Kaitlin Wojciak, *MSU Extension*; Karen Wood, *MyCare Health Center*

The group went around and introduced themselves. The group reviewed the meeting minutes from the previous meeting and there were no revisions.

2. Workgroup review and 2020 progress report

Jay reviewed the Community Health Improvement Plan timeline as well as the workgroup's progress since the plan's inception in 2017. With an upcoming Community Health Assessment this year, the workgroup should aim to focus in on what its members aim to accomplish by the end of 2020. The group voted to prioritize the creation of a health insurance resource, the promotion of farmer's market locations, and establishing healthy guidelines in partner institutions for this year. Jay also noted that it is crucial to evaluate progress that has been made on workgroup accomplishments in order to plan for future projects or programs.

3. Review of health insurance guide

The group first reviewed a 'Making the Most of Your Health Insurance' guide that was developed last year by Mirissa Bosch in order to identify ways it can be improved and/or implemented in our agency offices/clinics.

- **Erika** noted that this resource may be limited in that it only assists those who have difficulty understanding their benefits—as opposed to those who lack any health insurance.
- **Maria** noted that providers often change in terms of Medicaid coverage and suggested reducing the length of the document. She said that a postcard-sized document about reading one's health insurance card might be helpful.
- **Lily** suggested the document be condensed for a handout and a longer version could be laminated as a poster for clinic waiting areas.
- **Kaitlin** also suggested a wallet-sized foldable document could be helpful for individuals to carry around.
- **Lillian** discussed that there are web resources and applications (like the MyHealth Button and Portal) with similar health insurance materials that could be utilized. MyHealth is also helpful as it adapts to coverage changes that would not be reflected by a document like our existing guide.
- **Megan** noted that there are staff at MCC that help students apply for Healthy Michigan Plan, but the next step is providing these students with information on how to best take advantage of their coverage.
- **Karen** said the best way that MyCare adapts to changes is just by utilizing their Certified Application Counselors (CACs) to help enroll individuals in Medicaid/HMP.

- **Erika** suggested reviewing the materials that the state has around Medicaid/HMP enrollment before trying to make something entirely new.
- **Lillian** said she has utilized resource cards on where individuals can apply for Medicaid.
- **Susan** noted that some people may prefer a paper resource (especially some older adults) while others may prefer to simply take a picture of a poster, which many WIC clients do.
- **Karen** noted that the information on using your health insurance card is helpful, but the biggest thing she sees is that most individuals are unaware that Medicaid covers transportation to appointments and dental care.
- **Carolyn** said that there is a partnership with MDE and MDHHS to pilot 'direct certification' in the schools in which students with Medicaid are automatically enrolled in free/reduced price meals. She said that it would be helpful to share Medicaid information through the schools as well because of this pilot program.
- **Whitney** said that she was unsure if the public health workforce in Macomb County knows where to refer clients for Medicaid/HMP enrollment assistance (i.e., MyCare and ACCESS who have CACs and navigators, respectfully).

4. Discussion of food assistance currencies at farmers markets

The group changed gears and discussed the development of a resource that listed the different food assistance currencies that are accepted at farmers markets in the county.

- **Susan** explained how her team at WIC refers clients to farmers markets in the area who can take WIC Project Fresh coupons, which is primarily by directing clients to a [county webpage](#). This webpage has links to different market websites, but clients have to click on each link for a market near them to see the currencies accepted (if listed).
 - She noted that many WIC coupons are left unredeemed and that it's a priority to increase usage of these coupons for farm fresh produce.
 - The central concern is that the list of farmers that accept these coupons (as well as other food assistance currencies such as SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, and Senior Project/Market Fresh) can change throughout the season.
 - She noted the WIC Client Connect app is helpful for clients to look at their food benefits and to see WIC offices and stores near them, as well.
- **Ashley** helped to start Oakland County's document that listed the farmers markets and their accepted food assistance currencies, which started mostly by calling the markets individually and asking.
 - One benefit of this process was that some farmers were unaware of the currencies and expressed interest in accepting them on the phone call.
 - It was helpful to note on the document that the information was "subject to change".
 - She knows that the document is displayed at various farmers markets, which has helped to pique interest in those attending the markets (e.g., "I had no idea they accepted SNAP").
- **Kaitlin** said that we could use other documents for information, such as Eastern Market's or MIFMA's page. She said that Healthy Oakland Partnership (who coordinates this in Oakland County) struggles with updates, so a thorough review before printing is crucial.
- The group consensus seemed to be that looking into putting symbology on the county webpage could be helpful when clients (like WIC) are directed to that page—but this would require admin approval and constant updates from staff.
- Additionally, the group thought that paper copies can be helpful if utilized in the right places but understanding that the acceptance of currencies changes over time.

