

# Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

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## December 2020 Newsletter

### End-of-Year Reporting to New York State

New York State Department of Health and the Prevention Agenda Team have put together a survey for end-of-year reporting, in lieu of submitting the hospital and health department Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) updates in the usual metrics grid format. This survey will be completed on behalf of all the hospitals by Theresa and Rachel with feedback from the hospital representatives in mid-December, it is due on the 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the survey contents, NYSDOH held a webinar entitled “Prevention Agenda 2019-2021: Findings, Update, and Technical Support” A recording of the webinar can be found at <https://meetny.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/meetny/recording/play/3d1cbdfb537b4feb8de10f56a72a3cdc>

### Addressing Disparities in Maternal and Child Health

The maternal and child health focus of the Monroe County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for 2019-2021 is in line with the NYS Prevention Agenda and prioritizes “reducing racial, ethnic, economic, and geographic disparities in maternal child health outcomes, and promoting health equity for maternal and child health populations”. The Maternal Child Health Advisory Group helped to identify drivers of disparities in maternal child health and grouped the drivers into three primary categories: optimal birth spacing, access to safe and affordable housing, and the elimination of institutional racism. These three focus areas make up the majority of our maternal and child health equity work through 2021.

For maternal and child health initiatives, Dr. Velez de Brown from the Monroe County Department of Health shared a NYS initiative called Project TEACH. Project TEACH provides training and education for the advancement of children’s health. They host an initiative for Maternal Mental Health at <https://projectteachny.org/mmh/>. The initiative is providing an open conference line for maternal mental health providers in NY to consult with psychiatrists in interactive consultations on Tuesdays from 5-6pm and Thursdays from 1-2pm. Non-urgent questions can also be submitted via email at the link provided on the website. This initiative and availability of conference line consultations will be available at least through Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

For our housing equity focus area, Theresa is working with Angee Brown at United Way of Greater Rochester to apply for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant about the racial equity impacts of a local policy initiative. The policy selected is EPPI, the Eviction Prevention Pilot Initiative from United Way and the Systems Integration Project. EPPI aims to connect Rochester residents with money for assistance with rent and mortgage relief through the CARES act. The initiative currently works using community “front doors” at locations like 2-1-1/Lifeline, Hall of Justice, Restoration Rochester, Mary’s Place, and the Tenant Defense Project. If we receive it, the grant will track the impact of this program on racial inequities in Rochester housing.

At the November 18<sup>th</sup> Maternal and Child Health Advisory Group Meeting, L.J. Shipley, MD, Associate Medical Director, Accountable Health Partners, Alise Gintner, LCSW, Director Outpatient Social Work, Rochester Regional Health, and Kara Fredette-Benitez, LMSW, Director of Care Coordination at Anthony L. Jordan Health presented about ROC Family TeleConnects: A light touch newborn universal telehealth home visitation model. The model this initiative is based on is called FamilyConnects, an evidence based program of home visitation. Due to the pandemic, the six month pilot of this program will be exclusively via Telehealth, with RN check-ins in the first few weeks postpartum.

Also at the Maternal Child Health Advisory Group Meeting, Dr. Amina Alio from the Public Health Sciences Department at the University of Rochester presented the methodology and results of the PCORI grant titled “Community Collaboration for the Exploration of Local Factors Affecting Black Mothers’ Experiences with Prenatal Care”. Dr. Alio shared the process, which involved listening sessions in February of 2020, and an extensive coding and collating process to describe the themes and results of the listening sessions. Some of the positive themes included that mothers felt empowered when given support by their care team and partners and when provided with information and knowledge about the pregnancy and birth. Some negative themes included lack of familial or peer support, and institutional problems like medical racism.

### **Building Well-Being, Protective Environments and Resilience**

Our second priority area of the 2019-2021 Monroe County CHIP is also in line with the NYS Prevention Agenda and centers on mental health by focusing in two key areas: building well-being and resilience, and facilitating supportive environments that promote respect and dignity for people of all ages.

To help facilitate supportive environments, we are working with Dr. Tisha Smith, Addiction Specialist with the Monroe County Department of Health to suggest some supportive language for smart phrases and discharge notes Emergency Departments personnel treating Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Our next step in this process will be reviewing the language changes with those with lived experience before taking the changes back to the Emergency Department group. We have reached out to Liberty Resources and ROCovery Fitness for Peer Advocates who are willing to help review these language changes.

To learn more about these initiatives or any of the CHIW activities, please feel free to contact me. [Rachel\\_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Rachel_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu).

## Events and Announcements

### Public Health Grand Rounds

To view previous Public Health Grand Rounds presentations such as “Covid-19 Modeling-Navigating Towards a Moving Target” or “Tobacco Use and Vulnerable Populations” go to:

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/education/grand-rounds.aspx>

## Webinars

### Building Resident Engagement Around Racial Equity

This webinar is hosted by County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, featuring guest speakers from New Orleans, LA and Jackson, MS. Webinar takes place Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm.

### Building Bridges for Health Equity: Clinical Scholars Leadership Lessons

This webinar will bring together Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars to discuss their work with marginalized communities on issues including mental health, foster care, oral health, and opioid addiction. The webinar takes place on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2016058086101/WN\\_bYySSmC3R4iEs5z9NTS60A?mc\\_cid=7567ab9776&mc\\_eid=b8b1b1140e](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2016058086101/WN_bYySSmC3R4iEs5z9NTS60A?mc_cid=7567ab9776&mc_eid=b8b1b1140e)

### Racial Equity and Justice: From Protest to Policy, Part 2

The second in a series, this webinar is hosted by the Rochester Area Community foundation on racial equity and justice and the policy implications. The webinar takes place December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-equity-and-justice-from-protest-to-policy-part-2-registration-128152787437?aff=erelexpmlt>

## Grants

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health

This Call for Proposals is on a rolling basis, and is seeking “ideas that address any of these four areas of focus: Future of Evidence; Future of Social Interaction; Future of Food; Future of Work. Additionally, we welcome ideas that might fall outside of these four focus areas, but which offer unique approaches to advancing health equity and our progress toward a Culture of Health”

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2020/pioneering-ideas-2020-exploring-the-future-to-build-a-culture-of-health.html>

## Data and Resources

### Monroe County Covid-19 Tracking

Unfortunately, Monroe County has been experiencing the highest daily count of positive tests since the beginning of the pandemic. To track daily

cases and rates, see <https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19-archive>.

**RocHealthData: Collaboration with Common Ground Health and RHIO.** Regional health data indicators from calendar year 2018 were recently released on the RocHealthData blog, for the full post, see: <https://rochealthdata.org/2020/12/08/newest-community-health-indicators-data-available/>

## What is the CHIW?

The Community Health Improvement Workgroup (CHIW) is a collaborative group that meets monthly to advance the Community Health Improvement Plan's priorities for Monroe County, NY.

Local hospitals (University of Rochester Medical Center's Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital, Rochester Regional Health's Rochester General Hospital and Unity Hospital) and the Monroe County Department of Public Health are committed to working collaboratively with the residents and institutions of Monroe County, to improve the health of our community. Every three years, through a process mandated by the Affordable Care Act, and the New York State Department of Health, non-profit hospitals and the health department conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to determine areas of community health concern. In Monroe County, the Community Health Improvement Workgroup (CHIW) brings together leaders from hospitals, health departments, and community agencies to prioritize community health needs and develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which addresses the needs of our county.

These newsletters will update CHIW members and people on our mailing list about local events, announcements, webinars, and grant opportunities surrounding the Community Health Improvement Plan's goals for 2019-2021. The newsletter will go out around the first week of every month, as a follow up to the previous meeting and including updates in preparation for the upcoming meeting. If you or your organization have any updates, initiatives, or events that you would like to highlight in an upcoming newsletter, please email them to [Rachel\\_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Rachel_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu).

The mission of the CHIW is *"To improve the health and wellness of individuals and families of Monroe County by addressing prioritized needs and inequities through sustainable systems change built on collaboration and supported by shared resources."*

For more information, see <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/health-policy/current-policy-initiatives.aspx>