

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

Vol 1, Issue 5/6

January and February,
2021

Happy New Year! January and February 2021

End-of-Year Reporting to New York State

New York State Department of Health and the Prevention Agenda Team 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. The survey was completed and submitted in mid-December. An end-of-year 2020 narrative report will be made available to CHIW members in February of 2021.

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.

In 2020, the Maternal Child Health Advisory Group met quarterly and received updates from experts in these areas and information about local projects that are already working to further these goals.

The Maternal Child Health Advisory Group was also asked to be the advisory body for an initiative called Roc Family TeleConnects, a Nurse Practitioner-led postnatal “light-touch” bio psycho social assessment 1-3 weeks after a birth. This program is based on an evidence-based program called Family Connects, and due to the pandemic, will be telehealth visits instead of in-person NP visits. The MCH-AG is pleased to work with the Roc Family TeleConnects team and will serve as their advising body moving forward.

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, and reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorders, we worked with a group of Emergency Department providers to review a study done by the Monroe County Department of Public Health. The study reviewed the notes of patients who had presented in local Emergency Departments with substance use disorders (SUD). After this meeting, it was agreed upon that the template notes and some of the provider-entered notes

contained stigmatizing language and it would be helpful to put together a list of resources and local referrals that included helpful and non-stigmatizing language to be able to enter into the Electronic Medical Record (EMR). To create the most up-to-date and helpful resource document, we worked with peer counselors from two local groups: Liberty Resources and ROCovery Fitness. Thanks to the help of those peers, Jason Teller from the Office of Mental Health, Dr. Holly Russel from the Center for Community Health and Prevention, Dr. Tisha Smith from the Department of Health, and Anne Kern from the Department of Health, we created a document to present to the original ED Provider group in the middle of January. After meeting with the ED leader and provider group, we received copies of their complete discharge instructions, which we will be reviewing for stigmatizing language, hopefully with the help of the peer groups.

For Mental Health First Aid trainings, a number of providers have been certified to conduct the Youth Mental Health First Aid course online. They will be up and running by the middle of March. We have contacted and met with the coordinator of the Foster Care services for Monroe County, and they would like to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid to all foster families and make it required for crisis foster homes. The director of the City of Rochester's R-Centers has also expressed interest in hosting Youth Mental Health First Aid courses for R-Center staff this spring.

To learn more about these initiatives or any of the CHIW activities, please feel free to contact me. Rachel_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu.

Events and Announcements

Public Health Grand Rounds

Public Health Grand Rounds will resume in February 2021, 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

The Forum at the Harvard T.H. School of Public Health: A Catalyst for Humanity, a Conversation with Isabel Wilkerson

This event, hosted by the Harvard TH School of Public Health, features Isabel Wilkerson and CNN host Don Lemon. The event will explore "embedded power inequities in American society -- and their cost to us now and in the future." It takes place Monday, February 1st from 1-2pm.

https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5747GAO8vidHu6y

Webinar Series-Turning the Tide: Understanding and Eliminating Minority Health Disparities. This series will be

conducted from January to July 2021, hosted by UAlbany, HANYS and other community Partners. The second webinar in the series is February 9th from 1-2pm and is titled “Community-engaged Strategies to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Mitigate Health Disparities in Minority Populations”. https://www.hanys.org/events/health_equity//webinars/

Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce: Rochester TRENDS: Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Mendoza-What you need to know about the COVID-19 Vaccine.

This free event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce will be February 2nd from 11:30-12:30. Registration can be found at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3394340141963758603>

Grants

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Equity Focused Policy Research-Building cross-cutting evidence on supports for families with young children. This Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant call for proposals is due February 16th, 2021 at 3:00pm. https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2021/equity-focused-policy-research--building-cross-cutting-evidence-on-supports-for-families-with-young-children.html?rid=0034400001rlrdVAAQ&et_cid=2353328

Data

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

To learn more about the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region (CSP-FLR), and to view maps of census tracts and cervical cancer screening rates, visit <https://rochealthdata.org/2021/01/20/january-is-cervical-cancer-awareness-month/>

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.

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>