

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

Vol 1, Issue 2

October, 2020

Welcome to Fall 2020!

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.

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 will make up the majority of our maternal and child health equity work through 2021. The next Maternal Child Health Advisory Group meeting will be held on November 18th from 9:00-10:30AM and will be held via zoom contact Rachel if you would like to attend and are not on our current mailing list.

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 all. To help build supporting environments, we are currently working on two initiatives: stigma reduction particularly in the written orders patients might receive upon discharge from the hospital or emergency department, and building “trauma-informed environments” in places where we care for patients. In September 2020 several concerned providers and administrators from Strong, Highland, and Rochester Regional Health Emergency Departments (ED)- met with Dr. Mari Velez de Brown and Anne Kern, CHIW members from the Monroe County Department of Public Health to discuss possible improvements in discharge language for patients diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder or Substance Use Disorders (OUD or SUD) that recently were seen in the ED. . A review of about 180 discharges related to SUD showed that some of the discharge instructions contained stigmatizing or outdated terms. All agreed that we want the language to be as supportive and helpful as possible, and we are exploring the possibilities of using scripted “smart phrases” that will be written to contain more encouraging language and information about next steps which might include medication-assisted

treatment clinics. The group also discussed peer support and providing education on how to avoid stigmatizing language while writing notes for patients with SUD. Also at the meeting was Jason Teller, a CHIW member from the Monroe County Office of Mental Health who offered to help with creating supportive language for the smart phrases.

Amy Scheel-Jones from CCSI presented at the September CHIW meeting about a trauma informed assessment tool called the TRUST (Trauma Responsive Understanding Self-Assessment Tool). This tool is a great first start in surveying an organization to determine how trauma responsive the entire staff is, and is free! Here is the website to learn more <https://www.ccsi.org/Pages/TRUST>.

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

Incarceration Weakens a Community's Immune System: Mass Incarceration and COVID-19 Cases in Milwaukee. Presented by Measures for Justice Author and Co-Authors. Offered in a webinar event October 16th, 2020 from 12-1pm.

Healthy Baby Network: Challenging the Silence Series

A series of web-based discussions occurring throughout the fall and winter, Cost is \$10 per attendee. Spaces are limited so register ASAP! <https://www.pnmc-hsr.org/news-and-events/challenging-the-silence/>

Common Ground Health: Covid Testing at Community Churches

Sponsored by City of Rochester, County of Monroe, Black Physicians Network of Greater Rochester, Rochester Black Nurses Association, Common Ground Health, Finger Lakes Performing Provider System, Jordan Health, Ibero American Action League, Rochester Regional Health, NYS Department of Health, Regional Health Reach, University of Rochester and Wegmans, Flu Shots and Covid testing will be available at churches throughout the city. For more information, dates, and locations, please visit

<https://www.commongroundhealth.org/news/articles/no-cost-covid-19-testing-and-flu-shots-offered-at-select-churches-in-october>

Webinars

Public Health Resiliency: Navigating Through a Pandemic and Preparing for the Future

The New York State Public Health Association is providing a series of lunchtime webinars for \$15 each throughout the fall. Events include "The Pandemic Response by Local Health Departments: Meeting the Challenge and Building Resilience" (Oct. 15) and "Mental Health Challenges in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Local Perspectives from Directors of Community

Services (November 10th). More information at

<http://nyspha.wildapricot.org/resources/Workshop%20Webinar%20Series-%20speakers%20and%20agenda%20.pdf>

Colliding Crises: Tackling Behavioral Health in a Pandemic

This webinar by the National Overdose Prevention Network is
Wednesday, October 21 from 10-11am

<https://www.nopn.org/webinars/colliding-crises-tackling-behavioral-health-in-a-pandemic>

Grants

Greater Rochester Health Foundation

Announcement: Responsive Grants Program

Rolling Deadline to submit ideas

<http://www.thegrhf.org/funding/responsive-grants/>

Policies for Action: Public Policy Research to Advance Racial Equity and Racial Justice

Announcement: September 30, 2020

Application Deadline Tuesday, Nov 24, 2020

https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2020/policies-for-action--public-policy-research-to-advance-racial-equity-and-racial-justice.html?rid=0034400001rldVAAQ&et_cid=2245173

Data and Resources

The Network for Public Health Law

The Network for Public Health law shared this resource for Law and Policy Pathways for equity in Birth Outcomes.

https://www.networkforphl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Law-and-Policy-Pathways_Equity-in-Birth-Outcomes-final-v.2.pdf

RocHealthData

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept 15-Oct 15)th is being highlighted in RocHealthData's Regional Highlights page. To view a map of the Hispanic population by census tract in Monroe and surrounding counties, visit

<https://rochealthdata.org/2020/10/06/its-hispanic-heritage-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.

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.”*