



MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

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CHRC News



CHRC Thanks Vice Chair Wayne Howard for Eight Years of Service

CHRC Vice Chair J. Wayne Howard completed his second term on the Commission for a total of eight years of service, including three years as Vice Chair. In addition to his position at the CHRC, Mr. Howard continues to serve on the board of University of Maryland Shore Regional Health.

Prior to joining the CHRC as a Commissioner in 2015, Mr. Howard served as the founding president and CEO of Choptank Community Health

System (now Choptank Community Health), one of the larger federally qualified health centers in Maryland.

On June 5, Vice Chair Howard attended his final CHRC meeting as a Commissioner. At that meeting, CHRC Chair Ed Kasemeyer presented Mr. Howard, an avid boater, with a customized captain's hat to thank him for his eight years of service on the CHRC.



Mark Luckner, CHRC Executive Director; J. Wayne Howard, CHRC Vice Chair, and Edward J. Kasemeyer, CHRC Chair

CHRC Welcomes Nellie Washington as Health Equity Resource Community Project Director

The CHRC is pleased to welcome Nellie Washington, who recently joined the staff of the CHRC as the Health Equity Resource Communities (HERC) Project Director. Nellie brings 14 years of outstanding service in federal, health care/non-profit, and association settings. During her career, Nellie has led efforts to create, implement, and manage public health programs to improve health outcomes, promote health literacy, and expand health care access. Nellie's professional experience also includes grassroots work focused on school-based initiatives for a federally qualified health center, rural health disparities for veterans, and health equity issues related to cancer care for underserved communities. We welcome Nellie Washington to the CHRC and look forward to working with her as she supports implementation of the Maryland Health Equity Resource Act.

Grantee News

Pathways Program: Prince George's County Health Department Uses Telehealth Hubs to Connect Patients with Care

This month's newsletter highlights the work of the Prince George's County Health Department, a HERC/Pathway to Health Equity grantee, and its "PGC-Pathways Project." This program has implemented four telehealth hubs to help reduce health disparities, improve health outcomes, increase access to primary care, promote secondary prevention services, and reduce health care costs and hospital admissions and readmissions in Prince George's County.

Through the grant, the Health Department has helped patients sign up for social services and other services that require online applications, connect with community programs addressing food insecurity and chronic disease management and prevention, schedule and access remote mental and physical health care at federally

qualified health centers, and address other issues that may affect health or wellbeing.

As it implements the Pathways project, the Health Department has forged partnerships with county-wide programs to connect patients to the telehealth hubs and spread the word about their services through advertising and in-person meetings. The Health Department has already connected many patients with the care they needed through voluntary and confidential screening processes and in-person interviews. To refer patients to services, please contact the Health Department's community health worker services line at 301-883-4707 or visit health.mypgc.us/chw.

For more information about HERC grants to address health disparities, improve health outcomes, expand access to primary care and prevention services, and help reduce health care costs, click [HERE](#).



Upper Shore Aging Completes Grant with the CHRC

Upper Shore Aging, Inc. recently completed a grant with the CHRC for its "Preventing and Managing Diabetes in the Elderly" program. This program partnered with Meals on Wheels to serve rural seniors in Kent, Talbot, and Caroline Counties who are diabetic or at high risk of developing diabetes.

Through the grant, Upper Shore Aging's program helped seniors establish better eating habits by delivering fresh produce and providing them with health and nutrition education resources. The program helped seniors manage their diabetes, addressed the financial burden associated with buying fresh produce, and led to weight loss for program participants. Grant funds also supported the production and distribution of educational handouts explaining the importance of healthy eating for diabetics, how to prepare produce nutritionally, how to store produce to keep it fresher longer, how to cook a healthy meal, the importance of managing diabetes, the signs and symptoms of the different stages of diabetes, and resources to help seniors attend doctor and eye appointments regularly.

Over the course of the grant, 1,082 seniors participated in the program and were screened for prediabetes. 840 more seniors reported higher awareness of the risk factors associated with diabetes and strategies for preventing it. Looking ahead, Upper Shore Aging plans to partner with local senior centers to continue expanding the Meals on Wheels program to homebound individuals in need of nutritional meals, supply seniors with free fresh produce and diabetes health education, and provide nutritional and health education to senior centers through certified nutritional instructors and printed diabetic health education resources.

For more information about CHRC grants to address diabetes, reduce obesity, and address food security, click [HERE](#).

Events and Grants

Maternal Health Grants - Applications Due July 7

The HHS Office of Minority Health is seeking proposals for healthcare models that integrate community-based maternal support services into perinatal systems of care. Community support services include social and supportive services that address social determinants of health (i.e. health literacy, childbirth and parenting education, cultural and linguistic diversity, exposure to trauma, housing, food, transportation,

etc.). **The deadline for applications is Friday, July 7.** A technical assistance **webinar** was held June 7 . More information can be found [HERE](#).

Healthy Start Grant Opportunities - Deadline July 17

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) has released a Notice of Funding Availability for the Healthy Start Initiative–Enhanced Program. Through this program, HRSA will distribute approximately \$11 million to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy and reduce racial and ethnic differences in rates of infant death and adverse perinatal outcomes. The deadline is **Monday, July 17, 2023**. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Comprehensive Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Services - Deadline July 14

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) has released a Notice of Funding Availability for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. Through this program, HRSA will distribute approximately \$4.5 million to improve the quality of MIECHV services by expanding, supporting, and retaining a diverse and qualified workforce. Applications are due by **July 14, 2023**. For more information, click [HERE](#).

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, created to raise awareness of the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States. For more information, visit [The HHS Office of Minority Health](#) website.

About the Commission

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lieutenant Governor

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

CHRC Commissioners: Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, J. Wayne Howard, Vice Chair, Scott Gibson, Flor Giusti, David Lehr, Karen-Ann Lichtenstein, Roberta Loker, Carol Masden, Sadiya Muqueeth, DrPH, Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, PhD, TraShawn Thornton-Davis, MD.

Mark Luckner, Executive Director

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