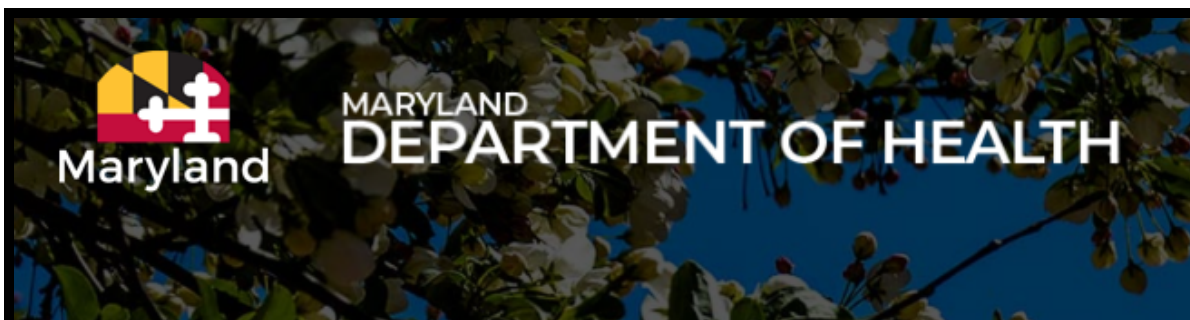



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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



**Maryland Community Health Resources Commission**  
August 31, 2023 | Issue 95

### CHRC News

#### Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports RFP Update

On August 18, the CHRC released the first Coordinated Community Supports Partnerships Call for Proposals (RFP). The RFP will make available up to \$120 million for new and expanded behavioral health services for students and their families across the state, prekindergarten through high school. The RFP will support a wide range of programming including prevention, behavioral health screenings, counseling, addiction treatment, family support, crisis planning and services, telehealth services, support groups, and wraparound services.

A Frequently Asked Questions virtual meeting, with over 400 stakeholders in attendance, was held on August 29. Links to the meeting recording, chat transcript and presentation may be found below and a written summary of the questions and answers will be available [HERE](#).

***Meeting Recording; Passcode: NGGf15@R  
Presentation  
Chat Transcript***

Grant applications must be submitted electronically to: Jen Clatterbuck ([jen.clatterbuck@maryland.gov](mailto:jen.clatterbuck@maryland.gov)) by noon on **October 11, 2023**. All applications must have a letter of support from their local Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. Awards are expected to be made in December. The Call for Proposals and copies of the supporting documents can be found [HERE](#)

To sign up for the Consortium's mailing list, click [HERE](#).

The Consortium meeting materials can be found [HERE](#).

## Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee

The Maryland Health Equity Resource Community Advisory Committee met on August 30 to discuss the upcoming Health Equity Resource Communities Call for Proposals. The Health Equity Resource Communities Request for Proposals will be released in October 2023 with applications due in December 2023. More than \$40 million will be available for multi-year programs under this Call for Proposals.

For more information about Health Equity Resource Communities and its efforts to address health disparities, improve health outcomes, expand access to primary care and prevention services, and help reduce health care costs, click [HERE](#).

## Pathways to Health Equity Grantee News



Honored Guest First Lady Dawn Moore, Keynote Speaker Tonya Lewis Lee along with BHS Executive Director Lashelle Stewart, Board of Directors President Regina Webb and Honorees Alma Roberts and Deborah Frazier at Baltimore Healthy Start's First Annual Leaders In Black Maternal Health Awards Luncheon

This month's newsletter features the Pathways grant awarded to Baltimore Healthy Start (BHS). This program addresses disparities in hypertension, substance use disorder (SUD), low birth weight, and severe maternal morbidity for pregnant and postpartum women and their infants in the Druid Heights and Walbrook areas of Baltimore City. Implementation is fully underway, with all services being provided. Case management, care coordination, and home visiting services are being provided to facilitate access to primary care and SUD treatment through referrals. Partnerships with Total Health Care (THC) and SPARC Women's Center work to further engage women with SUD and ensure that BHS staff have all the necessary tools and training to approach clients with the most appropriate harm reduction methods (i.e., motivational interviewing, counseling, and medication-assisted treatment). In addition, each client enrolled by BHS is assessed for barriers to a successful outcome by addressing chronic and acute stress during pregnancy driven by multiple social determinants of health (SDOH) and attempting to mitigate their negative effects on the welfare of the clients.

Baltimore Healthy Start held its first annual Leaders in Black Maternal Health Awards Luncheon on April 11, 2023, as a part of its Black Maternal Health Week programming. The event was held at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, and featured Ashley Etienne (former deputy press secretary to Vice President Kamala Harris) as Mistress of Ceremonies, First Lady and Guest of Honor, Dawn Moore, and Tonya Lewis-Lee (author, women's health advocate, and producer of the documentary film, "Aftershock") as the keynote speaker.

On May 11, 2023, BHS held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the launch of its new program, the Housing University, which is supported by the HRSA-funded Catalyst for Infant Health Equity Grant. Housing University strives to ensure a healthier and more equitably housed Baltimore for residents and families.

A summary of the nine Pathways to Health Equity program summaries can be found [HERE](#).

## Grantee News

### Study Published on Prime Time Sisters Circles Model by Gaston and Porter Health Improvement Center, Inc.

The *Journal of General Internal Medicine* recently published an article on the Prime Time Sisters Circles® (PTSC) model developed by CHRC grantee, The Gaston and Porter Health Improvement Center, Inc. (GPHIC). The article focused on the documented relationship between hypertension and depression and the PTSC's ability to reduce depressive symptoms in these women. The PTSC is a gender, cultural, and age specific, curriculum-based, free, 13-week, replicable support group of 15-18 women. The PTSC focuses on reducing key modifiable health risk factors for chronic illnesses for Black women in midlife. PTSC incorporates peer support and didactic training that focuses on psychosocial health and well-being to: (1) address the sociocultural risk factors of mid- to late-life Black women with uncontrolled hypertension and (2) promote the adoption of primary and secondary prevention strategies.

GPHIC was awarded a CHRC grant in 2021 to address the negative impact of COVID-19 on the Black community in Prince George's County, with a specific focus on women. Program activities included: 5, virtual Prime Time Sisters Circles® for midlife Black women to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change behaviors linked to COVID-19 vaccinations and risk factors, and chronic illnesses; virtual webinars to increase knowledge and improve attitudes of Black Prince George's County (PGC) residents about COVID-19 and its risk factors; virtual webinars on reducing emotional and physical health disparities in the Black Community; and a Train-the-Trainer Workshop on COVID-19 and risk factors for chronic diseases. To date, over 90 individuals have participated in Prime Time Sisters Circles®, and webinars have reached over 200 individuals.

To read the article on Prime Time Sisters Circles®, click [HERE](#).

## Events

### September is National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, an annual observance to raise awareness of suicide prevention. For resources and information visit [SAMSA](#).

### HHS Latino Health Summit – September 26, 2023

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will hold the first HHS Hispanic Health Summit on September 26, 2023. At this Summit, senior HHS, Biden-Harris Administration, and Hispanic health leaders will highlight their work to improve equity and access to health care in the Hispanic community. Panels and workshops will focus on health care access, mental health, reproductive health, federal grants and resources, and more. The event will be held in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC. Click [HERE](#) to register.

## 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, Scott Gibson, Flor Giusti, Maria J. Hankerson, PhD, David Lehr, Karen-Ann Lichtenstein, Roberta Loker, Carol Masden, Sadiya Muqueeth, DrPH, Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, PhD, TraShawn Thornton-Davis, MD.

Mark Luckner, Executive Director

MCHRC | 45 Calvert Street, Room 336, Annapolis, MD 21410

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