

ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2022

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Committee Members Present

Rachel Pigott (Chair)
Felicia Brannon
Salliann Alborn
Dr. Afton Thomas (joined 5:20 PM)

Committee Members Absent

N/A

Maryland Department of Health Staff Present

Miranda Ouellette

1. Welcome

Rachel welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. A new MDH staff member, Miranda Ouellette, was welcomed to the committee with introductions done by all members. No members of the public were in attendance. There was a quorum and the minutes for February were approved. The motion was moved by Salliann and seconded by Felicia and Rachel; there were no abstentions.

2. Discussion

Rachel shared the plan of work with the committee to begin a discussion on what the committee is going to focus on for activities. It was determined there are some edits to be made to the plan of work based on previous discussions. For the plan of action goal of reaching providers, the general feeling was the committee is not targeting them in messaging at this time. Rachel put out to the committee two options, does the objective need to be reworded or is there anything else the committee could do to accomplish the goal. Salliann brought up the idea of if there was another partner that could be brought in, such as MedCHI, to disseminate the messaging. Rachel brought up if another platform such as LinkedIn could be used in addition to twitter. Dr. Afton brought up the idea of being more specific about who the target audience is (family physicians, rheumatologists, etc.). The first step may be determining what the providers want for information. Rachel as a provider would want a list of resources for her patients (affordable physical activity resources, walkable neighborhoods, etc.). Dr. Afton seconded the need for a list of resources to refer patients too. Salliann would like information on when should the provider treat vs. when should you be referring to a specialist. Discussion on some of the triggering events and conditions that may need referral, and the current barriers in a lack of availability for specialists. Felicia brought up the patient perspective of needing resources that were needed for how to maintain an active lifestyle as her needs changed

due to her condition and what tools would have been helpful. An idea was brought up to survey providers on what resources they are interested in. A question was asked on Miranda if there was a state resource on accessible physical activity locations. She shared she was not aware of a state resource, but some counties have developed resource guides that could be referenced, but this is very county specific.

Continued conversation on physician survey. If a survey was developed, how could it be disseminated? Would MedCHI be interested, or a medical society that could also cover physician extenders (PAs and NPs)? Overall decision was the plan of action item will be edited to begin with a survey of providers and then adjusted based on the needs identified.

August messaging was approved by Kristi and Jessica. Once the messaging is on Basecamp it can then begin dissemination across platforms. Appreciation was expressed for the expedited review. Discussion began on the October messaging and what plans will be. Potential generic messaging that arthritis does not just affect adults to align with Children's Health Month. Dr. Thomas will work on a specific message, while Felicia will work on a generic message for October.

Rachel asked the question of if there was a way to know when open seats become available for the committee. It would be an opportunity to share within networks to get more seats filled. Miranda expressed that she would reach out to Jessica to get clarification on when seats open and how the availability of seats gets shared.

Take a walkthrough of the Arthritis page at the next meeting once the webpage is live.

3. Next Steps

- Salliann will edit the objective to reflect the development of a needs assessment and then tailored messaging for providers.
- Rachel will draft survey questions and bring them to the next meeting for editing and finalization.
- Miranda to send the action plan document to Salliann.
- Dr. Thomas will work on a specific message on Children's Health Month along with Felicia.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm

Next Meeting: September 19, 2022; 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Meeting ID

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