

# DIABETES COMMITTEE MEETING

September 15, 2021

4-5 PM

Minutes

## Members Present

Vivienne Rose  
Pam Xenakis  
Jessica Kiel  
Pamela Williams  
Mary Pat Bertacchi  
Teresa Titus-Howard  
Julie Maneen  
Sara Vazer

## Members Not Present

Titilayo Ogunmakinwa

## Maryland Department of Health Staff Present

Emily Tolbert  
Lisa Marr

### 1. Roll Call/Introductions

A quorum of the Diabetes Committee was present.

### 2. Review Agenda Items

The Diabetes Committee met via webinar on 9/15/21. Pam Xenakis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and reviewed the meeting agenda items.

### 3. Approve July 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Teresa Titus-Howard made a motion to approve the July 21, 2021 committee meeting minutes and Jessica Kiel seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### 4. Discussion of Committee Action Plan Items

#### **Website reviews and content**

Members reviewed some of the websites prior to this meeting and will complete final website reviews after this meeting. Members recommended providing a summary of website reviews to the website developers in addition to the more detailed reviews. One member recommended soliciting input from the Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) Care Transformation Organizations (CTOs) on website usability. CCDPC is working with MDH's Information Technology department to engage a contractor to update the website and will provide the committee's reviews to the contractor.

#### **Creative Considerations for Community Guide**

Committee members continued updating a creative considerations document that will inform the work of a resource for community-based organizations to use to promote healthy behaviors among their communities. Members also discussed ideas for content.

Members discussed the need to connect people with diabetes and those at risk to existing resources. Members also discussed challenges to preventing and managing diabetes,

including overworked primary care providers, a lack of diabetes educators and clinics, and broader policy and accountability issues.

### **Diabetes Messaging/Identify motivators that will engage the general public**

Members suggested crafting messages around educating providers to make referrals for prediabetes and diabetes, obstacles to optimal health and preventing and managing diabetes into messages for the Health and Wellness Council messaging calendar.

## **5. Diabetes Action Plan and Task Force Update**

Pamela Williams provided an update on three items:

- Due to staff transitions at the Maryland Department of Health, Pamela Williams is overseeing implementation of the Diabetes Action Plan and Dr. Ken Lin Tai is leading the Diabetes Clinical Quality Taskforce. The taskforce may be restructured to align more with the Maryland Diabetes Action Plan and Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy (SiHIS).
- The Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC) project – there are now 20 functioning LHICS throughout the state, and each LHIC has identified at least one diabetes strategy to implement. The Maryland Department of Health is working with the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy to provide technical assistance and conduct monthly convenings to share best practices and resources.
- The Maryland Department of Health and National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is hosting a webinar for employers on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am to review the cost of diabetes in the workplace. The overall goal of the webinar is to increase the number of employers providing the National Diabetes Prevention Program or offering it as a covered benefit.

## **6. Next Steps and Assignments**

Members completed a poll to determine preference for monthly meeting dates and times. Starting in November, members will meet the third Wednesday from 4-5pm, and will adjust accordingly to accommodate Health and Wellness Council meetings.

Committee members:

- Evaluate remaining websites.
- Summarize website review comments.
- Consider opportunities to connect people with diabetes and those at risk to patient resources.
- Review and add information to the Creative Considerations document for the Diabetes Community Guide.

Staff:

- Share additional details about the Maryland Department of Health Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control website redesign.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

**Next Diabetes Committee meetings:  
October 19, 2021 5-6pm**