

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

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November 2020 Newsletter

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.

At the October CHIW meeting, we discussed policies that increase housing equity and the possible role of the CHIW in advocating for these policies. The two policies that we discussed are TOPA (Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act) and the Good Cause Eviction policy. TOPA is a policy that gives tenants the first option to purchase when the landlord places a property on the market. With TOPA, when the landlord decides to place a leased property for sale, if the tenants express interest in purchasing, they get priority over other interested parties. For multi-unit properties, there is the potential that all or some of the tenants can purchase the property, making it a cooperative. Washington, DC is a notable area where TOPA has passed, and for more information on the process as it works in DC, please see <https://ota.dc.gov/page/tenant-opportunity-purchase-act-topa> for process charts detailing how the Act works for different types of properties. The second housing policy of interest is the Good Cause Eviction. Good Cause Eviction policies prevent evictions without a presumption of good cause from the landlord. This protects tenants' rights to renew a lease, and prevents lease renewal from being the sole cause for an eviction. Good Cause eviction policies also prevent unreasonable rent increases and allow tenants to pursue their rights in court if they feel they have been evicted without “Good Cause”. Lisle Coleman shared City of Rochester Tenant's Union briefs outlining the goals and expected outcomes of these two policies, which were sent out with the CHIW minutes. If you would like copies please check the “Resources” page at

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/health-policy/resources.aspx>.

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 written orders that patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) might receive upon discharge from the hospital or emergency department, and building “trauma-informed environments” in places where we care for patients.

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

Covid-19 Modeling: Navigating Towards a Moving Target. This Public Health Grand Rounds will be held Friday, November 6th, from 12-1pm. Registration can be found at:

https://rochester.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YD9wFhAQSqKT6i4z3o ktQA

To view previous Public Health Grand Rounds presentations such as “Racism as a Public Health Crisis” or “Measures for Justice” go to <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/education/grand-rounds.aspx>

Webinars

Roc The Future’s 8th Annual State of Our Children

Roc the Future will be presenting the State of Our Children annual address and report card release in a series of events from November 16th to November 19th <https://rocthefuture.org/state-of-our-children/>

How to Address Patients’ Social and Legal Needs During Covid-19

This webinar is offered by the American Hospital Association, November 10th, from 11-12pm.

<https://www.aha.org/education-events/how-address-patients-social-and-legal-needs-during-covid-19>

Suffering in Silence: The Uptick of Domestic Violence During the Covid-19 Pandemic

This webinar is offered by the New York State Public Health Association, November 18th, from 12-1PM

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

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=0034400001rlrdVAAQ&et_cid=2245173

New York State Health Foundation RFP: “Patients as Partners: Advancing Equity”

Announcement: October 2020

Inquiry Due: December 8th, 2020

https://nyshealthfoundation.org/rfp/patients-as-partners-advancing-equity/?utm_source=Patients%20as%20Partners%20RFP%20Oct%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Patients%20as%20Partners%20RFP%20Oct%202020

Data and Resources

Monroe County Covid-19 Tracking

Unfortunately, Monroe County recently saw the highest daily count of positive tests since the beginning of the pandemic. To track daily cases and rates, see <https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19-archive>.

The Disease Control and Epidemiology Division works with our Geographic Information System (GIS) Services Division to update the COVID dashboard daily. Data is derived from various New York State Department of Health systems including the Electronic Clinical Reporting System (ECLRS), Communicable Disease Electronic Surveillance System (CDESS) and CommCare. For the Dashboard which includes a map of local rates, please see

<https://mappingmonroe.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/217749730f174776a3896b3e8950e03b>.

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."*

For more information, see <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/health-policy/current-policy-initiatives.aspx>