

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

Vol 1, Issue 1

September, 2020

Welcome!

Welcome to the first ever CHIW Newsletter! These newsletters will aim to update CHIW members and our mailing list on 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.

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”. To advance our goals in this field, the CHIW convened the Maternal Child Health Advisory Group (MCH-AG) in 2019. This group now meets quarterly, and has helped narrow the drivers of disparities to 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. The MCH-AG had a very successful zoom meeting on August 17th with over 40 attendees from both health systems, social systems, funders, community agencies and local public health. The group has endorsed grand submissions for both housing resource education and collaborated entry to social support services for new families and discussed baseline data on birth spacing for Monroe County to identify opportunities for improvement.

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 especially in the emergency departments and trauma informed care. In September, we will be discussing language used in the electronic medical record for those with Opioid Use Disorders. Recent CHIW meetings have featured how to use Motivational Interviewing and careful language choice to create meaningful behavior change, and have also discussed the potential to enact Trauma Informed Assessments within local clinics, departments, or practices. If you or your organization are interested in completing a Trauma Informed Assessment, please let us know, as we have compiled a list of current resources for an internal organizational review.

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

County Naloxone Trainings Resume Online-Only

Trainings available Thursdays at 2pm

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/opioids/narcan.php>

Healthy Baby Network: Challenging the Silence Series

A series of web-based discussions occurring throughout the fall and winter, Cost is \$10 per attendee. Spaces are limited so register ASAP!

<https://www.pnmc-hsr.org/news-and-events/challenging-the-silence/>

Public Health Grand Rounds: Covid-19: It Shouldn't have to take a Pandemic to Rediscover Public Health

Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Michael Mendoza will be giving the Public Health Grand Rounds on Friday, September 18th, from 12-1pm

https://rochester.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UPs3BmrYQaGZ5FQNSJ6hJA

Webinars

Covid-19: Disproportionate Impact on Black Communities

This webinar by County Health Ranking and Roadmaps is pre-recorded

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/learn-from-others/webinars/covid-19-disproportionate-impact-on-black-communities>

Grants

Greater Rochester Health Foundation

Announcement: Responsive Grants Program

Rolling Deadline to submit ideas

<http://www.thegrhf.org/funding/responsive-grants/>

Data

RocHealthData and Covid-19

These are county-level COVID-19 data from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University combined with tract-level data on overcrowded housing (available from the American Community Survey), and incarceration rates (provided by Opportunity Insights at Harvard University)

<https://rochealthdata.org/2020/06/16/covid-19-and-social-determinants-of-health/>

CHIW Member Highlight!

We would like to recognize Dr. Tim Holahan, DO who has been the CHIW Representative from Highland Hospital for the past two years. Dr. Holahan has been an amazing addition to the CHIW team with an interesting perspective on our work as a practicing physician specializing in palliative care and geriatrics. Dr. Holahan was recently recognized for his collaborative work during COVID and as the current Finger Lakes Medical Directors Association (FLMDA) president. He was featured in a recent article titled “Grassroots Group Unites for Effective COVID19 Response” in Caring for the Ages. Here is a link to the article:

[https://www.caringfortheages.com/article/S1526-4114\(20\)30295-X/fulltext](https://www.caringfortheages.com/article/S1526-4114(20)30295-X/fulltext)

Congrats Tim! And thank you for all your hard work especially during these challenging times.

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.”*