



**Family Health & Resiliency Workgroup**  
Google Meets  
March 10, 2022 | 2:00pm- 3:30pm

**I. Welcome & Housekeeping**

- Introductions
  - i. Janica Hudson, workgroup chair, welcomed the group.
  - ii. Attendees: Janica Hudson, Regina Clay, Bonnie Mitrega, Roblyn Aigner, Ulric Hetsberger, Silvana Bowker, Kristen Perry, Judy Churn, Pam Raccioppi, Debbie Button, Sara Moore, Keri Bean, Zach Macas, Mary Jo Beach, Katie York, Michelle Bowditch, Patty Peterson, Kelly Wilson, Erica Waskey, Jessica Jones, Christina Claypool.
- Community Announcements
  - i. The Judy Center at Hall's Cross Roads is hosting a Spring Safety Extravaganza and Bike Rodeo on April 21st. If you are interested in participating please fill out [this form](#).
  - ii. United Health Care has increased allowance for adult dental and vision benefits.
  - iii. MEGANs Place will be reopening its doors on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**II. FHR Current standing**

- Janica shared the background of the family health workgroup.
  - i. 2018 – Group was founded, workplan implemented
  - ii. 2019 – Activities completed
  - iii. 2020 – Assessment completed
  - iv. 2021 – Community Health Needs Assessment released
  - v. Present – Future planning for 2022 onwards
- Harford County FHR Assessment: 5 major gaps in services & barriers for families-

- i. Transportation, financial hardship, awareness of services, navigation of services, community stigma.
- Harford County FHR Assessment: 5 major gaps in services and barriers for organizations-
  - i. Funding, awareness of services, collaboration, community reach, adequate training in stigma.
- Previous priority groups – transportation, communications, and family planning

### III. Priority Setting/ brainstorming

- What services are currently being offered to families?
  - i. Judy Center – promotes school readiness skills for kindergarten. Two major focuses: academics with play groups, field trips, etc. and case management. Each center is tied to Title I schools which is limiting.
  - ii. Health Department services –
    - 1. Healthy Families America - home visiting for pregnant women and children up to age 3. Program is still virtual.
    - 2. Lead and Asthma program - home visiting for children who are diagnosed with moderate-severe asthma and/or have home lead levels of 5 and above. They offer virtual visits and drop offs for children ages up to 19.
  - i. Free online/in person support group for new parents: "[Lower Susquehanna After Baby Club](#)"
- What resources and or services are missing?
  - i. Mental health for children pre-k and under (4 and below).
  - ii. Transportation continues to be an issue.
- What challenges have our families reported?
  - i. Families want more in-person services and more hands-on activities.
  - ii. Offering services for non-English speaking speakers.
    - 1. In addition, clients are lost from the network security incident at the health department.
- What skills and resources can this group offer?
  - i. Sharing flyers, information, and free trainings on how to prevent/treat ACEs.

1. Erica Waskey shared a website on [reducing Harford County ACEs](#). If you would like hard copies of the flyer or brochure, please email Erica at [EWaskey@scsmd.org](mailto:EWaskey@scsmd.org)
  - ii. Collaboration with other agencies. This has worked in the past with events such as the parent café, where parents met to discuss various topics.
    1. Patty Peterson shared this was a great resource that was offered.
- What are recommended priorities?
  - i. Transportation
  - ii. Lack of providers for pregnant women with mental health needs and substance use. Mental health services are also needed for young kids.
    1. [RAGE Against Addiction](#) has programs similar to what is mentioned above for pregnant women.
  - iii. Children have not been a focus of the group for the past 2 years. There has been unhealthy coping for kids during the pandemic. Kids haven't interacted with other kids and they are missing social interaction milestones.
  - iv. Mary Jo Beach asked if there are enough providers in the county?
    1. Patty Peterson said no and that many providers have left.
    2. Pam Raccioppi provides Care Coordination for Medicaid recipients and they are looking to update their resource list with more providers. Patty added that some providers change what MCOs they are accepting.
    3. Katie York said there is still a gap for those that don't qualify for Medicaid but do not make enough to pay for care.
    4. Erica Waskey said a lot of providers aren't taking state insurance or the providers don't have appropriate trauma training that is required for severe cases so they need to refer out and there is a huge waitlist.
  - v. Mary Jo Beach asked about the overlap of what is being discussed in the behavioral health LHIC workgroup.

1. Christina Claypool shared that the behavioral health group meets jointly with the MHAAC and OIT and is still active. She said they seem to have a focus on adolescent mental health and recently brought back the ACEs workgroup.
  2. Erica Waskey is also involved with a different ACEs workgroup within the local management board in Harford.
- vi. Silvana Bowker shared that she agrees that transportation is a need but we have to think outside the box.
  - vii. Keri Bean shared that it would be good to address racial and ethnic health disparities. Black and African infant mortality rate was much higher than the rate in whites and it would be a good priority to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
  - viii. Judy shared that black women were at higher risk for poor pregnancy outcomes with the same variables controlled and there are still a lot of pre-term birth issues.
- Additional Announcements:
    - i. Silvana Bowker shared with the group that there is the [Local Care Team](#) which provides support to families trying to access services for a child with intensive emotional and behavioral needs. She also shared that the [Youth and Resource Festival](#) will be on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. [Springboard Community Services](#) - Harford County is expanding case management services for families/children to help them access resources (housing, substance abuse, mental health, etc).

## II. Closing

- Janica Hudson said this was a good discussion meeting and encouraged everyone to do research on data on what was discussed today in order to set priorities for the next meeting.

**Next Meeting: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 2-3:30**