



**Chronic Disease Prevention & Wellness Workgroup
Towson University Northeast (TUNE Center) Room 214
510 Thomas Run Road Bel Air, MD 21015
September 9, 2025 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Opening and Updates- Ronya Nassar

- Ronya began the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves and say one thing they are passionate about that they worked on this summer or have upcoming.
- Community Health Improvement Plan:
<https://harfordcountyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Harford-County-CHIP-2025-to-2030.pdf>
 - Measures tracked here: <https://harfordcountyhealth.com/performance-management/>
- What would you like to see for the 2025 Annual LHIC Meeting?
 - HCHD will be doing its regular data presentation
 - Introduction to HCHD's new Health Officer - Lauren Levy
 - Focus on networking
 - Let Ronya know about any ideas or speakers they would like to see
- Ideas for future meetings?
 - Update the position paper based on new research and products - need ideas
 - Ronya will send the old position paper out
- Discussion
 - Facing changes in public health and how we can maneuver through them together
 - Relied on CDC for Immunization guidance, and now that it has ended, how do we proceed? This change has affected physicians nationwide
 - On Sept 4th the Gov of Massachusetts announced the state will take a first of its kind action to guarantee insurance coverage of vax recommended by the state – [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-healey-announces-immediate-steps-to-ensure-vaccine-availability-in-massachusetts-amid-trump-rfk-rollbacks)
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 - What can we do as an LHIC to promote public health efforts - ongoing discussion
 - How to communicate with our patients, clients, and community members to encourage them to continue to seek prevention methods for chronic diseases and illnesses
 - Narratives and storytelling are important parts of public health and prevention, and give a way for others to relate to each other

Tobacco Program FY25 achievements/lessons and FY26 goals- Wendy Kanley (Harford County Health Department)

- Enforcement program at the health department - if you believe a shop is selling tobacco to minors under 21, please contact Wendy Kanely. She has a contract with the Sheriff's office
- The program also does an education program for sellers on how to avoid selling to minors
 - There is a criminal citation and a fine for selling to minors
- There is a 26% non-compliance rate in Harford County

- FY26 looking to expand contracts to Havre de Grace
- Sigma's for humanity - back to school event
- Trunk and Treat with tobacco prevention education
- Boy Scouts want tobacco prevention education
- Shoprite contract - can talk to the pharmacy about getting nicotine lozenges
- West Cecil Health Center - can get free NRT
- NRT - available funding. Need a physician or NP/PA to sign off on it
- Web-based cessation services
- Peer support program at New Day Wellness and Recovery
 - Cessation specialist on site
- Parents against vaping
- Menthol awareness in faith-based organizations
- Workforce development - paid for someone to go to the youth summit last year

Tobacco Initiatives with Schools - Selma Carvalho (Harford County Health Department) and Ayesha Bailey (Office of Drug Control Policy)

- Pilot program in Aberdeen Middle School for tobacco prevention
 - Having a fun, interactive approach to this topic
 - Educating them about what addiction can feel like and the harmful effects on one's body
 - Gave away t-shirts and other giveaways to excite the kids
 - Selma and Ayesha started to take part in school events
 - Presentations in health classes as well, on both tobacco and substance use
 - This is not a punishment for students. This program is specifically designed for students who are repeatedly found vaping, with the hope that they will eventually become advocates
 - Would like to connect with other schools going forward
 - Will be partnering with Megan's Place (HCHD) for someone to speak about cannabis

Other items

- Rural Health Transformation Program
 - Will need to create an action plan for the state
 - Topics of focus are prevention and management of chronic health, behavioral health, and access
 - Need to do a listening session - Ronya will send out more information
 - Recruiting for workplace development
- School board
 - State Board of Education – submitting public comments regarding health education. Comprehensive standards.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Towson University Northeast (TUNE Center) Room 214, 510 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, MD 21015