



Healthy Pontiac, We Can!

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2023

Members Present:

Tamika Bailey	Oakland Community Health Network
Lisa Braddix	Southeast Michigan Health Association
Elizabeth Crenshaw	Honor Community Health / Wayne State University
Alyssa Crill	
Madeleine Daniels	Oakland County Planning and Local Business Development Division
Joy Dockman	Pontiac Community Foundation
Carie Francis	Oakland University
Lauren Fuller	Oakland County Sheriff PAL
Jeanette Hayes	All Saints Episcopal Church / Pontiac Resident
LaWanda Jackson	Headlands Research Detroit
Jenifer Janhevich	Blue Cross Complete
Sonya LeDuff	
Sarah Niskanen	Pontiac Community Foundation
Stephan Nwagwu	Honor Community Health
Giulia Pacovich	Baker College
Carolina Sisiruca	Central Multicultural La Familia
Caitlin Toth	Oakland Community Health Network
Jessica Williams	Oakland County Health Division
Kristen Wiltfang	Oakland County Planning and Local Business Development Division
Joann Wrobel	Oakland County Health Division

Others Present:

Jess Siegel	Pontiac Community Foundation
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Staff Present:

Signa Metivier	Oakland County Health Division
Kelsey Merz	Oakland County Health Division

1. Welcome

L. Braddix welcomed members to the virtual meeting of Healthy Pontiac, We Can! at 1:04 p.m. on June 13, 2023.

2. Open Streets summer events: Joy Dockman

J. Dockman said Open Streets is trying to engage more residents and more families. Beginning on July 12th and running through August 2nd Open Streets will host events at Oakland Park on Wednesday from 5 PM to 7 PM. They will have activities for all age groups and with a different theme each week. She said Open Streets started in 2020 and through partnering with other organizations they can provide more resources in multiple parts of the city.

A flyer on the events will be provided for members.

3. Pontiac Parks and Recreation: Kelsey Merz & Kristen Wiltfang

K. Merz told members the skate park is open and operational, and the Friends of Pontiac Parks are looking for junior park ranger supervisors ages 18 to 24. The part time positions pay \$20 an

hour for five hours per day up to 25 hours per week. She said Pontiac parks had successful clean ups to celebrate Earth Day. The weeklong celebrations were held at different parks each day.

K. Wiltfang updated members on the unveiling of the Galloway Lake Park concept plan to the public on June 12th. A presentation was made to the Pontiac City Council a few weeks before the public presentation. She said poster boards of the plans are up in city hall and digital copies are available. Galloway Lake Park is located across the street from the high school and middle school in the northeast part of the city off Perry Street. She said they were able to realign the road, provide vegetation and screening, and maintain access to the two pump station buildings the Water Resource Commission operates near the entrance to the park and by the lake. The parking lot was reconfigured to serve all the activities near the soccer field including basketball and pickleball courts, and open multipurpose field space. She said there is an area for a splash pad, two large picnic shelters with a restroom in the middle, two playground areas, and a walking path around the soccer fields. At the south end of the walking path, it goes down to the lake with access to a fishing dock, fishing pier, and space for a canoe or kayak launch. She said they will maintain the nice mature trees in the park while removing the invasive species. She said the old railroad tracks will be converted to a walking/biking path. There will be shade structures with benches for families to sit and watch children play and for picnic tables. She said the city is applying for grants through the Department of Natural Resources for funds to implement the projects but due to construction costs the projects need to be broken up into phases.

4. Workgroup Updates:

K. Merz told members both the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity workgroups met earlier this month to think and brainstorm different ideas. She encouraged members who are interested in a workgroup to contact her.

She said the Healthy Eating Workgroup went through the healthy eating objectives from the strategic plan and wanted to focus on the first objective “Partner to support and expand community, urban, and home gardening classes/opportunities (gardening basics, garden support, canning, cooking).” They also discussed the third objective “Support the expansion, education, and promotion of Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, SNAP benefits, and local CSA programs

L. Fuller said the Physical Activity Group Workgroup went through the strategic objectives and focused their discussion on the first objective “Improve physical activity infrastructure and amenities through park facility upgrades (bathrooms, ADA accessibility, lighting, fields, outdoor workout equipment) and more walkable, bikeable community (wayfinding signs, Safe Routes to Schools/Parks, improved sidewalks, etc.)” She said the workgroup wants to hear more from the City of Pontiac on what park initiatives are taking place and if there is intention to utilize some of the ARPA dollars on park infrastructure and what the timeline is for the initiatives. They also discussed the second objective “Support and promote diverse physical activities in the city (recreation, free fitness classes, walking clubs, yoga, weekly bike rides, bike events, walking/running group).” The workgroup they talked about programs taking place this summer and the need for strategic communication ensuring that all residents know what opportunities exist and the most appropriate channels to share the information from. She said the City of Pontiac is working on sharing information out through their various platforms such as social media, Pontiac cable channel, and they will be launching a quarterly direct mailer to residents.

5. Partner Updates:

L. Braddix opened the Partner Updates with a moment of silent reflection for Calandra Green, Oakland County Health Officer who passed away in May. She invited members to share their thoughts and feelings.

C. Toth said on June 28th from 8:30 AM until noon OCHN will hold a “Call to Solidarity” meeting for anyone in Oakland County who has an interest in addressing mental health issues and the homelessness epidemic in Oakland County. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The “Minority Mental Health” event is July 11th, from 8 AM to noon with breakfast provided.

C. Francis said Oakland University’s Colorectal Screening Program is moving forward and they have an exciting new partnership looking at bringing a colorectal cancer screening didactic and outreach event to the City of Pontiac.

C. Centro Multicultural LA Familia will host a health fair on June 28th from 1PM to 4 PM. Vaccines will be provided by the Oakland County Health Department along with HIV testing and colorectal screenings. This will be their third health fair and they plan on doing one at the end of each month.

E. Crenshaw said there will be a Pontiac Town Hall on Friday, June 16th from 1 PM to 2 PM at United Wholesale Mortgage.

J. Janhevich asked members to reach out to her if they would like to partner with Blue Cross Complete on any preventative health programs.

D. Hayes invited members to their Juneteenth Sunday service, the community free breakfast every Saturday, and they will be hosting a mental health event in August.

J. Dockman told members an office for the Center for Pontiac Entrepreneurship will be opening in downtown Pontiac in mid-July.

L. Jackson told members Headlands Research Detroit is a medical research company looking to partner with providers and the community for volunteers to participate in their studies. They are also looking for provider referrals for patients and organizations that will take referrals from Headlands for patients who need services. She said they are available for health fairs or events.

S. said Honor hosts “Walk and Talk with the Doctor” at Wisner Stadium, on Wednesdays from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM until August. Members are invited to set up vendor tables at the events. Honor also has an event August 6th through August 12th for National Health Center Week. They are looking for sponsors for the event.

L. Braddix shared some of the services the Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA) provides and told members they are available to partner or work with their organizations to provide needed services.

K. Merz told members OLHSA is partnering with Oakland County Water Resources to help residents who are behind with their water bills or facing a shutoff. Residents can receive up to \$1,500 of assistance if they qualify and appointments with OLHSA are required. The program is temporary and expires September 30, 2023.

6. Adjournment:

L. Braddix adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th, at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier

Approved by: Kelsey Merz