



Healthy Pontiac, We Can!

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2022

Members Present:

Bonnie Balduf	Pontiac Public Library
David Bowman	St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
Lisa Braddix	Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA)
Judith Cox	Pontiac Regional Chamber / Mindfulness Institute
Elizabeth Crenshaw	Wayne State University
Justen Daniels	Pontiac Promise Zone
Hannah DeCiantis	Blue Cross Complete
Deidre Hurse	OUWB School of Medicine
Jen Janhevich	Blue Cross Complete
Barbara Kallasides	Oakland University
Elizabeth Kjar	Honor Community Health
Kim Klafft	CNS Healthcare
Jennifer Lucarelli	Oakland University
Mark Manning	Oakland University
Kelsey Merz	Oakland County Health Division
Coco Moulder	Pontiac Promise Zone
Malkia Newman	CNS Healthcare
Brenda Ortega	Centro Multicultural La Familia
Marijayne Renny	Dobrusin Law Firm
Teresa Rodges	Oakland University
Kennedy Scott	Oakland County Health Division
Gladys Smith	Ruth Peterson Senior Center
Katelyn Smoger	Farm at Trinity Health Oakland
Mary Wallace	Oakland Mediation Center
Suzanne Weinert	Oakland Community Health Network
Jose Ybarra	Pontiac Community Foundation

Others Present:

Tamika Bailey	Oakland Community Health Network
Christine Burk	Oakland Community Health Network
Kermit Williams	Oakland Forward

Staff Present:

Signa Metivier	Oakland County Health Division
Jessica Williams	Oakland County Health Division

1. Welcome

E. Crenshaw welcomed members to the virtual meeting of Healthy Pontiac, We Can! at 1:00 p.m. on April 12, 2022.

2. Oakland Forward – Kermit Williams

K. Williams, co-executive director of Oakland Forward said their major goal is to expand, strengthen, and empower communities throughout Oakland County. The six different target areas they focus on are Auburn Hills, Ferndale, Oak Park, Pontiac, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. He said the issues they focus on are improving the education system and curriculum, providing every worker paid family leave, reforming the criminal justice system, and making sure poverty is alleviated.

He said during the pandemic they passed out about 10,000 masks and face shields and they realized they need to meet people where they are especially in the black and brown communities. They saw the disparities during the pandemic of what people were actually able to get in their communities. They realized if people don't know how to advocate for themselves in regular civic engagement, they are less likely to be able to advocate for themselves when they go to the doctor or accessing resources.

He said recently they have been doing BRO (Brothers Reaching Out) Brunches which are listening sessions in Pontiac, Southfield, Detroit, and they are going to Grand Rapids on July 10th. He said the first session was held in Pontiac and about 150 men came to talk about issues affecting black men.

He told members they can connect with Oakland Forward at <https://www.mioaklandforward.org/> or email them at forward@mioaklandforward.org.

M. Newman invited Oakland Forward to be a vendor at "Church In The Park" on July 29, 2022, from noon to 4 P.M.

3. The Farm at Trinity Health Oakland – Katelyn Smoger

K. Smoger told members they may know The Farm at Trinity Health Oakland as the farm at St. Joe's or St. Joe's Oakland. They are going through a transition as they move closer to Trinity Health their parent company. She said the mission for the farm is growing a healthy community by empowering people through food, education, and relationships. She said they really want to be a good partner and that is one of the reasons they are a hospital-based farm. She invited members to come see the farm in July/August when the farm is at its peak. She said there is a known life expectancy gap between Pontiac residents and the surrounding communities. They are dedicated to being a partner in health and meeting their patients and community members where they are at. She said their goal is creating a safe and appealing space for engagement, wellness, and community collaboration. By the end of the summer, they will have a pavilion on the farm, and they want it to be an open public space for people to enjoy.

Their first growing season was 2021 and they produced 2,800 lbs. of food, from 24 types of crops, and 44 varieties. K. Smoger said the farm is located on the north side of the hospital where the north patient tower used to be. She said the plan for the 1.3 acres includes food production, flowers, gathering spaces, and walking paths. They offer tours, paid internships, volunteer opportunities, and classes which include gardening, cooking, and wellness.

K. Smoger said they offer a collaborative farm share and summer registration is currently open. The summer program runs July 6th through September 21st, and they offer a half share and full share. For more information stjoesfarm.org/farmshare/. She said their food share assistance program is available for individuals and families who are food insecure, and they keep their membership barriers very low for 36 weeks of food from April through December. The Farm at Trinity Health partners with 15 local farms for the food share produce. She said the produce from the Farm at Trinity Health is donated to clinics, community partners, and local partners willing to pick up produce and they are always looking for partners. She said they currently work with five clinics at the hospital as well as Sprout Fresh Food Store. They are looking forward to introducing a program called the "Good Food Box" which is a delivered box of local produce. She said anyone coming to the hospital whether a visit to the ER or to see their PCP and they screen food insecure the farm will be integrated into the medical records and the patient will receive a referral to the farm for produce.

Upcoming this year is a diabetes prevention program. They will hold an information meeting on Monday, July 18, 2022, from 6 to 7 p.m. The program is a virtual year long series.

D. Bowman informed members they are looking for a part-time community health worker to join the team. He said the candidates do not have to be certified and training is provided by Trinity Health.

4. Workgroup Updates

Healthy Eating Workgroup: J. Williams told members they are currently working on creating a list of all locations in the City of Pontiac withing a one-mile radius where residents can access produce. They will also be evaluating the cost, type, quality of produce available, document the food assistance available at each site, and if they are accessible via public transit. She said the end goal is to create a map for a webpage that is easily accessible for the community and can be shared out.

The next step would be to have a steward at the grocery stores to access their capacity and willingness to connect or be connected to local produce options. They would also gather insight from the shoppers on what types of produce they want or would like to see more of and where they go for their produce.

Physical Activity Workgroup: J. Williams said they are currently continuing to share resources with the community and are hoping to get a meeting with the city to learn how they can support the work the city is doing and to avoid duplication. They are also encouraging using Local Hop, getlocalhop.com, to post events in Pontiac. Local Hop is free for residents and businesses in Pontiac. Information on how to create a profile and post events will be sent out with the meeting minutes.

If you are interested in joining a workgroup, sharing a flyer or partner updates, contact Jessica Williams, williamsjr@oakgov.com

5. Partner Updates

B. Balduf told members the Pontiac Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off is June 18th, from noon until 4 p.m.

C. Burke said the Resource and Crisis Center is under construction for the expansion of crisis services for youth increasing bed capacity from two to ten beds. This will ensure families do not have to endure extended stays in the hospital for mental health crisis, getting them into a more conducive environment and connecting them to continual care. They will also be launching a naming contest for the unit. She said she also continues to be present in Oxford with their providers and introduced a copayment insurance payment up to \$2,000 for each family that needed mental health support after the Oxford crisis.

T. Bailey provided a quick overview of Health Home which is a model of care providing care management and care coordination for individuals with a physical, behavioral health, or social need in addition to substance abuse disorder diagnosis. To be eligible for the program you need to be a resident of Oakland County and have a current diagnosis of a substance abuse disorder. For more information contact T. Bailey at baileyt@oaklandchn.org

S. Weinert informed members they have the "Minority Mental Health Month Event", Tuesday, July 12th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursday, August 11th, "Your Voice Your Value Conference". Both events will be hybrid, held at their offices in Troy and virtual.

Dr. D. Hurse told members she is recruiting for community-based organizations that are interested in partnering with students for service-learning. If you are interested in working with a small group of medical students for service-learning contact D. Hurse at dhurse@oakland.edu

G. Smith said the Ruth Peterson Senior Center offers exercise, line dancing, ballroom, and stepping, everything to keep older adults moving. On June 15th they will start offering a women's focus group where women can get together and discuss things affecting older adult women. The Ruth Peterson Senior Center schedule of activities is posted on their Facebook page.

J. Ybarra told members this summer Pontiac Open Streets will provide seven weeks of activity in the neighborhoods of Pontiac. They will be at CherryLawn Park on Mondays, Oakland Park on Tuesdays, Jaycee Park on Wednesdays, and Shirley & Willard Park on Thursdays. On June 25th to kick things off they will host a Youth Enrichment Fair in downtown Pontiac from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

J. Cox said they had a good turnout for the resilience training at the Pontiac Little Art Theatre (PLAT) in May and for the training two weeks after the Accelerate College Experience (ACE) Program as a project for Pontiac Reads Health & Well Being Collaborative.

J. Daniels said the Pontiac Promise Zone will host a Career and College Job Expo on June 23rd at United Wholesale and on July 21st the Pontiac Promise Zone will host it's annual meeting recapping the work it has done for the school year.

J. Daniels said Pontiac Reads will host a Community Summer Summit on June 21st to train community members on trauma and trauma informed care and best practices.

E. Kjar said Honor Community Health received some state funding to establish a school-based health center at Oxford High School and for the maternity and child health program they will be doing a small pilot telehealth program to increase access prenatal care for families and individuals.

M. Newman said CNS Healthcare Anti-Stigma team will be going through a rebranding including changing the name. They have also added two more members to the team. She said they have new information and offerings to share if anyone is interested in a presentation. She said one of the new presentations is on minority mental health which is a good presentation for Minority Mental Health Month. She said presentations our tailored for the audience and can be from thirty minutes to two hours. To schedule a presentation email antistigma@cnshealthcare.org

M. Wallace said the Oakland Mediation Center received a grant last year from MDHHS to start a behavioral health mediation program.

K. Merz told members OCHD's WIC outreach team is back up and running. She shared an order form with materials available for organizations to order and share with their clients.

L. Braddix informed members that she has taken a new position as the Chief Health Equity Officer for the Southeastern Michigan Health Association (SEMHA). She said SEMHA supports Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston, St. Clair, and the City of Detroit Health Departments.

She said Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Theta Lambda Omega Chapter which serves Pontiac is continuing its monthly Women's Wellness Meet Ups with a break during the month of July but will start back up in August.

J. Williams told members that Sheriff PAL offers free recreation and mentoring programs in the City of Pontiac and registration for their summer leagues opens on June 26th and information can be found at <https://www.sheriffpal.com/> or their Facebook page.

J. Williams congratulated Elizabeth Crenshaw who was recently awarded one of the "40 under 40" for Oakland County for all the amazing work she does and thanked her for all the work she does as co-chair for HPWC.

6. Adjournment

J. Williams adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier

Approved by: Jessica Williams