



Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026

Members Present:

Lisa Braddix	Southeast Michigan Health Association
Madison Conforto	CNS Healthcare
Melanie Duquesnel	UCFS-CACC
Elena Diaz	Blue Cross Complete of Michigan
April Griffin	Baldwin Center
Ashok Gupta	walkingdr@gmail.com
Sana Hafeez	OLHSA
Denise Harris	Healing Hearts / Prevention Pontiac
Dyann Hayes	All Saints Church / Bowen Sr. Center
Chris Jackson	Honor Community Health
Cecilia Jaime	MSU Extension
Jessica Kotowski	Oakland County Health Division
Theresa Krell	Trinity Health
Kelsey Monks-Carry	The Farm at Trinity Health
Jaskaran Randhawa	Dental Center of Pontiac
Adelyn Schoenbeck	Alliance
Theresa Tejada	National Kidney Foundation of MI
Joann Wrobel	Oakland County Health Division
Mia Zorski	Alliance

Staff Present:

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

1. Welcome/Ice Breaker

K. Merz welcomed members at 1:01 p.m. to the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! meeting. Members were asked to share "What is their favorite summer snack" during introductions.

2. Pontiac District 1 Councilman

Chris Jackson, District One Councilman told members he grew up on the south side of Pontiac on Crystal Lake St. and it's nice to represent the part of the city he grew up in. He said District One represents downtown Pontiac, south side of Pontiac, and a small part of OLHSA, and Washington Park. He said 80% to 90% of the healthcare professionals in the healthcare industry are in District One. In December he convened a group from the health industry to figure out why there is a 20% lower life expectancy for people in the City of Pontiac than for their Oakland County neighbors and to address the reasons for the \$40,000 median income per household in the fifth richest county in Michigan. He said the goals the group agreed on were how to build trust in the community, how to gather data to continue to inform decision making, and how to do it under the auspices of mental health. He said far too often we focus on the neck down not the neck up and if we experience traumatic events growing up we might have become desensitized to things that are still traumatic to this day. They have a 12 to 18 month goal to figure out what they can do for mental health in the city from a health crisis perspective. The other side they are working on is to create career paths in the healthcare industry to keep people in the city. There is an expose component for young people, a connect opportunity for people looking for a

change, and an advancement portion for people already in the industry. He said the group has been meeting every month and have talked through several things they can do.

The Pontiac Health District's first event is a Community Resource Expo on Sunday, June 28th from 2 PM to 5 PM at the Bowens Center. The goal is to encourage people from all over the city to come and self-identify to get resources.

He said he believes in seven to eight years Pontiac can become the regional hub for healthcare and raise the median income per household and close the life expectancy gap.

K. Merz will share C. Jackson's information for members who want to participate at the Expo or be a member of the Health District coalition.

C. Jackson also shared that a declaration on gun safety recently became a resolution saying gun violence has become a public health crisis issue in Pontiac. They are in the process of creating a task force which will be led by Pontiac Safe.

3. Pontiac Community Survey Discussion.

L. Braddix told members they are in the survey cycle gathering data. At the April meeting members discussed how to get more people to take the survey especially the 18 to 30 year old age group. As of today, they have 233 completed surveys with the largest responders being the 46 to 65 age group. She said they will continue to collect surveys and have it all wrapped up by the start of school. They will be attending summer events to collect surveys.

The Oakland County Planning and Evaluation team analyzed the surveys and provided ideas on how HPWC may want to shape or frame the survey listening sessions and the questions they may want to ask. Word Clouds created by Planning and Evaluation for survey questions were shared with members and discussed.

K. Merz said listening sessions are a good way to collect qualitative data and will start in late July or early August. Site ideas shared were Webster Community Center, district meetings, Baby Café, Centro Multicultural La Familia, Trinity Baptist Church, and the senior centers.

4. HPWC Charter Discussion

K. Merz shared a charter template from the Oakland County Food Policy Council with members to review and update for HPWC. She said HPWC wants to create a one page commitment sheet for members. Suggestions were instead of members and proxy's HPWC would have the organization be the member and anyone from the organization could attend meetings. Create a simple straightforward charter with voting information removed. Have categories or options so new members can see how involved they can be.

5. Partner Updates

T. Krell told members on June 20th Trinity is hosting a men's health event and a Financial Literacy class series begins on Thursday June 18th at 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Trinity Health is also doing their 2026 Community Health Needs Survey with focus groups in June and July. The needs survey is done every three years. Flyers provided.

K. Monk-Carry said they still have spots available on the waiting list for the farm share assistance program. They run April through December, and cost is based on eligibility criteria/need. They will be holding an orientation session for the summer share program.

D. Hayes invited members to visit the Pontiac transportation museum on Pike Street. She said the weeklong Pontiac Oakland Convention starts June 20th with a parade and activities. The museum also hosts a lecture series on the first Thursday each month.

J. Wrobel told members the health division in partnership with Trinity Health is expanding the Trinity Healthy Families Program to Pontiac. The program has three components: a registered dietitian teaches the nutrition class which includes food demos, a physical health class taught by K. Merz, and behavioral health taught by Trinity Health Ann Arbor staff. Classes are offered at OLHSA beginning June 24th through August 12th on Wednesdays from 1PM to 3PM.

The Oakland County Baby Café is now located at the Baldwin Health Center on Mondays from 1PM to 3PM. It is a breastfeeding support group for moms or family members wanting to connect with other parents. They also offer drop in breastfeeding support.

Bridging the Breastfeeding event is on Monday, August 17th at the Oakland County Executive Office Bldg., Waterford. It is a maternal infant resource event and anyone interested in having a table at the event can contact Joann. There will be raffle items, food, and transportation is available.

J. Kotowski told members the Oakland Cares 360 clinic is open providing physical & behavioral health to the community. OCN will host the suicide prevention community discussion in September. The 3rd annual Oakland County Health and Housing Festival is on July 30th at Normandy Oaks Park, Royal Oak.

J. Randhawa said the Dental Center of Pontiac is working on finalizing their community oral health program.

M. Zorski told members on July 12th the Alliance will host the Wellness Expo at the Detroit Zoo. The Crisis Hotline number is 988 and the Sober Support Unit at OCN is 248.883.8793.

M. Conforto said CNS Healthcare is a non-profit with seven locations in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne Counties. She said the Pontiac location is their urgent care mental health facility which means if the person is in crisis they will get them in immediately. She said they can also provide a subscript for medication if someone runs out or if the medication needs to be adjusted.

S. Hafeez said Meet Up and Eat Up kicks off at OLHSA on June 15th and runs through August 31st. They are still accepting mobile and stationary sites in Pontiac and will come to summer events. Stationary sites receive two meals a day. Emergency food program added a new site at the 360 Care Center in Pontiac.

M. Duquesnel said UCFS-CACC is hosting a World Refugee Day in Troy. They are also trying to get a maternal prescription produce program grant for refugees and immigrants.

6. Adjournment:

K. Merz adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is virtual on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier

Approved by: Kelsey Merz