



Healthy Pontiac, We Can!

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2025

Members Present:

Anita Barksdale	Trinity Health Oakland
Lisa Braddix	Southeast Michigan Health Association
Elena Diaz	Blue Cross Complete of Michigan
Deborah Findley	City of Pontiac
Rhyan Frost	Micah 6 Community
Dyann Hayes	All Saints Church / Bowen Sr. Center
Jessica Kotowski	Oakland County Health Division
Cheryl LaFleur	CNS Healthcare
Mary Lewis	Gary Burnstein Clinic
James McQueen	Pontiac City Council
Carolina Sisiruca	Central Multicultural La Familia
Angela Tabb	Baldwin Center

Staff Present:

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

1. Welcome/Food/Ice Breaker

K. Merz welcomed members at 1:00 p.m. to the Healthy Pontiac, We Can! holiday potluck. Members played a holiday version of “Would you Rather” as an icebreaker during lunch.

2. Speed Dater Presentation: Webster Community Center, Rhyan Frost

R. Frost told members things are going good at the Webster Community Center with tiling going in and the walk in freezer is in the kitchen. All but a few tenant spaces are purchased including a wing for Head Start, Honor Community Health clinic services, and SMART has a bus stop terminal in the center. The Webster Community Market will be farm stop style which means it’s halfway between a farmers market and grocery store. R. Frost said the consignment and wholesale style promotes fresh local produce and helps drive a circular economy. The split is 70/30 for producer/seller. They are working on the specifics for providing weekly food boxes and will take EBT, WIC, and Double Up Food Bucks. R. Frost said the store will not take away from any of the food service Micah 6 currently provides like the pop up markets and greenhouses.

The community center also has an incubator kitchen for entrepreneurs. They want to operate the kitchen as a program helping entrepreneurs to get Serve Safe certified, providing space to develop products, marketing, manufacturing, and using the Webster Market to sell their products. The kitchen will also be available for education opportunities with collaborators.

The community center is located on Huron between Monroe and Murphy streets. The center will open the end of February 2026 with tenants moving in between February and April. The market will open in April.

3. 2025 Year in Review

L. Braddix told members outside of the bimonthly meetings HPWC! supported SNAP education classes at the Baldwin Center and Bowens Senior Center in 2025. She informed members SNAP classes would not take place in 2026 due to the funding loss. She said HPWC! did outreach at Church in the Park, Summer Slam, and Pontiac back to school events. K. Merz told members the most common views on

social media were Gleaners food distribution, Pontiac events like Summer Slam and Church in the Park, and Wellness Wednesdays at the Baldwin Center. L. Braddix said in 2025 they also began work on a charter for HPWC!

4. Timeline and Communications Plan for 2026 survey

Members were provided handouts for the “Tentative Pontiac Community Survey Timeline” and “Pontiac Survey Communications Plan”. K. Merz said the estimated launch time for the 2026 Pontiac Community Survey is February 2026. Surveys will be collected February through April. She said in May 2026 they will have the data reviewed and analyzed by the data team at Oakland County. She said all the information provided by members in the last two meetings was given to the data team to help create the survey questions. The data team recommended keeping the survey as short and as broad as possible. She said along with the survey they want to do focus groups and/or listening sessions in June and July. The survey will be sent to members for review before going out. Surveys will be translated and a QR code will be available for online. They will also look for sponsorships to provide incentives for focus groups and listening sessions. They are targeting to receive 400 to 450 surveys and respondents need to be 18 years and older.

K. Merz asked members to consider being part of a strategic plan workgroup. She said it’s a big task and they need help doing it. The workgroup will meet two to three times outside of the regular meetings. If you are interested contact K. Merz or L. Braddix.

K. Merz told members they are composing a letter to Pontiac’s newly elected mayor Mike McGuinness, to introduce him to the work HPWC! is doing. They plan on mailing the letter in January 2026. She asked members to review the “Pontiac Survey Communications Plan” and note any additional organizations/groups that should be added and contact information they may have with the organizations/groups. Members suggested adding McLaren Oakland Hospital, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Herrington Empowerment Center, Oakland Forward, Alliance of Coalitions, Pontiac Church, and Pontiac Community Foundation.

5. Partner Updates

C. Sisiruca said Centro Multicultural La Familia is starting new classes from January 21, 2026, through February 25, 2026, in person and virtually. Registration begins January 6, 2026.

A. Barksdale said Trinity Health Oakland will host CARFIT on Thursday, December 11, 2025, from 12 pm – 2 pm at the Robert Bowen Center in Pontiac. CARFIT is a free, driver-thru event that is designed to improve older driver safety. She said her next car seat check event is in Lake Orion.

Angela Tabb introduced herself to members and said she had been recently named Executive Director at the Baldwin Center.

D. Findley told members the Pontiac senior centers are planning a mental health event in May 2026. Anyone interested in doing an activity or workshop on mental health for seniors please contact her. She said they will also be doing outreach and an open house for the event. She is also working on a senior newsletter.

D. Hayes told members she is volunteering at the Pontiac Transportation Museum and invited members to visit. The museum is located at 250 W. Pike St., Pontiac, MI 48341.

6. Adjournment:

K. Merz adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m. The next HPWC! meeting is on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, and will be virtual.

Minutes submitted by: Signa Metivier
Approved by: Kelsey Merz