



Somerset County Health Department

8928 Sign Post Road, Suite 2, Westover, Maryland 21871

443.523.1700 · 1.800.363.8090 · Fax 410.651.5680

TDD 1-800-735-2258

Health Officer: Danielle Weber, MS, RN

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name:	LHIC	Meeting Location:	Sign Post Conference Room/Hybrid
Meeting Date:	February 10, 2026	Minutes Transcriber:	Julianne O'Brien
Meeting Time:	9:30 a.m.	Minutes Reviewer:	Korey Colbert and Danielle Weber
Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	Please see Sign-in Sheet		

Korey

Welcome

- Korey welcomed everyone.

Introductions

- Virtual and conference room introductions were made.

Purpose and Mission of Council

The Somerset County Local Health Improvement Coalition named Healthy Somerset, working collectively with local partners, sets health related priorities for individuals in the community. The coalition addresses health disparities in our community by providing input on programs, policies and coordinated efforts with programmatic data and infrastructure support from the state and county.

Presentations

Bronte Nevins - MDH - Achieving Healthcare Efficiency through Accountable Design (AHEAD)

- The AHEAD model will focus and advance all Marylanders to achieve superior health and well-being no matter where they live by lowering costs and having accountability.
- ADHEAD requires the State Population Health Accountability Plan (PHAP) and the creation of a Population Health Improvement Fund (PHIF) which the Maryland Commission on Health Equity (MCHE) will govern.

- Each jurisdiction will create a local action plan which is being led by the local Health Departments on the 6 measures.
- The Data Advisory Committee (DAC) reviewed measure definition, current baselines and trends etc.
- Hospital PHAPs should align with the local action plan so the hospital and the local health departments must work together.
- State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is used to inform AHEAD implementation planning.
- The PHAP measures are included in SHIP to show how AHEAD fits in Maryland's larger vision of population health.
- Food is Medicine (FIM) is a set of evidence-based interventions that support meeting AHEAD's health targets.
 - Medical tailored meals for high risk patients.
 - Produce prescriptions where healthcare providers prescribe fresh fruits and vegetables to patients with diet-related illnesses.
 - Somerset County is planning to do a tailored meal pilot.
- SCHD and Wicomico Health Department (WiCHD) and Worcester are collaborating on a joint effort, with WiCHD leading the hiring process for a consultant to create a local plan with community involvement. This consultant group will be responsible for gathering input from all stakeholders, including members of the community.

Rural Health Transformation

- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) where the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the program, which has 5 years of funding.
 - The first award is ~\$168M.

Cathy Stafford - TidalHealth - Colorectal and Cervical Cancer

- Cathy Stafford works with John Hopkins to communicate with the community.
- Colorectal Cancer:
 - Precancerous polyps on the inner lining of the colon or rectum.
 - Over time some polyps turn into cancer if not removed.
 - Stage IV colon cancer will spread to lymph nodes and/or organs.
 - The third most commonly diagnosed cancer in men and women in the U.S.
 - Risk Factors:
 - Age,
 - Family or personal history,
 - Race/ethnicity,
 - Energy imbalance,
 - Smoking and excessive alcohol use.
 - Symptoms:
 - A change in bowel habits,
 - Blood in your stool,
 - Abdominal pain, aches, or cramps that do not go away.
- Cervical - HPV Cancer:
 - Persistent infection of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).
 - There is a group of more than 150 related viruses.

- Cervical dysplasia is the abnormal growth of cells on the surface of the cervix.
- Cervical cancer is the most common cancer affecting women around the world, ranking fourth overall.
- Risk Factors:
 - Sexual history,
 - Use of tobacco,
 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV),
 - Long term use of birth control pills,
 - Energy imbalance.
- Symptoms:
 - Unusual abdominal bleeding,
 - Unusual discharge,
 - Pain in the pelvic region.
- TidalHealth offers nationally recognized cancer services, providing high-quality care with a rating of 9.4. Their accredited locations offer team-based care conveniently close to home.
- Somerset County residents can access cervical and colorectal cancer screening at their SCHD.
- Screening saves lives, when finding cancer early the treatment is more effective.
- There are many local resources through community support, TidalHealth's social work team, and John Hopkin's advocacy group.
- 30% of people don't follow through with the colonoscopy.
- Ben Dashiell, a SCHD nurse, can help with patient navigation.
- Many people stated that there is a colorectal doctor desert in our area and it is taking too long to get a colonoscopy.

Kat Rodgers (TidalHealth), Kaylee Hanway (TidalHealth), and Lauriane Hanson (Findhelp) - FindHelp

- Findhelp.org is a social care network designed to streamline the process of connecting people to programs and resources that help improve health outcomes.
- TidalHealth is utilizing Findhelp's backend for making referrals for patients.
- TidalHealth's plan is to connect Findhelp with MyChart so people can do self help if they choose to.
- Findhelp is free and easy to use for anyone looking for help and connecting to resources.
- The organization can manage their program and receive data on how people engage with their program.
- HealthyDelmarva.FindHelp.com is created for the Delmarva area.
- HealthyDelmarva.FindHelp.com and Findhelp.org is an open network, HIPAA compliant, and high trust certified. You start by typing in your zip code to start your search. People can login if they want, but they don't have to.
 - Claim a program gives you ownership to manage the program.
 - Create an account.
 - Program tool to add team members.
 - Access to data.
 - Easy to use.
 - Reports - track real time - analytics.
 - How people engage with the program,
 - Shares and connections,
 - Filterability,
 - Trends.

- Referral activity.
 - Referrals with response,
 - Closed loop referral,
 - How seekers received help,
 - Are you serving your area?
- Referral Source locations.
- Through Somerset County Health Department's partnership with TidalHealth, we are using a specific public-facing version of Findhelp. This version allows us to track referrals from TidalHealth via email notifications.
- Chris is working with Kat to receive referrals which are assigned to a CHW so they can contact the client.
 - Findhelp is an important tool for the CHWs.

Health Planning Updates

Chris Osment - HERC Updates

- October through December was a busy quarter with 90 closed referrals, including Healthy Heart, which brings the total to 144.
- We need to bring the numbers up, so the strategies are being looked at:
 - Instead of CHWs being at a stationary place, e.g. social services, and Seton Center, the CHWs will be going out into the community.
 - MDH approved hiring more contractual CHWs:
 - Muhammand will be working with Dr. Haft and also with TidalHealth's Mobile Integrated Health Team which is targeting the people who use the emergency room a great deal.
 - Aves will be integrated into SCHD clinics.
 - Advertising the services on radio, tv, flyers, and billboards.
 - Offering self management programs, e.g. diabetes.

Danielle Weber - Health Department Updates

- Somerset County Mobile Integrated Health is ready to go out, but EMS can not send a paramedic or EMT yet, so TidalHealth is helping out with a paramedic/EMT. A clinician, and a CHW will also go out on the Mobile Unit and knock on doors.
- Flyers are being worked on to get the information out.
- Adult vaccination program is free adult vaccinations with the exception of vaccines that pertain to international travel. SCHD is serving many people through this program.
- The flu numbers are up and the deaths across the nation from the flu are tremendous. People need to be vaccinated.
- The nurses on the mobile van are giving flu shots.

Ben Dashiell - Cancer Updates

- So far this fiscal year, 19 people have been screened for cancer, 16 people are new to the program.
- The remainder of the fiscal year, nine people are pending to be enrolled and need to be scheduled for appointments.
- Seven colonoscopies have been scheduled.
- Fourteen people have been screened for colorectal cancer.
- Reminder that SCHD is now screening for lung and skin cancer for the tricounty.
- Scheduling has been the biggest barrier for GI issues.
- Next meeting Ben will bring the narrative application for the grant to discuss measures.

Partner Updates

Kathy Walker - MAC

- Seniors helping seniors, keeping seniors home and thriving program - Crochet Club is open to all held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the MAC Center in Salisbury. If interested, call Nancy to make a reservation at 410-742-0505 x 171.
- March for Meals is having 31 Raffles in 31 days for \$31.00, every raffle is valued at \$50 or more.

Julie Krenzer - CareFirst

- CareFirst issued new cards with new ID numbers for the members for medicaid, but didn't map the old system with the new system correctly which is running into issues.
- Carefirst is working with TidalHealth to have an Emergency Room Diversion Round Table Meeting with all the surrounding emergency departments, community counterparts, and Carelon by sharing ideas, social determinants, and referrals.

Lisa Widmaier - Eastern Shore AHEC

- CHW virtual training starts on March 9th on Mondays through Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- There is free Peer Specialist training.
- Any questions with either training, please contact Lisa.

Ellen Willingham - John Hopkins Healthcare

- As of February 2nd, Priority Partners can accept new vendors.
- Accreditation was achieved in December 2025.
- Ellen is temporarily covering the entire Eastern Shore.

Rachel Moore - Salisbury University

- A free Hybrid CEU workshop titled "Parenting Through a Trauma Lens: Clinical Insights for Working w/ Families" is scheduled on March 19, 2026.

Roger Clark - Neighborhood Nursing Program

- The Neighborhood Nursing Program is looking to hire one nurse and one CHW, preferably from Somerset County.

Miscellaneous

- Somerset County's Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) was designated as geographic, but Somerset County was converted and moved to a lower income primary care designation. This will allow non-physician providers in Somerset County to qualify for loan repayments.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting

May 12, 2026