



Somerset County Health Department

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Health Officer: Danielle Weber, MS, RN

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name:	LHIC	Meeting Location:	Sign Post Conference Room/Hybrid
Meeting Date:	May 12, 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

John Hopkins School of Nursing - Neighborhood Nursing Program

Roger Clark - Community Liaison

- The Neighborhood Nursing Program (NNP) focuses on what matters most to people, by taking care of the whole person accessing health and social services by nurses and community health workers.
- John Hopkins working in partnership with the local partners, e.g., Somerset County Health Department (SCHD) will gain a relationship with the community.

- The NNP values are: Health Equity, Integrity by doing what is right, Trustworthiness, Self-Efficacy, Vitality, Accountability by being transparent, and Synergy.
- Engagement uses the human centered approach, patient centric.
- The NNP visited the community organizations to gather feedback:
 - Building Community trust takes time and patience,
 - Centralized Services creates gaps for rural communities,
 - Intentional engagement and staffing requires informal social networks and cultural dynamics.
- Set up Neighborhood Nursing hubs in Princess Anne, Crisfield, and Westover.
- Need to figure out how to best connect, support and provide best service to those on Deal Island and Smith Island.
- The start date may not be until late summer, people need to be hired.

Alternative Suspension Program for Students Who Smoke at School

Alyssa Weston - Community Health Educator

- Somerset County Health Department (SCHD) partnered with the Somerset County Board of Education for an alternative to suspension for high school students that violate the tobacco policy.
- The program is a two-day course that is 1 hour each day to educate students on the dangers of nicotine usage and link them to resources.
- Students struggling with nicotine addictions are referred to other programs and resources.
- ECI is interested in the program for both youth and adults, virtual is an option.

CHIP Update

Korey Colbert - Health Planner II

- There are three CHIP priorities:
 - Access to Health
 - Make healthcare more accessible that respect cultural differences, use clear language that is understandable.
 - Improving referrals, coordinating and guiding/navigating better care.
 - Qualified staff from diverse backgrounds and expanding service delivery methods.
 - Behavioural Health
 - Improve processes for screening, intervention, and referral within behavioral health services.
 - Expand knowledge of behavioral health resources and work toward stigma reduction for specific population groups.
 - Enhance the integration and coordination of care within the behavioral health network.
 - Chronic Disease and Wellness
 - Improve early identification and screening processes for chronic illnesses.
 - Strengthen preventative measures and the clinical management of chronic conditions.
 - Utilize focused prevention tactics to mitigate known risk factors.

Health Planning Updates

Chris Osment - HERC Updates

- Community Health Workers (CHWs) have completed certification.
- Enrollment numbers have grown due to the Wellness Van visiting UMES.
- The online form is available for referrals from both DSS and the SCHD.
- To provide supplemental support for patients, a Community Health Worker will be presenting during scheduled SCHD clinic hours.
- CHWs will be partnering with the nurses on the mobile units.
- Transportation improvements will include shuttling referred individuals to medical appointments, the food bank, and the Seton Center.
- Hiring a third CHW will allow SCHD to expand services to the community.
- Word of mouth is quickly increasing interest in the distribution of \$50 Food Lion gift cards to individuals meeting specific criteria.
- SCHD will recruit trainers for a community-based 6-week diabetes management program. Sessions can accommodate 3 to 5 participants weekly via telephone.

Danielle Weber - Health Department Updates

- SCHD is participating in the Medically Tailored Meals pilot program, for 6 months will provide the following:
 - Participants will receive 12 meals weekly,
 - Fresh or frozen produce,
 - Oral nutrition supplements when prescribed,
 - Dependents will also receive meals.
- Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is a five year program to strengthen healthcare in state designated rural areas. The funds can be used in different programs such as:
 - Mobile Health,
 - Supporting seniors,
 - Hiring personnel for mobile wellness program,
 - Supply safe water to those who don't have water,
 - Transportation those who aren't on Medicaid,
 - Community Health Educator,
 - Emergency preparedness drill,
 - Running transportation for those who aren't on Medicaid like MA transportation.

Ben Dashiell - Cancer Updates

- Through Chesapeake Healthcare and word-of-mouth efforts, 23 referrals for colorectal, lung, and skin cancers were provided of which 19 were new individuals.
- Brittany's cancer outreach efforts talked to 542 people.
- Please send referrals to SCHD, but we are limited by money.
- SCHD will be working with TidalHealth to increase cancer screenings from testing to diagnosis.
- Mobile Health funds to support mammograms.
- People aren't being screened early.
- For the upcoming LHIC meeting, participants are requested to provide cancer mortality statistics to facilitate brainstorming and the generation of new strategies.

Partner Updates

Monika Brittingham - Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI)

- ECI provides services to a population of 3,000 inmates.
- The inmates find great fulfillment in maintaining the garden, a contribution that is highly valued by the community.
- ECI is eager to implement additional inmate programming, including guest speakers and various other opportunities that SCHD has or can suggest.

Julie Krenzer - CareFirst

- Carefirst partnered with SafeRide Health to provide eligible members with non-emergency medical transportation, which may include rideshare such as Uber or Lyft.
- Mommy Meals program delivers medically tailored meals for pregnant and postpartum mothers.
- The 2026 Maryland Rural Health Conference is a two day event outside of Baltimore. The first day is traditional rural health sessions, the second day covers emerging health technologies.

Kat Rodgers - TidalHealth

- TidalHealth has been awaiting imaging license approval since April 2nd. Once authorized, the full launch is expected to take place within 4 to 6 weeks.
- To improve access for the rural community, technology will be the primary focus of rural health grant funding.

Miscellaneous

- The ECI garden conducted a soft harvest and distributed the vegetables.
- Free gun lock boxes were distributed during the Gun Safety and Suicide Awareness event, which featured a guest speaker and took place at UMES on June 6, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Next Meeting

August 11, 2026