

GARRETT COUNTY HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
June 24, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

PERMANENT MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Bailey, MLMC	Mark Boucot, GRMC	Lisa McCoy, MD Extension
Robert Stephens, GCHD	Alicia Streets, GCSS	Duane Yoder, GCCAC

CONSUMER MEMBERS PRESENT

Regina Gearhart	Edgar Harman	Robin McGill	Dr. Willis McGill
Dr. Karl Schwalm	Larry Tichnell		

STAFF AND VISITORS

Fred Polce, Jr.	Grace Bolyard	Thomas George	Scott Hollingsworth
John Corbin	Dr. William Pope	Jonathan Dayton	Marian Emr
Shelley Argabrite	Cindy Sharon	Rodney Glotfelty	Tiffany Fratz
Kendra McLaughlin	Dr. Jenny Corder	Julie Teter	Kimi Scott-McGreevy
Amy Fike	Donna Fost	Amy Ritchie	Maria Friend

Vice Chairperson, Edgar Harman called the meeting to order at 8:03. The minutes from the May 27 meeting were approved as submitted.

ADVANCES IN OBESITY MEDICINE IN GARRETT COUNTY AND WAYS WE CAN ADDRESS THE STIGMA –

Thomas George is a Chief Executive Officer, Family Medicine Practitioner, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice, currently practicing a Wellspring Family Medicine. His passion is treating patients with obesity. The World Health Organization recognized obesity as a disease in 1948 and currently 70% of the population is obese. Teens that develop obesity have a high rate of developing heart problems and obesity contributes to 232 conditions. The costs are in the billions.

His objectives is to address the stigma that goes with obesity and to improve the outcomes. Treating obesity includes identifying the contributing factors and developing individualized treatment that includes nutritious eating plans, fitness, mental wellness, and when indicated, medication or surgery. It is also important to equip providers with training to treat adolescent and adult obesity.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Regina Gearhart has agreed to renew her membership for a second term. Rodney Glotfelty has agreed to fill the vacancy left by Nicole Christian. Letters will be sent to the Commissioners for their confirmation.

Rick DeWitt, Director of Social Services has retired. Alicia Streets is the new Director and will represent DSS on the Health Planning Council.

Phil Lauver, Garrett County Public Schools has also retired. John Hummel will be the GCPS representative on Health Planning Council.

SELECTION OF HPC CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Steve Putnam has agreed to serve as chairperson and Edgar Harman has agreed to continue as vice-chairperson.

AGENCY UPDATES

Duane Yoder reported that **Community Action** is in the middle of updating their strategic plan. Stakeholders will be contacted to take part, which will include members of Health Planning Council.

Lisa McCoy stated that **Maryland Extension Offices** are open and returning to in-person services.

Grace Bolyard reported that **Hospice** had a large turnout for their Walk for Hospice last weekend.

Julie Teter from **AHEC West** stated that staff is working from home and trying to get back into the community.

Mark Boucot reported that **Garrett Regional Medical Hospital** signed a letter of intent with WVU Medicine. Later in the summer, they will hold medical forums to get the community input.

GRMC's pain management clinic is brisk, urology is doing well, and the community embraces the local services being offered.

The hospital gala is scheduled for November 13 at the WISP.

Brian Bailey reported that **Mountain Laurel Medical Center** will be conducting free sports physicals the second and third weeks in July. Information and requirements are on their website.

Fred Polce, **Behavioral Health Authority/Local Management Board** stated that they made it through the SAMHSA referral grant. They are implementing a survey, CDC Violence Against Children, which is piloting in Baltimore City and Garrett County, but could possibly go nationwide. LMB would develop the process, CDC is the funder, and NORC is the leading organization.

Alicia Streets has joined HPC as the representative from **GC Social Services**, as Rick DeWitt has retired. They are now seeing appointments in person and encouraging clients to call to schedule appointments. July 1 they will open to walk-ins. Due to transportation issues, the virtual appointments are appreciated.

They will be converting to a new phone system and hoping for no problems in the change, but in the event a person cannot get through to the office, please try again. They are looking into trauma care combined with a wellness program for social workers and would welcome feedback from HPC.

Scott Hollingsworth from **Appalachian Crossroads** reported that the many help wanted signs posted around the county has been a benefit for the disabled.

Bob Stephens was asked for a COVID update. As of today, Garrett County's rate is .8%. Numbers are low and we are continuing to vaccinate.

The **Health Department** received a Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act grant. Goals are to reduce opioid, methamphetamine, and/or prescription drug use/misuse among youth and to change the

culture and context regarding acceptability of youth opioid, methamphetamine, and/or prescription drugs use/misuse.

There is a Take off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) group that meets at the Health Department. See Amy Ritchie in Health Education and Outreach for details or to join.

There will be a Health Fair next April.

The Community Health Improvement Performance (CHIP) was published and is on mygarrettcountry.com.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Stephens, MS
GC Health Officer/HPC Secretary

The following information was sent in an email following the meeting to clarify questions of the Garrett County youth that have been vaccinated:

Today there was discussion regarding the number and percentage of 12-17 year olds who are vaccinated for COVID in Garrett County.

As of 6/23/21, there were 284 in the 12-17 age group (15.3%) who had received at least 1 vaccine.

There were 242 in the 12-17 age group (13.0%) who are fully vaccinated.

The Health Department is developing strategies to increase these numbers. The Health Department operates walk-in vaccine clinics in Oakland on Tuesday and in Grantsville on Fridays for anyone age 12 and older.