

**Vermillion Parke Health Coalition**

**July 6, 2023**

**Vision**: Encourage healthy communities in Parke and Vermillion Counties.

**Mission**: To bring communities together to help everyone lead healthier lives in Parke and Vermillion

Counties.

**Goals**:

\*Education

\*Advocacy

\*Collaboration

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Attendees**: Elaine Pastore, Lori Bouslog, Heather Thompson, Mary Margaret Rhees, Becky Myers, Andy Jones, April Cash, Allissa Theisz, Hailey Cochran, Karen Hinshaw, Lori Powers, Beth Evans, Beth Earehart, Elise Huffman, Dan Hardesty, Karen Hinshaw, Stephany Dowd, Judy Gainey, Shelly Amerman, Lori Swinford, Shannon Sebastian, Larry Addison, Rhonda Foster, Antonia Sawyer, Stephany Dowd, Maci Valdez, Nicole Hearn, Sarai Bain, Elaine Pastore, Cathie Moore, Merry Addison

**Review notes from May 4th meeting – additions or corrections –** None stated

**Guest Speaker Lori Powers, Education and Outreach Associate**

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) helps to preserve the integrity of Medicare by helping beneficiaries and their loved ones and professionals to Prevent, Detect, and Report Health Care Fraud. Helping save money and stopping fraud will provide an assurance for Medicare to be around for future generations. (Info from slide presentation)

* Intentional billing of Medicare for services that were not received or were billed at a higher rate than is actually justified is FRAUD.
* Medicare ABUSE – occurs when providers supply services or products that are not medically necessary or that do not meet professional standards.
* ERRORS – Health care services and billing are complicated and can lead to ERRORS – but only a review and investigation of the issue will determine if it is an error – or if it is actually fraud or abuse.
* Examples of Fraud & Abuse:

Billing for services, supplies, or equipment that were not provided

Billing for excessive medical supplies

Obtaining or giving a Medicare number for ‘free’ services

Improper coding to obtain higher payment

Unneeded or excessive x-rays or lab tests

Claims for services that are not medically necessary

Using another person’s Medicare number or letting someone else use your number.

* Impact of Medicare Fraud, Errors, and Abuse:
  + Cost taxpayers billions of dollars
  + Risks health / welfare of beneficiaries, our neighbors, our loved ones, and ourselves
  + Impact the Medicare Trust Fund
    - Potential for higher premiums
    - Less money for needed benefits
    - Quality of Care
* \*\* Roughly 10,000 people a day are turning 65 for the next 19 years. \*\*
* What can you do?
  + Protect your Medicare number
  + Protect yourself by being aware of scams. Don’t answer the phone from numbers you don’t recognize.
  + Detect fraud by reviewing your Medicare Summary Notice or Explanations of Benefits.
  + Report fraud and suspected fraud. This helps protect others, stop fraud, and recover $ and preserve Medicare.
* CONTACT INDIANA SMP (317) 205-9201
  + Nancy Moore – SMP Director, [nmoore@iaaaa.org](mailto:nmoore@iaaaa.org)
  + Lori Powers – Education & Outreach Associate, [lpowers@iaaaa.org](mailto:lpowers@iaaaa.org)
  + Online: [www.iaaaa.org/smp.asp](http://www.iaaaa.org/smp.asp)
  + Facebook: [www.facebook.com/INSMP](http://www.facebook.com/INSMP)

Medicare will never call you! Don’t give out information. Watch your Medicare statements and look at what services they are billing you for.

During the pandemic, folks were able to get a free copy of their credit reports weekly.

As of January 1st, SHIP – State Health Insurance Assistance Program will be available, call 800-452-4800. They will have Health Insurance and resources available for our communities.

Lori Powers: People are receiving unsolicited Covid 19-test in the mail. Medicare is getting billed for the test people have not requested. Please refer them to Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). SMP are submitting the complaints to the office of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and the Inspector General.

Judy Gainey: Volunteer Supervisor for SHIP, the State Health Insurance assistance program. Presentation to Senior groups – does presentations to groups and agencies. She calls the program (Medicare 101 / Alphabet Soup) Please leave a message when calling.

[jg10SHIP@gmail.com](mailto:jg10SHIP@gmail.com) or call 765-418-1576,

**Continued Discussion of Specified Meeting Topics**

Previous Suggestion – Pick a topic and the presenter would approach the specific discussion topics.

* Possible pick topics / speakers; or select topics in advance.
* Antonia suggested - Some businesses have had previous experience, by setting agenda for the year and then select/planning the speakers that were already booked to get that on their schedules.

What topics are you interested in based on the work in Vermillion and Parke Counties.

-Trauma System Development –Merry Addison

-Rural Health – Mary Margaret Rhees

-Transportation, Access to Food and Health Care needs - Shelly Amerman

-Food is Medicine – Antonia Sawyer

-Food Rx Program – for Vermillion Co. (was successful in Parke Co) – Lori Bouslog

- How Medicaid works – Shannon

- Anthem – Hailey Cochran

-Medicaid and Market Place – April Cash

-Thrive Topic

(A committee is being formed to do planning of topics for next year’s planning – Mary Margaret Rhees, Stephanie Dowd, Beth Evans, and Lori Bouslog)

**Coalition Working Group Updates**

**Food Insecurity** (Allison Finzel / Lynn Egan)

**No updates**

Ideas:

Poverty Simulation – to bring canned goods / personal hygiene / monetary items

Possibly bring canned good to the Vermillion County Extension Annual dinner

Organizations that have monthly meetings (Legions), etc.

Hillclimb Festival in October

Suggestion to send out email reminders to bring the food items / personal hygiene / or monetary items to the events

**Connecting Health Care –** *Have not met*

Matt Smith / Larry Addison

Transportation is a huge barrier.

**Resource Manual**

Sylvia sends monthly information – Lori will start sharing those from Sylvia.

State Report – Comprehensive Community Plan about the drug and alcohol data in Vermillion County from the Local Coordinating Council (LCC) – Elaine Pastore

Indiana 211 – to make sure information is correct. If you are an organization that needs to be included in the 211 system, please reach out to Lori Bouslog for further information and details.

**Poverty Working Group – Mary Margaret Rhees**

Next meeting is July 21st at 10:00 am - working hard to get program situated for October 25th.

Mary Margaret will have Lori send out the information flyer, if you know of someone interested in the Poverty Simulation. 2 CEU credits / lunch provided by Indiana Youth Institute, this is a Youth Worker Café. Would like to have 60 participants and will need additional volunteers for the program. – Lori Bouslog also shared on the State Extension Hub, as a professional development for Extension staff.

**Long-Term Goals for the Vermillion Parke Health Coalition – Continued Discussion**

Future – what would you like to see the coalition do or be?

* Networking or resource group / Community resources – Lori Powers
* Please let Lori know if you think of any other suggestions or ideas.

**Suggested Coalition Meeting Speakers**

**September 7 – Allissa Theisz, CASY – Childcare Resource and Referral**

**November 2 – Mary Margaret Rhees – Share about a grant Vermillion Co is involved with**

**Organization Updates and Sharing**

**Health Coalition Web Presence:** [**https://extension**](https://extension)**.purdue.edu/county/vermillion/hhs.html**

***Please continue to forward to Lori email addresses of new coalition members***

*Danny Wayne* with the Will Center sent some information that Lori will be forwarding regarding power outages and food loss.

*April Cash* – Indiana Rural Health Association– help with federal grants, help with Medicaid, they are a statewide association and can meet virtually. They are working to make a collection of navigators that are available to share and who is available for what services.

*Lori Swinford* – Providing free lunches at Central Elementary School in Clinton 11:00 am – 12:30 pm – through July 28th. (Lori asked for a flyer to be forwarded to the group.)

*Lori Bouslog* - Purdue Extension in Vermillion County will be offering A Matter of Balance -balance and mobility class, 8 sessions. Starts October and goes through early November, two sessions per week at the Clinton Public Library. Maximum number of participants is 12.

*Lori Bouslog working with Lori Swinford* – Dining with Diabetes class, 4 session series, in Clinton at the Community Center, targeted for folks with type 2 diabetes, pre-diabetic, and or caregivers of diabetics.

**Next Meeting – September 7, 10:00 AM – hybrid**