**Vermillion Parke Health Coalition**

**Minutes March 7, 2024,**

**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

**Attendance:**

Allison Finzel, Allissa Theisz, Amber Smith, Andy Jones, Beth Evans, Cale Stewart, Cathy Moore, Don Gettinger, Donna Whitmer, Jeffrey Galbraith, Judy Gainey, Julie Lanzone, Lacey Lewis, Larry Addison, Lori Bouslog, Lori Powers, Lori Swinford, Maci Valdez, Mary Margaret Rhees, Michele Bennett, Melissa Buell, Sandra Rogers, Shelly Amerman, Stephany Dowd, Tracie Brannin

**Guest Speaker :**

Judy Gainey, Medicare presentation (Lori Bouslog will send out the handouts) SHIP partner with multiple entities such as pharmacies, hospitals, food pantries, Farmers markets, etc. Counselors that assist with Medicare saving and Medicare supplements can review the client’s plan during Open Enrollment. Additional questions you can ask Judy, or contact SHIP at 800-452-4800.

Lori Powers commented that, Senior Medicare Patrol is seeing many complaints now about false billings for intermittent urinary catheters. If you know anyone who has experienced this, please have them call SMP 317-205-9201 or my cell at 618-792-9827

**Health Fair Committee Report**

Lori Powers informed us that we were not awarded the grant that the coalition had tried for to get funds for the health fair. Therefore, the committee was going to meet on March 22nd to seek other funding opportunities.

* June 1, 2024 (not sure if they were still doing this date or moving it, will confirm after their committee meeting)
* Sponsorships
* Vendors – contact Ronda Foster at rfoster@svcs.k12.in.us

Mary Margaret suggested reaching out to White Construction, Elanco, Zimmerman Funds-within the Vermillion County Community Foundation to try and receive funding.

**Coalition Working Group Discussions and Sharing (did not do break out working groups in March)**

**Food Insecurity**

Lynn Egan from Catholic Charities in Terre Haute, was not able to make it today.

She had mentioned vouchers for Seniors, who would then be able to get and use at the Farmer’s market.

Encouraged to call Indiana 2-1-1 to find out these areas that are available. – If your business or organization is not sign up with Indiana 2-1-1, please sign up to make the resources in your county available and known.

**Coalition Working Group Discussions and Sharing – continued**

**Connecting Health Care – Larry Addison**

Rides mass transit system in IL has been around since 1977. This is similar to the Thrive program. Thrive west central bus – is seen often in Vermillion Co. Larry would like to get someone from Thrive to come and talk about the transportation program.

Shelly Amerman– was in the room and gave an update regarding Thrive in Vermillion and Parke Counties. Thrive is in both counties 5 days a week. They would like to have 2 vehicles in each county daily. It will take collaborate efforts with some of the county government to reach the funding goal. Matt Tribble is the transportation director for Thrive. Shelly was going to ask to see if Matt could come and speak about transportation and the goals and timeline -May 2nd.

**Resource Manual**

No one from the group was available for updates. Looking for a print resource. We continue to encourage businesses and organizations to put their information on 2-1-1 (Indiana 2-1-1) We’re trying to encourage people that wherever they move, they can reach out to 2-1-1 to know about local resources.

**Poverty (Mary Margaret)**

Co-chair Beth Evans – Parke Co Extension

The committee is working on coming up with an educational program for Parke County either later this year/Fall of 2024 or 2025. We might end up working with another working group, such as food insecurity.

Waiting to hear back for grant for Vermillion County. –May be up for trailblazer award.

**Tobacco Cessation/Prevention -** Tracie Brannin (chair)

Hidden in Plain Sight Trailer – was at S. Vermillion last month (February) and will be at N. Vermillion, April 16th. Tracie will be out presenting the trailer, if you’d like to come, email her for information.

Tracie is working on Point-of-sale surveys. She has 42 stores for point-of-sale surveys in Vermillion and Parke counties. (Stores sell alcohol tobacco, e-cigarettes, vegetables and fruits, they do this survey every 2-years) Point-of-sale is where the tobacco enters our communities. Big tobacco spends 1 million dollars an hour on marketing. Purpose of the survey is to access the current tobacco landscape, marketing and sales, and areas of concern, community education, etc.

**2024 Planning Committee Topics and Month**

\*Recommend July meeting be one week later on **July 11th** – note change from normal first Thursday, due to the 4th of July.

*Mental Health America – Suicide Prevention - Rachel Reed (Sullivan, IN) – January*

*SHIP Program / Medicare (assistance programs) – Judy Gainey - March*

VPCHC & Thrive West Central – Barriers / Transportation (Matt & Larry- co-chairs of Connecting Healthcare) – May

Childcare & Economic Development (later in the year) – Ivy Tech / Firefly (or with barriers)

United Way – Substance Abuse / Vaping / Training with Narcan boxes – July

Food Insecurity Update – Discussion for Vermillion-Parke Counties – Lynn Egan

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

Participants thought the meetings are going well.

**Organization Updates and Sharing**

*Allissa Theisz* ***-*** *Childcare & Economic* Development (later in the year will give a presentation)

Parke & Vermillion both going after Gift 8 grants through the Community grants and Eli Lilly. Vermillion County wants to open a childcare center at the Ernie Pyle facility.

Parke County received an Early Years initiative grant last year. They are working on opening a childcare facility.

 Community Forums regarding use of Ernie Pyle wing 2 are on March 21st at Clinton Community Center from 6 to 8 pm and on March 25th at Cayuga Fire Station also at 6 to 8 pm. – One of the options considered would be senior day care.

Ernie Pyle Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VermillionNeedsAssessment>

*Shelly Amerman Executive Chair for Walk to end Alzheimer’s in Terre Haute in September*

*(September 21st)*. One lap around the stadium at Indiana State University (ISU). They are looking for walkers/ sponsorships / volunteers for the day / fundraiser / donations. ($.79 for every $1.00 goes to research and funding). Anyone is welcome to join Shelly’s team called Nellie’s Angels in memory of her grandmother.

*Allissa Theisz* -*Parke County Early Learning Coalition* – going to have a Children’s Expo on April 13th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Parke County Fairgrounds. parkecountyececoordinator@gmail.com

*Amber Smith:* *Community Garden in Cayuga, IN* <https://www.facebook.com/EugeneStationCG>

*Farmers Market in Cayuga, IN* <https://www.facebook.com/EugeneStationFarmersMarket>

*Beth Evans – Purdue Extension Parke County*: Community Garden Lessons 2nd Thursdays, March thru August 6:00 PM, 413 South Hwy 41, Rockville, IN 47872

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

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

**Next Meeting – May 2, 2024, 10:00 AM – hybrid** Valley Professionals Community Health Center Medical clinic in Clinton, IN, Located in Union Hospital Clinton, 777 S Main St #100, Clinton, IN 47842

*Respectfully submitted by Beth Evans- Parke Co Extension Educator*