

**Vermillion Parke Health Coalition Minutes, May 2, 2024**

**Hybrid / Located in Valley Professionals Community Health Ctr, 777 S Main St #100, Clinton, IN 47842**

**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:**

Allissa Theisz, Andy Jones, Becky Myers, Beth Evans, Cale Stewart, Don Gettinger, Jeffrey Galbraith, Jenny Haskins, Julie Pettit, Karen Hinshaw, Larry Addison, Lori Bouslog, Lori Powers, Lori Swinford, Mary Margaret Rhees, Matt Tribble, Michele Bennett, Rish O’Brien

**Review notes from March 7th meeting – No additions or corrections**

**Guest Speaker :**

Matt Tribble – Transportation Director, Thrive West Central /Vermillion, Parke and Vigo Counties.

Discussed routes / times and days available for transportation in Parke and Vermillion Counties.

(Types of routes: Fixed route / deviated fixed route/ demand response) – Thrive is a demand response route. They could do approximately 400 more trips if they had additional staff and vehicles available. Currently the cost is $8.00 per mile, which accounts for insurance / field cost / labor and benefits offered to their drivers, and overhead for the building, etc. They have vehicles that are fuel-efficient, mini vans, full size busses. It’s public transportation, so they will take people wherever they need/want to go. Sixty percent of trips are medical trips. Thrive would like to add 6 more drivers before the end of the year. They don’t operate on Saturdays and Sundays.

Clay county is looking at having Saturdays, however, that would be additional local funding specifically in Clay County, for that to be accomplished.

Federal dollars go directly to Thrive. There’s no fee for people who schedule a ride. A suggested donation is $2.00 for a ride.

Thrive doesn’t cross the household thresholds. The client needs to be able to come out of their homes on their own. Lori Bouslog has Matt Tribble’s contact number with Thrive if people have additional questions.

**Health Fair Committee Report** (Have flyers and sent out the morning of May 2nd.)

* June 1, 2024
* Sponsorships
* Vendors – contact Ronda Foster at [rfoster@svcs.k12.in.us](mailto:rfoster@svcs.k12.in.us)
* Union Health going to sponsor the first 175 box lunches for food also.
* Hamilton Center – sponsoring the Hidden In Plain Sight Trailer. /Mental Health – Traci Brannin will be there with the trailer.
* Please share anywhere on your social medial, etc. It’s at the Eagles in Clinton, by the park. Very appreciative of all the vendors participating and the financial support. Thank you to everyone on the committee for all your hard work!!!

**Coalition Working Group Discussions and Sharing** (Divided out into working groups)

* Would like to see separate rooms to break off into. Another idea might be to meet at the Clinton Public Library. Or it might work better if everyone was virtual. Lori would appreciate feedback of what others thought about the breakout sections.

**Food Insecurity –**

**Connecting Health Care / Resource Manual**

Discussed Thrive and how much they had increased with transportation. Trying to look at ways to have people utilize Health Care navigate systems and Tele Health**.**

Asked if everyone is agreeable to combine the ‘Connecting Health Care & Resource Manual” Committee Meeting group together.

**Poverty**

Modification of the Oxfam Hunger Banquet to be held in Parke County to bring poverty awareness to people in Vermillion and Parke counties. There are potential grant research projects that could possibly be utilized. The banquet consists of choices of different foods to represent the different income levels of people. The food people get for the evening depends on what card the individual draws out of a basket when the participants get there**.** It’s a look inside of poverty.Planning on having the program the first part of 2025. \*\*((Note-this has changed – the Date was set for September 10, 2024, due to funding availability/ Sponsorship.))

**Tobacco Cessation/Prevention**

Traci Brannin is the chair of this committee, please let Lori Bouslog know by emailing her, if anyone would like to join this committee.

**2024 Planning Committee Report**

We need to finish out our focus topics for the remainder of the year.

\*Recommend July meeting be one week later on July 11th

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*

United Way – Substance Abuse / Vaping / Training with Narcan boxes. (Michelle’s co-worker, Matt is going to focus on Narcan boxes at the July 11th meeting.)

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

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

Need a committee to think about 2025 topics: Michelle Bennett, Mary Margaret Rhees, Becky, Allissa Theisz, and Beth Evans.

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

Lori has received positive feedback for the unity of the group and the group has exceeded expectations.

**Organization Updates and Sharing**

An SBIRT / screening, briefing intervention and referral training May 24th from 9:00 -4:00 pm in Clinton Community Center.

United Way has open grant, called Healthy Kids Mind and Body, it’s a mini grant for $1,000. to $5,000.00. They are looking at a holistic approach, for whole health. Applications taken till May 17th.

Annual golf outing, September to support mental health and first responders. (Becky Myers)

Indiana Senior Medicare catheter fraud, still receiving complaints, please let, Lori Powers know if you’ve heard any complaints.

Allissa Theisz - Federal child care assistance available, so more families are going to be able to apply.

Lori Bouslog – multiple Extension programs being offered, see flyer.

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

**Please forward email addresses to Lori Bouslog of new coalition members.**

**Next Meeting – July 11, 2024, 10:00 AM – hybrid**

Location: Conference room of Valley Professionals Community Health Center, 777 South Main in Clinton.  Those joining in-person should go to the VPCHC front office and request they let Sarah Handley know you are here, and she will meet you in the lobby area to allow you access to the 2nd floor.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Evans and Lori Bouslog -Purdue Extension Educators