

**Vermillion Parke Health Coalition November 2, 2023**

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

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

**Goals**: \*Education / \*Advocacy / \*Collaboration

**Attendance:**

Aliya Amin, Allissa Theisz, Andrew Jones, Angie Burgess, Antonia Sawyer, Becky Myers, Beth Evans, Courtney Stewart, Don Gettinger, Jeffrey Galbraith, Judy Gainey, Julie Pettit, Karen Hinshaw, Larry Addison, Laura Ruhl, Lori Bouslog, Lori Deyoung, Lori Powers, Lori Swinford, Lynn Egan, Maci Valdez, Mary Margaret Rhees, Matt Smith, Michele Bennett, Ronda Foster, Rish O’Brien, Shelly Amerman

**Guest Speakers:** Mary Margaret Rhees, Dr. Laura Ruhl, Dr. Rish O’Brien

**Potential Grant for Vermillion County (NIH Grant)** – ***Global Health RC2 Update / Indiana Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute***

This potential grant has already brought together partnerships and learning from organizations and businesses in Vermillion County. The Reciprocal Innovation for area of Bidirectional research agenda, mutual benefit, equitable partnerships and continuous shared learning and innovation are some of the entities brought together to grow and learn to share about the challenges of health concerns. They want this to be more than a grant, but be able to take these ideas, challenges, and concerns and work together long term to meet the needs of the people in the community. (Slide Presentation sent out by Lori Bouslog)

The final decision will be in January 2024. The funding would start in May if successful grant applicant. It’s a three-year proposal grant.

**Updates from Connections IN Health**

***(Speaker-Karen Hinshaw): (Slides sent out by Lori Bouslog)***

***Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute – Connections in Health***

Their vision is to make Indiana one of the nation’s healthier states. Their mission is to bring together Indiana’s brightest minds to solve the state’s most pressing health challenges. Project started in 2018, 10 counties were selected to intentionally engage in this project. County engagement story maps are available on their website. Multiple organizations offer the opportunity to join their meeting virtually, and a variety of online resources with flipbooks, and educational blog posts are available.

***(Changed Speakers- Aliya Amin)***

***The Cardiovascular and Diabetes Coalition of Indiana*** – consist of partners and volunteers from across the state who are committed to reducing cardiovascular-related diseases, diabetes, and strokes in Indiana through community-led programs and efforts. Resources available from the slides. Ways people can help out in their own communities is by assisting the Community partners in implementing the Diabetes Prevention Program / Facilitating training for Health Heart Ambassadors program / Connecting with others in the communities that have similar goals.

The Cardiovascular & Diabetes Coalition of Indiana will be holding a summit in 2024. The summit will be available virtually, February 22nd 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Topic is Health literacy and Trauma influenced Care, the Heart of the Matter.

***(Changed Speakers- Antonia Sawyer)- Hoosier Health & Wellness Alliance (HHWA)***

Established in 2008, HHWA is a statewide health coalition focused on reducing obesity across Indiana. Their focus areas are: physical activity, nutrition, food environments. Links to multiple resources available on the slides.

HHWA can help communities by connecting community partners to trained facilitators for the BaFa’ BaFa’ Cultural Simulation, supporting parks board members in developing a 5-year master plan, linking Parks staff and board members to related experts (IPRA, DNR, DNPA, Title II expert), addressing Food insecurity through trusted Partner training with CC Building Indiana, Spotlight Hunger Banquet simulation tool-kit, learning HHWA role in the food system.

2023 Summit was Find Your Fit! Growing your role and cultivating partnership in the food system. If interested can still get Continuing Education Credits. They will start planning next year’s summit in 2024, after the December holiday 2023 season.

***(Changed Speakers – Courtney Stewart)-Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC)***

InJAC was established in 2003, and their mission is to reduce the burden of asthma in Indiana. Their focus areas are environmental triggers, quality of care, and education infrastructures.

Additional resources can be found on the slides provided, just click on the links.

InJAC can help in the communities by working with school nurses, school wellness coordinators and local medical providers to implement asthma action plans. And to conduct presentations tailored to asthma for staff, agency and partners. Increasing the number of asthma educators. This can be obtained through a free virtual 5-module training on asthma education with a book and CD provided via mail. Educating childcare providers on environmental triggers for children with asthma.

Planning a summit for 2024. You can listen to previous summit’s by clicking the links in the slide presentation.

***(Changed Speakers – Karen Hinshaw)***

***Healthy Schools Action Team (HSAT)*** – The Healthy Schools Action Team is a group of organizations that work in partnership with the Indiana schools to create healthier environments where all can thrive.

They connect with the before/after school educators, school district leaders, and other support staff to create an equitable environment for youth to thrive. They provide a model that they present for The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Model.

Supporting the schools across the state of Indiana through grant writings, technical assistance specific to school related funding opportunities that focus on the 10 components for the WSCC model. The collaborating and identifying way to work across sectors to increase youth physical activity and nutrition opportunities.

Click on Coalition Trip in the slide presentation to take you to website for more information, other tools and resources to help your coalition to grow and thrive.

Join a Connections IN Health Initiative across Indiana in preventing and managing chronic disease. (Click on the link in the slide presentation to join or scan the QR code)

**Health Fair Committee Report**

• Tentative date June 1, 2024 (Save the Date)

• Sponsorships

• Vendors – contact Ronda Foster at [rfoster@svcs.k12.in.us](mailto:rfoster@svcs.k12.in.us)

They want to do a community health fair for all ages. They are going to start out in the Clinton area. However, they would like this to be an annual event. This would be more of providing knowledge of resources available. The Health Fair would provide box lunches for the event. If anyone would want to be a vendor at this event, please notify Rhonda Foster. Lori Powers will work on a grant to get support for financial funding.

**2024 Planning Committee Report**

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

Identified different discussion topics for our 6 meetings in 2024. (no specific order):

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

SHIP Program / Medicare (assistance programs) – Judy Gainey

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

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

Connecting Healthcare)

United Way – Substance Abuse / Vaping / Training with Narcan boxes (possible Friends of the Wabash Valley)

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

Hunger Banquet (Could be a lunch and learn – Antonia Sawyer)

Would like other ideas – if anyone else can think of other ideas / topics.

Don Gettinger (from Q Source)– thought Kathy Moore (Q Source) serves on the substance abuse council with the United Way and keeps the Narcan boxes in Vermillion County (Clinton, New Port, Hamilton Ctr, American Legion) stocked. So, she may be a good source to reach out to on that topic.

***Meeting months are odd number of months*:** (for our monthly meetings speakers)

January (January 4th): Mental Health America

March (March 7th): SHIP Program / Medicare (assistance programs) – Judy Gainey

**Coalition Working Groups**

**Food Insecurity Updates (**Lynn Egan [Legan@ccthin.org](mailto:Legan@ccthin.org)812-243-6415)

Farm Leave – is a company that will come in after the harvest and go through again to pick up the leftovers that were left behind. Currently, with it being apple season, they are offering apples to different food banks. Gave the apples to Vigo Co. to the High School and Middle Schools. They had the older kids bag up the apples and hand them out to the younger kids in the elementary schools.

Lyn serves 7- counties, so she is going to try to reach out to each county when these opportunities exist.

If anyone, works in a health care facility, school, community, that needs a pantry, or agency, or any kind of food insecurity issues, please reach out to Lyn at Catholic Charities, [legan@ccthin.org](mailto:legan@ccthin.org), 812-243-6415.

**Connecting Health Care (Larry Addison)**

No Updates

Connecting with Thrive and the Health Center have them present a topic would be a good idea.

**Resource Manual (Sylvia Maixner)**

Was sending out a monthly resource list. Lori Bouslog will forward the email from Sylvia.

Encouraged everyone to use the 211 Resource and to update for your organization/business.

**Poverty Simulation (**Still collecting evaluations and comments**)**

We had 73 people attend out of 98 registrations. We had close to a total of 19 volunteers for set-up and the event the day of. It was an amazing an event!

*Various comments made:* (some listed below)

Comments were shared as to how the participants felt and some things that could be done differently. Some people suggested that maybe they could rotate roles from kid to parent vis versa, to not always being the one having to do all the tasks needed as the parent.

(One participant thought that the child just sat in school and didn’t see the actual running around that needed to be accomplished at the different areas/businesses)

(Another said the Poverty experience was amazing and let them walk in the shoes of the family in need. They thought a change in roles would also help them get a different perspective.

The person had been in education for over 30 years and this is one of the best learning opportunities they could have experienced.)

Continue outreach to different groups to educate people about poverty and different speakers that we could get for our counties.

Oxban Hunger Banquet, - there might be some opportunity there. Maybe the Food Insecurity groups and the Poverty working group could work together because food insecurity and poverty seem to go hand in hand.

**211 – Help line**

??What kind of follow up does 211 have? Do they reach out to the services that they share with the caller that they shared the information to the person?

A person had used 211 for someone in need in Vermillion Co. – They talked to a 211 person on the phone, they were very helpful. The 211 person did not contact the organizations, but gave the person in need the information to contact the organizations needed like SNAP / trustee’s office, etc. This gave the person in need a starting point to get help. The 211 person took the person in needs information, so she, the 211 person, could reach back out to the person in need and gave the person in need her 211 information to get back to the person he was talking with, so he did not have to start over with a new person.

It was a process that took about 4 months, so it’s not immediate, but extremely helpful to get the person in need a starting point.

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

(tabled for this time– due to the length of meeting exceeding time)

**Organization Updates and Sharing**

Julie Pettit with Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana and part of Covering Kids and Families.

I have to leave the meeting, but wanted to hop on here before I do. Our CKF/Covering Kids and Family program serves Benton, Fountain, Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion, and Warren Counties. If you have any clients that need assistance with or have questions about healthcare coverage, please send them our way. They can schedule an appointment online at [ckfindiana.org](http://ckfindiana.org/) or email [esmith@capwi.org](mailto:esmith@capwi.org). Thank you so much.

Lori Bouslog - Purdue University and Purdue Extension – Identified as part of the Purdue Broadband team. There will be significate dollars coming from the federal level to the state to help with the broadband situation and lack thereof. Lori will be emailing that out the information to the group. One of the very first thing to do if to verify your address in the system (can use QR code), then turn page over and you want to run multiple speed test.

The more speed test at various times of the day at your address. And the various collection of data reported in the rural counties will provide creditable data. Therefore, we are trying to make sure more dollars will come to Indiana and the rural counites to help with broadband.

Even if you helped and participated in the Farm Bureau efforts a few years ago (to verify addresses on an FCC Map), please still do this, so we can verify addresses and get the data needed to show that we are in need of broadband and funding to our rural counties in Indiana.

Please share this with all the families throughout Vermillion and Parke Counties and our counties throughout Indiana.

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

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

**Next Meeting – January 4, 2024, 10:00 AM – hybrid**

Respectfully submitted by Beth Evans