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**Vermillion Parke Health Coalition Minutes January 4, 2024**

**Hybrid / Located in VPCHC, 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, Cathy Moore, Don Gettinger, Donna Whitmer, Jarred Rankin, Jeff Galbraith, Judy Gainey, Karen Hinshaw, Kay Smith, Kiersten Vincent, Larry Addison, Lori Bouslog, Lori Swinford, Lynn Egan, Maci Valdez, Mary Margaret Rhees, Matt Smith, Michele Bennett, Nicole Hearn, Rachel Reed, Ronda Foster, Sandra Rogers, Shelly Amerman, Stephany Dowd, Traci Brannin

**Review notes from November 2nd meeting – additions or corrections**

Under Coalition Working Groups – Food Insecurity Updates – it should read Food ‘Link” not Food Leave, and correction of Lynn’s name.

**Guest Speakers:**

Rachel Reed, Chief Program Officer, Mental Health America of West Central Indiana, Inc., handed out materials for suicide prevention. Variety of places that offer QPR, SOS, Assist and other trainings for suicide prevention courses.

Hidden In Plain Sight Trailer is available for adults to bring awareness.

Lethal Means Displays (these are free boxes) They just need display areas to put the boxes.

Contact Rachel for these programs.

Traci Brannin, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coordinator for Parke and Vermillion County, gave her real life story of what she went through and why suicide prevention/intervention is so important.

Stephany Dowd, Prevention Specialist for Parke and Vermillion County, and LCC

Coordinator for Parke, Vermillion, and Fountain County (joined by zoom)

**Health Fair Committee Report (Lori Powers)**

Have submitted a grant application through the United Way – it will be March before we hear anything. The committee is going to next meet Friday, January 12, 2024 to discuss their assignments they are working on.

• Tentative date June 1, 2024 – Resource Fair/Health Fair for better quality of life.

• Sponsorships – needed

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

Looking for a variety of vendors – Mental Health, Sponsors, etc.

**Coalition Working Group Updates:**

**Food Insecurity (Lynn Egan)**

Lynn Egan with Catholic Charities has baby food available for 19 cents a pound. Catholic Charities has 94 pantries that they work with.

**Connecting Health Care (Matt Smith and Larry Addison)**

Transportation the biggest hurdle. (Warren and Fountain Co have no Thrive, transportation options, there’s one transportation service called Mac Fans (?), however they have a flat fee of $55.00, which is not affordable to fixed income families)

Patients that are admitted to the hospital may eat healthy for their stay and then head to fast food when they’re released.

(Lori Bouslog/Shelly Amerman) RMTD (Rural Mass Transit District) in IL has federal funded transportation set up that seems to be working, maybe we could contact them and get some insights.

Verida – transportation, may be an option

(Judy Gainey) shared in the chat: Rides Mass Transit District is a federally funded PUBLIC transportation system. Service is available to ANYONE needing transportation. Rides provides door to door and established route service. The fleet consists of lift-equipped and ramped vehicles making the system fully accessible.

Besides our local residential and district scheduled route services, Rides schedules out-of-district trips.

(April Cash) Shared in the chat: if anyone has clients that need help with their Medicaid, please reach out to me! Website: [www.indianaruralhealth.org/CKC-IN](https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/rec/play/8MFWFvKKUO99ubGTbF2zr0243Ml-plbjoY1rFJy3ixpn_FaiHZosvhs918aOBuNlfVAKx2fYHjvp0Vpo.dlljLkXr0A9D39pT?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fpurdue-edu.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F19A1t9IC-18BnOQuppgoV12ClZitj0_jiV3AAGWn6WwRZTdkCZHHnpLrZES_LEV8.CcJkFze8I4M8nGBN)

Direct link for appointment: <https://ckcindiana.as.me/aprilcash>

**Resource Manual (Sylvia Maixner)**

Needs a Health Care list for Vermillion and Parke Counties – help that based in our counties.

**Poverty (Mary Margaret Rhees)**

Would like to have an event in Parke County, going to try to have a meeting February 1st at 10:00 am, and utilize the same day as the Vermillion Parke Health Coalition on the months the Health Coalition is not meeting, on zoom to start planning and ideas. And need a co-chairman for this group.

**2024 Planning Committee Report** *(list of suggestions for guest speakers for our group)*

\*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) – we might be ready for this topic by the May meeting*

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

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

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

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

Tobacco Prevention Cessation grant (going to be setting up a regional level coalition) didn’t know if there’s any way to be incorporated into this group - Rachel Reed

Possibly could be added as a working group. Loss team groups for families/people that have lost loved ones to suicide. Qsource would be part of the working group (Don Gettinger).

Consensus was to add as a working group. (Lori with get with Traci on specifics.)

**Organization Updates and Sharing**

Vermillion Co Health Department needs you! –NEED Volunteers - Lori Swinford

Trying to rebuild volunteer lists. If you could do a hard copy and give it to Lori Swinford.

(Lori Bouslog had emailed out the volunteers forms prior to the meeting.)

Michele Bennett with United Way shared about the Reading Neighbors program – Would like readers for elementary schools in Vermillion and Parke Counties.

Suggestions were to reach out to Retired Teachers group /or Sarabeth Marcinko.

**Program Announcements were made.**

**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 – March 7, 2024, 10:00 AM – hybrid**

***Remember to share Indiana 2-1-1 Helpline; If your business or organization has not sign-up for the helpline, please call now to list your information.***

**Indiana 211** – Resource location can call or look up resources in your area (in211.findhelp.com).

If you call, they are very helpful.

To register your business/organization, (in211.org), go down to the blue box at the bottom of the page – Click on Resource Database – Request Inclusion – input information and they will verify.

Or you can call 211 and they can transfer you to a contact – you may need to leave a message, but they will get back with you.)

Respectfully submitted by Beth Evans, Parke Co Extension Educator