



FACILITATOR

Kayla Johnson, Program Coordinator/Planner, Huron County Public Health (HCPH)

PARTICIPANTS

1. Kayla Johnson, Huron County Public Health
2. Nicole Marks, Huron County Public Health
3. Niki Cross, Huron County Family and Children First Council
4. Mike White, City of Norwalk
5. Aaron Osborn, City of Norwalk
6. Daren Smith, City of Norwalk
7. Kim Williams, City of Willard
8. Trisha Summers, Village of Wakeman
9. Dave Ditz, Huron County Sheriff's Office
10. Stacey Church, Norwalk Public Library
11. Rebecca Riley, Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities
12. Michelle Montvilas- FTMC
13. Carrie Mullins, Norwalk City Schools
14. Brad Kraft, Norwalk City Schools
15. Mindy Birkholz, GLCAP (Virtually via Teams)
16. Jana Martin, Mercy Health (Virtually via Teams)

AGENDA

- Introductions
 - Roll Call
- Review CHC Vision, Mission, "New" Logo (ODH)
- Review 2023 End of Year CHC Coalition Assessment Survey Results
- 2024 Projects
 - 2023 Sustained Projects
- 2025 CHC Competitive Grant Application
 - FY25 Project Proposals Presentations
 - Priority Communities
 - Letters of Support
- Active Transportation Plan (ATP) tracker updates
- Group Discussion:
 - Coalition Bike Ride
 - Norwalk City Schools- Funding Request
- Group Sharing: What is your organization working on related to healthy eating and active living?

- What assistance, if any, do you need?
- What types of funding sources are you looking for?
- Q/A
- FY25 Project Proposals Voting- Survey Link TBD

MEETING MINUTES

The Huron County Creating Healthy Communities Committee met on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in-person and through Microsoft Teams for the 2024 Q1 Meeting. Kayla Johnson began the meeting at 9:33 AM. Kayla welcomed the committee members, started with roll call (sixteen (16) total members were in attendance) and reviewed the meeting agenda. There is no March newsletter as there was a coalition meeting.

CHC REVIEW:

Kayla reviewed the rebranding of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the discontinuation of the original Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) logo including its replacement logo. She reviewed the end of year 2023 coalition survey results which included: twelve respondents completed the survey; 7/12 respondents stated that they would like to attend a field trip to the Avon Culinary Literacy Center during 2024. Suggestions for quarterly meetings time/date change were received. It was suggested that we move the day from Wednesdays and that we move the meeting time to afternoons. We will review this at the start of the next grant cycle. Starting this quarter, we added a Microsoft Teams option to hopefully help others be able to attend. Kayla reviewed the list of member suggestions for Coalition improvements. She provided a general overview of the CHC Grant updates as per PPT slides. Kayla provided project updates for the 2024 and 2023 sustained projects per PPT slides.

2024 Project Updates:

Norwalk Memorial Reservoir Trail Update (Daren Smith):

- Needs to be done by May 8th. Work will hopefully start next week. The project will not take a lot of time, but the project will be weather dependent.
- Aaron Osborn – Also received an ODOT grant that will extend the path from the bridge coming up to join up to this path.
- Daren Smith - Also looking at funding to continue the trail from the bait shop to connect this with that.

Greenwich Playground Update (Kayla):

- A new playground was going to be placed down by the ballfields. However, there were safety concerns with insurance. Thus, the playground will be moved to the other side of the baseball field.
- A vendor has been selected.
- In the process of final fundraising.

- Plan is to ground break this spring.
- Greenwich Improvement Group (GIG) will be voting on a new park name.

Kiddie Land – Willard Update (Kim Williams):

- Four proposals were reviewed for equipment. Two were preferred. Sent tweaks to those companies, waiting to hear back from those companies.
- Also completed a survey with Willard to see what inclusive pieces the community would like to see.

2023 Sustained Projects:

Stokley Park – Norwalk

- Remaining equipment to be installed and post photos taken
- Per Daren Smith – rock wall is put together just waiting on weather to allow for install, soccer goals are also ready to go. Gaga ball pit was going to be donated by a church, but not sure where that stands. Existing equipment will be painted once the weather breaks.
 - Kayla will work with Linden and Daren to plan the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Greenwich Reservoir Park – All-Huron County

- Remaining equipment to be installed and post photos taken
- The village of Greenwich created a “Parks Committee.” The GIG and the Greenwich Parks Committee are now working together to wrap up this sustained project.
- The village has agreed to install the remaining equipment and help with gravel spread at the new park.
- Kayla will work with GIG to do press release, not ribbon cutting ceremony.

City Of Willard Park – Willard

Per Kim Williams:

- Need to remove old slide. This will likely turn into green area.
- Slide will be installed somewhere else in the park
- Kayla will work with Kim to plan a grand opening with the 2024 Kiddie Land project.

Red Cap Park – Wakeman (All-Huron County)

- Complete post-evaluation this Spring

On-Going Sustained Projects:

Norwalk Nourishing Garden-



- New items purchased with 2023 remaining CHC funding: new soil, signage, herb garden cart, indoor compost system, indoor greenhouse, seven-dust, metal stakes, etc.
- Going to create a recipe box with recipes for things that are growing in the garden this year.
- Kayla met with Lindsey Leber, Town and Country Garden Club, to plan for the garden this year.

Willard Bikeshare Book-a-Bike Program-

- Last fall, Kayla and Janet Cok attended a training with Toole Design to learn about bicycle safety and did an audit for the Willard Book-A-Bike bikeshare program.
- Kayla is actively working with Kim Williams to update signage, address maintenance, talk about possible changes to times that bikes are available to reserve.
- Expanding the bikeshare is a potential 2025 project.
- Per Kim Williams – will wait until after the eclipse, April 9th will likely be the opening date for this year.

2025 COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION:

Updates: For the current fiscal year, the budget period has been shortened from 12 months to 9 months. The new competitive grant cycle (FY25) RFP will be posted on March 20th. Depending on RFP requirements Kayla will either hold a meeting or correspond via email to review with coalition members.

Applications will be due May 6th and we should be notified of award status at the beginning of September.

FY25 Project Proposals:

Kim Williams- City of Willard presented on the following (4) proposals:

- Bikeshare Program –
 - Previously purchased 2 e-bikes and four standard bikes. E-bikes are a hit. Would like to get two more e-bikes. Also want to add three bike racks and a fixit station at the park for everyone to utilize.
 - Requesting \$10,000.00
 - **This is their #1 request.**
- Pickleball Courts –
 - Pickleball courts are popular, they would like to add a couple more courts that would go next to the current courts.
 - Requesting \$20,000.00.
- North Side Park -
 - Low-income area.



- Added spinner, picnic table a couple of years ago. Would like to replace the slide and swing set.
- Requesting \$20,000.00.
- Woodbine Park -
 - ADA compliant spinner and picnic table.
 - Requesting \$11,000.00

Clark Park Access and Public Seating in Monroeville – proposed by Dr. Kaple Jones and presented by Kayla:

- Currently: No seating, not accessible.
- The proposal would include a driveway for emergency access.
- Would be a multi-year project.
- Request was for \$90,000.00. Would break into two phases, with \$25,000.00 requested from CHC for two years, with \$20,000.00 in leveraged funding being needed each year.
- The Mayor of Monroeville also wrote a letter of support for this project.

Village of Wakeman – Trisha Summers:

In 2020, Village of Wakeman received grant money and donations for a fitness court that was placed at Red Cap Park. It is being utilized. A bike trail runs through this area as well. Have heard a lot from the community that some of the older people would probably utilize it more if it was shaded. There are not really any shaded areas currently.

- Proposal is for a shade structure. \$110,000.00 total project cost. Have started receiving donations, requesting \$15,000.00 from CHC in support of this project.

City of Norwalk – Mike White:

- Existing pickleball courts are always full.
- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. Both useful for physical activity and a social event for people, especially senior community.
- Have existing piece of concrete (approx. 90x70). Currently have acrylic paint to lay down for the courts. The city of Norwalk is asking for fencing to go around two sides, as well as permanent nets. The cost would be approximately \$15,000.00.
- Entire project would be about \$50,000; have everything they need except final \$15,000.00 to make this possible.

Greenwich – Greenwich Improvement Group (GIG) –Bethany Bracken:

- GIG is a small non-profit with ~9 members.
- Have been a part of the CHC grant for two years. Upgraded existing park, adding new park now.
- Baseball parks will be upgraded thanks to donations.
- Hydration stations are a need. Asking for \$14,300.00 to cover the cost of replacing 5 hydration systems.

Kayla reviewed Priority Communities. We will include a voting matrix for priority communities with the 2025 project survey.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TRACKER

During the 2023 Q3 CHC meeting members were asked to assist in providing updates on any Active Transportation Plan projects and status. Kayla created an Active Transportation Plan Tracker spreadsheet to track all proposed project goals, timelines, projects in progress, and completed projects. The first tab includes short-term, intermediate, and long-term goals. The second tab will include performance measures. Partners were asked to email Kayla with any updates. Kayla reviewed the ATP tracker with coalition members and updated the tracker based on member feedback. Kayla will continue to reach out to CHC members for ATP updates and review quarterly at CHC meetings. Kayla will make updates to the tracker based on the discussion at the Q1 meeting.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Coalition Bike Ride – Kayla did a train-the-trainer ride in the fall; Kayla was asked to complete 6 bike rides in a 12-month time frame to implement what was learned with the community. With the end of year coalition survey, several people voted and expressed an interest in a coalition bike ride.

Early spring or late fall would be the preferred time. Members preferred to hold the ride on a weekend/Sunday during the morning.

Highlighting the new bike path would be great, showing part of the trail, etc. Kayla will schedule a meeting with those interested in planning the bike ride details.

Avon Culinary Literacy Center – With Norwalk Library having the potential to rebuild or renovate the current library building within the next year, the Director, Stacey Church had mentioned during our Q3 meeting that she wanted to add a smaller scale Culinary Literacy Center within the library to host programs and meetings county wide. Kayla visited Lorain Culinary Center and found out that Avon has a smaller scale literacy center close to what Stacey had in mind for Huron County.

Per the coalition end of year survey, 7/12 respondents voted to attend a future trip to the Avon Culinary Literacy Center:

- If yes, what month works best? - ***Plan for August/September timeframe***
- Day of the week? - ***Tuesday/Wednesday (middle of the week)***
- Time of day? (morning or afternoon)- ***4 hours in afternoon***

- Would you like to carpool with other members or just meet at the center? ***Some members would like to carpool.***

Kayla will schedule a meeting with those interested in planning the tour/field trip.

Norwalk City Schools Funding Request-

Brad Kraft from Norwalk City Schools reviewed a proposal that is unable to be supported by CHC funds:

- Brad worked with Sandusky City Schools for 10 years. ODE and USDA grant supplied them updated tables and chairs to replace those purchased in the 1960s.
- Coming to Norwalk, the tables and chairs from 2000 are breaking. Lighting was also installed in 2000. Lighting ballasts have oil in them and have previously caught on fire making this a safety issue.
- School has applied for grants, but most go by oldest – newest schools and since the school was built in 2000, it will likely not be eligible for years.
- Estimated needs: \$125,000.00 for seating; \$45,000.00 for lighting.
- Have applied for a USDA equipment grant, but less funding is available this year.
- Food Service is not supplied by the school district's general fund.
- Currently down 16 chairs due to those breaking.
- Upgrades will also change the atmosphere of the cafeteria.

Discussion regarding suggestions for funding sources.

- Boosters, school board, vendor donations, social clubs (i.e., Eagles, Elks) and other possible funding sources.
- Kayla can help Brad with reaching out to potential funding sources as well.

Norwalk Library Renovation Updates-

Stacey Church re: Building is done being assessed; proposal will be put together. Will be doing focus groups, meetings with community members. Hopefully will have ideas in the summer.

DISCUSSION:

- FY25 Project Proposals- Voting: Survey Monkey link will be emailed to all members at the beginning of April 2024 (TBD)
- Competitive grant application due: May 20, 2024
- If awarded, new grant cycle will be starting October 1, 2024-September 30, 2029
- FY25 budget period is October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Brad Kraft is working on a summer food program with the community.
 - He needs information on parks, shelters; asked those willing to please share that information with him.



No additional comment or questions, meeting adjourned approximately at 10:38 AM.

ACTION ITEMS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Kayla will send a meeting invite via email to all members to discuss details and schedule coalition bike ride and Avon Culinary Literacy.
- Kayla will be sending a request for letters of support to the Coalition for the competitive grant application with FY25 survey link (TBD).

Q2 Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

***NOTE: A special meeting may be required in April 2024 to prepare for competitive grant cycle application due in May 2024.**

