

**FACILITATOR**

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

**PARTICIPANTS**

1. Kayla Johnson, Huron County Public Health
2. Stacey Church, Norwalk Public Library
3. Carla Rospert, Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities
4. Rebecca Riley, Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities
5. Michelle Montvilas- FTMC
6. Dr. Kristin Kaple-Jones, Monroeville Superintendent

**AGENDA**

- Intro/Roll Call
- Review ODH rebranding and logo transition to "Ohio, The Heart of it All"
- CHC Logo (ODH) discontinued/ "NEW" HCPH CHC Logo
- 2023 Project Updates
- 2024 Planning
- Active Transportation Plan tracker updates/tracking
- ODH CHC site visit
- Group Discussion:
  - How will we determine our priority areas for the competitive cycle?
  - Would you attend a field trip to Avon County Culinary Literacy Center?
  - Video clip
- Q/A
- 2023 End of Year CHC Coalition Assessment Survey
- Survey Monkey link
- 2024 Q1 Meeting Information

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Huron County Creating Healthy Communities Committee met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, in-person for the 2023 Q4 Meeting. Kayla Johnson began the meeting at 9:32 AM. Kayla welcomed the committee members, started with roll call, six (6) total members were in attendance and reviewed the meeting agenda. This was the final meeting of FY23. Q4 program

and leveraged funding reports will be due on January 10, 2024. There is no December newsletter as there was a coalition meeting.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENT\*** Susan Hazel with Huron County Clerk of Courts announced her retirement at the beginning of October effective 10/30/2023 and Carla Rospert with Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities announced her retirement effective December 20, 2023, during the Q4 meeting. Kayla reminded members if they are planning to retire, change jobs within Huron County, etc., members can choose to remain on our coalition as a community member or they can contact Kayla with updated employment information. Susan wished to remain on as a community member and Carla is undecided at this time.

On behalf of the HCPH CHC Coalition I would like to thank both members for their time and dedication to helping improve healthier eating and active living in Huron County. Best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

**CHC REVIEW:**

Kayla reviewed the rebranding of ODH and the discontinuation of the original CHC logo including its replacement logo. She provided a general overview of the CHC Grant updates as per PPT slides. Kayla provided project updates for the 2023 and sustained projects per PPT slides.

**2023 project updates/comments:**

- Update: All (3) 2023 priority projects; Norwalk (Stokley Park), Greenwich (All-Huron County, Greenwich Reservoir Park), and Willard, (Willard City Park), will roll over as sustained projects for 2024 due to equipment shipping delays, and seasonal weather changes. Project will resume in the Spring of 2024.
- **Update: Norwalk Nourishing Community Gardens**
  - Idea Q3 meeting (Devin Pollick) – put information out in the garden – recipes specific to what is available in the garden and/or websites to direct people where to go for recipes using the items that are available in the garden.
  - Idea Q3 (Stacey Church) – add sticker/information in the blessing boxes advertising the garden’s address and availability of free produce to the public.
    - Kayla referred to the Q3 meeting minutes and utilized the remaining 2023 CHC funds to purchase items CHC members suggested to update and replenish depleted resources from the Norwalk Nourishing Garden.

Signage materials were purchased to create the recommended educational material above. Kayla mentioned group participation when creating signage materials once a 2024 garden planogram is created. This will be further discussed during the 2024 Q1/Q2 meeting.

- Idea Q3 – add heartier items to the garden to provide a barrier and allow produce to flourish longer.
  - (50) bags of raised bed mixed soil were purchased using part of the remaining CHC funds. The soil will be spread prior to the 2024 gardening season. The current soil level of raised garden beds is very low. This step is necessary to help aid in a flourishing garden next season. In addition to replacing the soil, Kayla used funds to purchase a composting system and an indoor greenhouse system that will be implemented within HCPH as part of a wellness/team building effort at the beginning of 2024 to help with the sustainability, lowering future garden cost, fertilizing, and starting plant starters for the 2024 growing season.
- Idea Q3 – adding herbs to the garden.
  - Some of the remaining 2023 CHC funds were used to purchase items to update and replenish depleted resources from the Norwalk Nourishing Garden. Kayla purchased herbs starters and an outdoor herb cart that will be implemented in 2024 growing season. Kayla plans to work with the Town and Country Garden club to start plant starters during the off season and transplant outdoors during 2024 growing season. This will be the garden's first time offering fresh herbs to the local community. Herb plants have not been selected and will be included in the 2024 planogram process.

Additional signage materials were purchased to create plant markers that identify whether things are ready to harvest or not. Plants being harvested ahead of time continue to be an issue with community gardens. To help with this issue, a DIY project was mentioned during the Q4 meeting and Kayla welcomed participation in helping brainstorm ideas on how to create these signs to place in each raised garden bed. One idea is following a color code system. For example, Green= Ready to harvest, Yellow- Almost ready, Red, not ready. This will be further discussed during the 2024 Q1/Q2 meeting.

**2024 SELECTED PROJECTS:**

Listed below are the (3) selected priority projects for 2024 grant year including their subsequent details 😊

**Norwalk Memorial Reservoir Park – Norwalk**

Discussion re: walking path size. It will be approximately 5ft wide. Should allow for space with someone using wheelchair, etc.

- CHC was asked to sponsor the cost for asphalt for walking path
- Current asphalt path is no longer safe and remains a hazard
- Cost of the sponsorship will be \$14,000

**Greenwich Reservoir Park 2 (NEW PARK) – All-Huron County**

CHC was asked to sponsor a portion of the cost for a new park to be installed on North Side of Park

- Small playground structure
- Surface material
- Protective Net
- Hydration Station
- Will provide safe play area for children on the North Side of Park
- Cost of the sponsorship will be \$14,000

**City Of Willard Park – Willard**

CHC was asked to sponsor the cost for one (1) all-inclusive playground equipment piece

- This would help reach the goal of completing the Kiddie Land renovation project
- Cost of the sponsorship would be \$5,000

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN TRACKER**

During the 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 presented the ATP tracker which included updates to members via PPT. Kayla will continue to

reach out to CHC members for ATP updates. A PDF of the tracker will be sent along with meeting minutes to members following the CHC Coalition quarterly meetings moving forward.

### **CHC 2023 RECAPS**

**CHC All-Project Meeting:** Kayla shared details via PPT slides of the final in-person CHC All-Project meeting that was hosted by ODH and PIRE (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation) in Columbus during the month of October 2023.

PIRE Team CHC Project: The goal of the project is to provide technical assistance, resources, and other learning opportunities to Ohio communities pursuing policy, systems, and environmental changes that increase access to and affordability of healthy foods, with an overall goal of decreasing food insecurity in Ohio.

Workshop Summary: CHC Coordinators from all over Ohio attended a hands-on workshop where they learned best practices in storytelling. Coordinators practiced their approach in a supportive environment with feedback from their peers. Coordinators gained confidence in their storytelling skills while also learning from the strengths of one another.

### **The Annual CHC Program Consultant Visit to Huron County Recap:**

During the month of October, Ohio Department of Health's Creating Health Communities (CHC) Program Coordinator, Mike Sieminski traveled to Huron County for his annual CHC site visit. While visiting Huron County, CHC Coordinator, Kayla Johnson led Mike on a tour to all the current CHC project locations including the 2024 project sites. Kayla started off with a meet-and-greet with staff and provided a walk-through tour of the Huron County Health Department and Nourishing Garden. Details and project updates were provided by Kayla during their commute. Mike shared his thoughts and feedback while visiting all the current project sites. Kayla shared details with members via PPT slides.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Selecting 5-Year Grant Priority Communities** – Kayla listed is the 2020 RFP for Priority Communities Selection 5-year grant cycle. The RFP for the new upcoming competitive grant cycle change. Kayla felt this will be a good start for us to get thinking ahead of time by keeping the provided variables in mind when selecting the (3) priority communities. Timeline, examples, and material references were provided during Q4 meeting. This information will be discussed during the 2024 Q1 meeting.

**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.

Kayla shared information and video on the Lorain Culinary Center and followed with an open discussion with attending Q4 members on their thoughts of potentially taking a field trip to Avon at some point. Questions asked:

- If yes, What month works best?
- Day of the week?
- Time of day? (morning or afternoon)
- Would you like to carpool with other members or just meet at the center?
- Reservations would be required
- What other feedback do you have? All members seemed interested and Kayla mentioned the option of car pooling
- Discussion re (Dr. Kristin Kaple-Jones), Monroeville Superintendent: Would we be able to attend and have the center host a cooking/learning demo? Kayla mentioned that she would reach out to Avon Culinary Center to inquire and that she believed that they do host those.
- Discussion re (Stacey Church) Norwalk Public Library: The Norwalk Library has the protentional expand very soon- Possibly a new building – which is currently being evaluated by architect in next few months.
  - Stacey has visited and toured the Lorain County Culinary Institute. She noted that Avon has a mini version of the Lorain culinary institute that would be something more that Norwalk would be able to do. The Norwalk Library currently has a mobile kitchen that they do kids cooking, programs are filled every month. Expensive piece is providing kids foods. Family Health Services has done adult programs and they have had events with chefs, etc. If things move forward as predicted this would likely be a 4-5-year project. Stacey is open to anyone who wants to partner on this project.

Kayla plans to include this information on the end of year survey for members to vote and leave feedback. Results of the end of year survey will be shared during the Q1 2024 meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

- End of year CHC Coalition Assessment survey: Survey Monkey link sent with meeting minutes following Q4 meeting.
- Competitive grant application will be due in early spring 2024
- Grant cycle will be FY25-FY29
- Starting October 1, 2024-September 30, 2029
- FY25 budget period is October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

No additional comment or questions, meeting adjourned approximately at 10:32 AM.

**ACTION ITEMS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Q4 Meeting:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 9:30 – 11:30 AM

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