



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Maryland's Local Health Improvement Coalitions: Success Stories from the Field

Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHICs) across the State are working to increase opportunities for physical activity, improve access to affordable, healthy food, and ensure tobacco-free living to improve the health of Marylanders and prevent chronic disease statewide. LHICs are helping communities, schools, worksites, health care and faith-based institutions to become places where healthier choices are easier choices.

There are ongoing LHIC projects in all 24 Maryland counties, many of which continue to be efficient and cost-effective. Through community partnerships and coalition support, counties are seeing impressive results and outcomes that have a positive impact on thousands of Marylanders. Below are highlights from the most recent LHIC quarterly report.

Anne Arundel County

Healthy Anne Arundel's Obesity Prevention subcommittee promoted "Make Health Happen," a unified marketing effort to increase awareness of health programs, activities, and events to the Anne Arundel community, including county organizations, businesses, schools, and residents. "Make Health Happen" has been addressing healthy eating and physical activity and encouraging access to healthy foods. As a result, the subcommittee notes a marked increase the number of farmers markets that accept electronic benefit transfer (EBT) from one to five, and coordinated community-based food providers to provide equitable access to food. Click [here](#) for more information about "Make Health Happen." LHIC priorities include: (1) Obesity (2) Mental Health (3) Tobacco.

For more information on Healthy Anne Arundel call 410- 222-7095.

Calvert County

Calvert Community Health Improvement Roundtable expanded offerings of low cost screenings, educational and awareness programs, along with partnering with 25 local churches across the county. The LHIC also worked on collaborative partnership to develop a plan and model to bring a Mammogram Shuttle to faith-based communities to provide preventative screening to underserved populations. Furthermore, Calvert is working to implement a Community Health Needs Assessment platform, which will allow all members of the LHIC to house data in one location as well as provide local trackers for programs and services.

For more information on the Calvert Community Health Improvement Roundtable call 410-414-4573.

Cecil County

The Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee's Drug Take-back program provides drug drop-off locations for unused prescription drugs designed to reduce prescription drug abuse. To date, 224 people have participated in drug drop-offs, 350 civilians have been trained in Naloxone administration, and 11 lives have been saved. Moreover, the LHIC provides mental health first aid training as a tool in combating and preventing suicide. Task Forces are well represented with partner organizations, community members, and elected officials. LHIC priorities include: (1) Substance Abuse (2) Mental Health (3) Access to Care.

For more information on the Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee call 443-245-3767.

Mid Shore (Caroline/Dorchester/Kent/Queen Anne's/Talbot)

The Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition created a 24/7 hotline to assure access to clinicians and link to community-based services, mobile crisis teams, mobile treatment teams and behavioral health first responders. The LHIC also has several grant opportunities in process to support LHIC efforts. Lastly, anti-tobacco curriculums that include social and print media campaigns have been implemented in county schools. LHIC priorities include: (1) Access to Care (2) Diabetes (3) Adolescent Health (4) Tobacco (5) Mental Health

For more information on the Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition call 410-778-2167

Washington County

Washington LHIC is training county law enforcement in elementary mental health knowledge to better manage behavioral health events. Mental health first aid training has been conducted for first responders and will be ongoing. The rate for people visiting the emergency department due to diabetes has improved. There were 4,000 less visits to the ED in FY 2014 compared to FY 2013. LHIC priorities include: (1) Cardiovascular (2) Diabetes (3) Mental Health

For more information on the Washington County LHIC call 240-313-3200



The State Health Improvement Process, and collaboration with Local Health Improvement Coalitions, is managed by the Office of Population Health Improvement in the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Click [here](#) for more information on the Office of Population Health Improvement and [here](#) for more information on the State Health Improvement Process.