



**Present:** Doug Logan, Ruben Peralta, Becky Kolln, Susan Leathers, Sierra Knutson, Meghan DeBolt, Martha Lanman, Katherine Boehm, Jessalyn W Bruce, Mike Denny, Don Ashley, Morgan Linder, Peggy Needham, Bob Waring, Samantha Bowen, Amy Osterman, Kathy Covey

### Welcome

- Morgan started the meeting at approximately 2:05 pm
- The purpose of the meeting is to update the group on progress in CHIP priority areas and Blue Zones efforts, inform on GCACH activities and funding available, and finalize plans for the Community Health Fund and Training funds available.

### CHIP Priority Areas

#### Blue Zones

- Meghan gave an update about the Blue Zones project. Based on the site visit in January which included community meetings and focus groups, Blue Zones provided a project proposal at the end of February with multiple durations and funding models. The planning committee is considering a 3-year project in which the first year would be run by Blue Zones and then transitioned to a local team. The team is currently working on securing funding for the project and have confirmed a 60-day deadline extension from Blue Zones to decide if Walla Walla will be a Blue Zones community. Meghan is working with the planning team for funder recruitment.
- Mike mentioned that there is a funding source for a recreation hub related to outdoor recreation and trails through the U.S. Forest Service that might be applicable to Blue Zones funding.
- Ruben said that in his experience with Yakima's Blue Zones considerations, they were looking at a \$9 million project and struggled with cohesive community leadership, which is one of Walla Walla's strengths.
- Benefits of Blue Zones include using a pre-packaged, evidence-based, branded project over a relatively short time-frame that can be embedded within existing systems. Blue Zones is well-timed to align with other community projects.
- Adventist Health through Walla Walla University is interested as a sponsor, but Adventist Health as a system is interested in pursuing a Blue Zones project, so the team is waiting to see how the situation develops before committing to helping fund a Walla Walla Blue Zones project.
- Don asked if GCACH could help fund the project. Meghan said that Carol at GCACH said Community Health Funds could be used if they applied to GCACH's specific workplan, but could be an issue as Blue Zones is community-wide and GCACH specifically targets the Medicaid population.

#### Behavioral Health

- Meghan gave an update about the Behavioral Health Task Force. The Task Force is strategizing on how to pursue a systems approach to meet behavioral health goals by utilizing local power and expertise. This will likely result in the creation of a Council on Behavioral Health with specific workgroups similar to the Council on Housing, but the Task Force will have a strategic planning session in May to identify the best method.

#### Housing

- Sierra gave an update about the Council on Housing and 5-year housing plan. Kathy Covey was just added to the Council on Housing. The Council is currently working on updating the 5-year housing plan



for the county, focusing on a more holistic approach than in previous plans. They are aiming to have a community summit in June and are working on engaging people with the Task Force.

### Early Learning

- Samantha gave an update about the Early Learning Coalition. The coalition identified four priorities before early learning was selected as a CHIP priority. The coalition is forming the following workgroups to focus on the priorities over the next few months:
  - Infant and Toddler childcare
  - Fringe Families – families that don't qualify for assistance, but still can't afford necessary services
  - Early Learning Hub/Unifying gathering place
- Walla Walla has been designated as one of eight Early Learning Communities in the nation, making our community a recipient of Technical Assistance from the National League of Cities. The next step in this process is completing a progress rating tool in may focusing on the 4 building blocks for an early learning community, which will be used to develop an action plan.
- Don asked how the Early Learning Coalition is addressing health inequity in their work. Early Learning is more of a social determinant of health inequity, but addressing racial, economic, and other inequities is engrained in the ELC's work. This includes work with multiple agencies on Advancing Racial Equity.

### GCACH Updates

- Ruben gave an update from GCACH. Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network Survey is an opportunity to hear from health care employers around the state about their greatest health workforce needs. GCACH is trying to boost response in our region, so they are working with BMRCHP to contact health care providers for information that will help GCACH allocate \$400,000 in scholarship funds to address gaps. Providers will receive \$100 from GCACH for each survey. Surveys take about 30 minutes to complete. Morgan will contact necessary BMRCHP members following the meeting.
- GCACH is collaborating with Pacific Northwest University to host a [regional summit](#) in Yakima on Opioid Use Disorder and Trauma-Informed Care on June 20-21. Morgan will send out more information following this meeting.
- In their semi-annual report, GCACH received 100% on reporting, resulting in funding for this area through 2021.

### Training Policy

- Morgan asked if there were any ideas on how to spend the \$5,000 BMRCHP has available for training. Katherine suggested something addressing Integrated Care for behavioral health and traditional settings. Morgan asked the group to email her suggestions as they come across relevant opportunities and trainers. Training Policy

### Community Health Fund

- The Steering Committee is finalizing language to send to Blue Mountain Community Foundation for selection of projects to receive Community Health Fund dollars. The deadline to submit is April 29<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the next pay period on May 5<sup>th</sup>. BMRCHP members will receive notification when applications are open.

### Announcements

- Morgan announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Parkways – Walla Walla in Motion event is seeking participants and sponsors, specifically those related to health. The event is on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2p-5p and



is intended to promote active transportation by closing streets to motorized traffic and providing activities, giveaways, and education. [Invitation](#)

- Peggy announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reach Out Suicide Prevention Walk on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p. Five high schools are participating, the event is all ages, and is not branded as an “Out of Darkness Walk” this year. [Eventbrite](#)
  - Bob asked about the effect of these events on trends. There may be nationally-available data specific to these programs, but there’s a observable increase in awareness, decrease in stigma, and change in phrasing used related to suicide.
- Peggy announced Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings on May 14<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30p-9:30p and June 5<sup>th</sup> from 9a-5:30p. [Flyer](#)
- Martha announced a Lewis and Clark Walk in Dayton on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. It starts at the depot, including dinner and a 2.5 mile walk with education about Lewis and Clark’s journey.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:08 pm

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

Walla Walla County Training Room

314 W. Main, Second Floor

Walla Walla, WA 99362