**UC AHEC Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – 09/19/2023**

Pat Achoe/UC College of Pharmacy, Deirdre Beluan/The Health Collaborative (sub. Tiffany Mattingly),Dr. Michael Dietz/HealthSource of Ohio (sub. Dr. Holly Binnig), Tina Dothard Peterson/UC College of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Bruce Gebhardt/UC West Chester Hospital, Jennifer Stewart-Hamblen/Brown Clermont Career Campuses (sub. Vicki Carrington), Yvonne Kaszubowski/Warren County Career Center, Beth Kress/Hospice of Hope, Jennifer Kroger-DeMichael/UC Blue Ash, Lois Mills, Chairperson/Otterbein Senior Living

Guest: Dr. LaToya Smith, UC Department of Family and Community Medicine

Staff: Sharron DiMario, Taylor O’Shaughnessy, Dr. Sarah Pickle

Lois reminded the group of its mission.

**Highlight From Activity Report**

Taylor reported that the AHEC Scholars, our national program for undergraduate and graduate health professions students has its full cohort of fifteen students for 2023, with nine students returning from 2022-2023. There was a record high forty-seven applicants for this year’s program.

Sharron shared that the Regional Behavioral Health Workforce is hosting an educator and provider ‘Learning Circle’ in early November in Lebanon. Educators and providers from the Dayton area will be included, along with the state’s two historically Black, underserved colleges – Central State and Wilberforce. This will be the first in a series. An invitation will be shared with the committee.

The Mental Health Addiction and Advocacy Coalition’s Northeast hub is reaching out to AHECs in the region to duplicate the success of Southwest Ohio’s effort.

Through the generosity of Interact for Health, UC AHEC has a license for the labor market information tool, JobsEQ. Staff will share a sample report with the meeting minutes. Deirdre shared that The Health Collaborative also has a license and will be reporting on healthcare workforce diversity data later this year. Pat asked to create a report on Pharmacy Technicians and Lois asked about long-term care facilities. Sharron will share those later this week.

**Group Discussion About Supporting the Aging Community**

Dr. LaToya Smith is with UC Health and the College of Medicine’s Department of Family and Community Medicine. She shares experiences from her fellowship and residency in Geriatrics. Aging touches everyone, personally and in organizations. She shared that COVID had a significant impact on seniors, and she found that seniors welcome home visits. However, there still is the fear of venturing out among some and this has created a loss of social networks, creating isolation and loneliness. She feels grateful to know and share about community resources. With her experience in the VA, which is a different model of healthcare delivery, patients could leave the office with walker, and a home evaluation system in place. The VA makes a substantial investment in supporting older adults. In addressing social isolation, the VA created a ‘buddy system’ that included phone calls to aging veterans from other veterans. She also lamented that older adults are marketed to by phone and mail which results in confusing healthcare messages.

The committee then discussed the following questions.

1. What are the **key challenges** facing the aging community today?
2. What are **some strategies** for addressing these challenges?
3. What is the role of **healthcare professionals** in supporting the aging community?

Beth told the group about a Hospice of Hope program called ‘Hope Transitional Program.’ This effort helps clients find resources for care for new diagnoses. This is available in Ohio and Indiana. A nurse-led program that is not billed, keeps patients engaged until they are able to live on their own. The program offers choices and sometimes a referral to palliative and bereavement care, with up to 15-18 months of assistance available. She is collaborating with Seaman and Maysville hospitals and re-creating the discharge packets to help with resource identification. Currently, they have about one hundred – one-hundred-ten patients. Jennifer gave a shout-out to Hospice of Hope because of her experience with care for her father. There are limited resources in Brown County, and few resources are available in rural communities. Her Southwest Ohio counterpart is Jessica Powell.

Lois shared the need for more geriatricians, as she sees this daily at their facilities in Southwest Ohio, Toledo and Columbus. She suggested the group read “Being Mortal” by Dr. Atul Gawande for an excellent overview of caring for the aging population.

Jennifer mentioned a community paramedicine program experience with her parents in North Carolina, where the providers said they would check on her parents weekly after a health scare, but that did not happen. She said the aging population is struggling with technology, computers and in rural areas, access to broadband. She said that her students also are experiencing this kind of feedback in their clinical experiences.

Tina said that just because there are multiple home care agencies, patients are not always able to access care. She viewed an online seminar today with the Senate’s Finance Committee and offered to share the broadcast with the group. Some of the highlights included reimbursement and the lack of respect for the role of home health care worker and how this also affects short-term rehabilitation facilities. She serves on the Council on Aging’s Advisory Council. Here is the link to the online seminar. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/aging-in-place-the-vital-role-of-home-health-in-access-to-care>

Dr. Smith shared how enthusiastic she is about career paths in healthcare and starting early. Deirdre offered to connect her with Health Collaborative staff, since pathway work is a core competency at the organization. Here is Dr. Smith’s email, smith4lm@mail.uc.edu

Dr. Smith also talked about home visits and how an interprofessional team performs in that setting. There might be an attending residency student and a pharmacist available by phone to discuss medications and talk to family members. There is a care manager or social worker to address food insecurity, and other social determinants of health. There might be a physical or occupational therapist available as well.

Pat mentioned how important getting food was and a recent out-of-town experience with her mother-in-law. She felt there needs to be a way to communicate directly with a caregiver and not the patient. She also mentioned the Kroger Wellness Event at the Banks on Friday and Saturday this week.

Deirdre said that the Health Collaborative is convening hospitals and health systems, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Healthcare Access Now (the community health worker hub) and the Council on Aging this week to discuss policies and procedures around social determinants of health> Starting in January 2024, every hospital patient is screened for them.

Some of the committee members suggested that a representative from Meals on Wheels be invited to a future meeting. Tina mentioned a colleague on the Association for Professionals in Aging that may be of help in identifying a contact and Beth mentioned that the Adams Brown Community Action Program also facilitates meals on wheels.

Dr. Pickle suggested that food insecurity be the December topic. Jennifer suggested that the UC AHEC organize a fundraiser as part of a community health fair and/or participate in an existing event. This could be accomplished over the course of the year. Dr. Pickle will also reach out to UC’s Integrative Health division to see if someone can attend in December to talk about ‘food as medicine.’

Dr. Pickle also encouraged the group to reach out to staff and each other between meetings.

**The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is Tuesday, December 12th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm by Zoom.**