



**Health
Improvement
Alliance**
of St. Joseph County

Minutes: July 18, 2019

Thanks to St. Joseph Health System for breakfast

Thanks to Gail Mancini for these minutes

Welcome: From Jim Baxter. Today's meeting discusses the Healthy Indiana Plan (Medicaid) Gateway to Work Program and changes that begin in July. Baxter stated this information is important for our Alliance because thousands of St. Joseph County residents rely on the Plan (HiP) to provide access to low cost, quality health care.

Gateway to Work Program: Jim Gavin and Elizabeth Crist Darby of the Family and Social Services Administration/Gateway to Work gave an overview of this program that is critical for access to care for thousands of St. Joseph County residents. Gateway to Work is a part of the Healthy Indiana Plan that connects HIP members with ways to look for work, train for jobs, finish school and volunteer. Some HIP members are required to do Gateway to Work activities to keep HIP benefits.

At the end of each year, the state will review members' participation in Gateway to Work Generally, Members need to be exempt or meet the required monthly hours eight out of 12 months of the year to maintain their HiP benefits.

Much of this reporting and determinations are administered by their health insurance providers, their Managed Care Entity (MCE).

In addition to requiring work/school/service participation, the required number of hours required will increase from 20 per month for at least 8 months to 80 per month for at least 8 months by mid-2020. Gavin described an active information campaign including social media and YouTube instructions that has successfully reached many clients to educate them about changes, new requirements, and an online system to log work/school/service hours. (Attached slides showcase the website and the particulars of changes in the requirements.)

Three **Manage Care Entities** specialists discussed Gateway to Work from their perspectives as the managers of the program, including the process of determining eligibility/exemptions and logging hours. The three urged Alliance members to help locate those who may not have received the communications but who need to participate. Each MCE has resources to work closely with individual clients, encourage literacy and wellness and clients to connect to other community resources. MCE representatives were Jessie Rockhill of CareSource, Joshua Santos of MHS and Jose Alvarez of Anthem.

Know the O Facts: Slides are attached regarding the Know the Facts program, which addresses the stigma of opioid use disorder. Jim Gavin briefly noted the program on behalf of Family and Social Services Administration.

Announcements and upcoming events. Event flyers are posted on the Alliance website and calendar:

Purdue Extension has two events planned regarding the opioid crisis. On Aug. 1, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., a meeting for parents of children and teens titled “Adolescent Substance Use: What Can Parents Do?” takes place in the St. Joseph County Public Library Main Branch Rockne Room. RSVP requested to 234-9604 or owestern@purdue.edu. On Aug 7 at 5:30 p.m., also in the Main Library Branch, “Protecting Our Youth: Hidden in Plain Sight.” Same RSVP info, or use <http://bit.ly/ProtectingOurYouth>.

The Kroc Center reminds us about two free programs, one on childhood obesity called FitKids360, and the Healthy Aging Initiative, which will partner with Real Services to sponsor the Silver Sneakers program. More information from Sarah_VanSickle@usc.salvationarmy.org, phone: 574-233-9471.

Continuing education for Indiana navigators will be from 10:30 to noon Aug. 2 in the Centre Twp. Library Branch. Contact Lauren Dietz Gorski of United Health Services at ldietz@uhs-in.org to register.

Harper Cancer Research Institute Open House is from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 26 in Harper Hall, 1234 Notre Dame Ave., South Bend. Opportunities include tours of cancer research labs.

The Alzheimer's Association's annual Walk for Alzheimer's is Sept. 15, beginning in Mishawaka's Central Park. The association offers free dementia education and can provide this service at many locations. Contact Lori Stock at lstock@alz.org.

Under a separate invitation, we will provide information about the FIMR Annual Report presentation scheduled for August 1 at 10:00 at WNIT. All members of the Alliance are invited to this important presentation.

Waldo Mikels-Carrasco encouraged members to submit data to the Alliance webpage while Jessica Brookshire reminded members to post their events to the calendar.

Please see our new website and calendar. If you have questions write or call me. Thanks for your participation!

jb