

## **Minutes of the June 16, 2021, meeting of the Upstate COVID-19 Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity (CARE) Panel**

The Upstate COVID-19 Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity (CARE) Panel met on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

The following were in attendance:

Mike Marling, Pickens EMS  
Dana Tate, New Horizon Family Health Services, Inc.  
Sue Veer, Carolina Health Centers, Inc.  
Angelique Jarvis-Simmons, Hispanic/Latino Advisory Committee Member  
Kandi Fredere, SCDHEC

Also, in attendance were members of the public.

Sue Veer, CARE Panel Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

### **Item 1: General Updates:**

- From Tim Womack, Appalachian Area Agency on Aging:
  - Have taken out two full page ads in “All About Seniors” magazine, one in English and one is Spanish.
  - Bought airtime on 4 different radio stations....30 second ads....102.9 – WGTK, 96.9 – REJOICE, 94.5 – THE ANSWER, and 103.3 – earth. I will contact WJMZ soon.
  - Taking 500 flyers to Meals on Wheels of Gaffney to go out with their home delivered meals.
- Received word that the Gaffney Ledger wants to extend the series of articles we were doing for a couple of more weeks. Union County saw the articles and is interested in doing the same. Could we suggest focusing on a parent/teenager to do a piece/testimony of why they chose to get vaccinated? Kandi will add to the list. The article that ran last week was by a local City Councilwoman in Gaffney that lost her mom to COVID. Had personal experience in how she went through the process of getting vaccinated. The articles included a good diverse group of people to pull into the conversation.
- Had event at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cherokee on Sunday. Angelique was vital in partnering with that church. Was able to vaccinate 23 people at that event. Our Medical Director was able to be there and provide medical advice.
- Sent out a one-page fertility FAQ regarding questions/concerns. That was in both English and Spanish. If you have other needs like that, let Kandi know.

### **Item 2: Direction of this Panel:**

- Some of the panels across the state have spread their meetings out more. We are at a place that the vaccine is allocated everywhere and now we are working on how to reach the hard to reach areas.
- This discussion has been energetic. See there is a purpose bigger than the pandemic that we could work towards as a panel. Possibly consider a broader shift, maintain a collaborative group to discuss health equity and other access issues in our region. Something that may be housed out of DHEC structure at some point.
- Take momentum that we have gotten in collaborating, broaden it then meet in 2 weeks for discussion. Open it to everyone on the panel to consider, if we broaden to a collaborative group, are there other people we want to invite and have more of a learning/collaborative group that meet for a broader purpose?
- Sue will draft an email, send to Kandi to share the consideration with the group.
- Like the idea of focusing more on a learning/collaborative. Kandi did speak with CO about a thought of shifting to health equity advisory panel. Will need to make a recommendation to DHEC. Need to phrase the recommendation as a two-way collaboration instead of an advisory panel - Health Equity Learning Collaborative.
- We can put something together with that recommendation.
- Encourage people to invite others that need to be included at the table.
- Have meeting in 2 weeks. We can have an update on the vaccination initiative and then a discussion on the health equity learning collaborative.

**Item 3: Tasks:**

- Minutes will be sent out and posted on the SCDHEC website.
- Send message out to panel regarding Health Equity Learning Collaboration

**Item 4: Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

- General Updates
- Discussion of Health Equity Learning Collaboration

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting  
Wednesday, June 30, 2021  
Via Teams Meeting