

## **Minutes of the June 2, 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 2, 2021 at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

The following were in attendance:

David Church, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System  
Trey Moore, MD, Abbeville Area Medical Center  
Tina Fowler, Primary Care of Union  
Mike Marling, Pickens EMS  
Juana Slade, AnMed Health  
Heather Goss, Access Health Mountain Lakes  
Sue Veer, Carolina Health Centers, Inc.  
Tim Womack, Appalachian Area Agency on Aging  
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: Cherokee Updates:**

- Had some efforts in Cherokee this past week. Did 1 of the 3 articles in the Gaffney Ledger. Dr. Stroud, retired physician will be highlighted this Friday and another community leader, Carol McFadden will be next Friday. Articles are centered around our experiences of being vaccinated and our personal story. Give an opportunity to tell our story and educate at the same time. In the process of translating the articles to Spanish. When finalized will send to Angelique to funnel out to contacts in community for Hispanic community. When we get access to articles, will send out to group.
- From that Cherokee group, had an email blast from the Chamber to companies in area wanting vaccine clinics. In general, in region clinics, the ones we are getting the more bang for buck is worksite clinics. Range from 15-25 vaccines provided. That's a good focus for us.
- Asked our legal office if they can provide talking points regarding liability if on site for worksite clinic. Worksite doesn't want to take on liability of vaccine clinic.
- Hoping next week to have one evening clinic at health department. That was an area of need for the community.
- Building foundation to provide education and hopefully increase our numbers.

### **Items 2: General Updates:**

- Seeing similar drop off in numbers for clinics. If we have no appointments do we go through to set up clinic for walk-ins or do we cancel? Struggling with that. Odd place for us to be in vaccine environment.
- Might be good to take advantage of congregations, take to churches where they are. One event coming up in Cherokee is a Catholic Church Family Fun Day, we will be there vaccinating. If you have opportunity like that, hard from a staffing standpoint, let Kandi know. We have staff willing to work on Saturday and Sunday and we can try and make that work.
- Partnership with breweries and State Brewery has agreed to work with their breweries for us to come in on Friday and Saturdays to do vaccines. Will be starting that in the next week. If you receive a vaccine you will get a token for a free beer. Hope to get the younger population.

### **Item 3: Outreach/Brainstorming Session:**

- Aging Center – will check with Senior Centers to see if they are willing to do a clinic at their center for vaccine. Talked with group at Gaffney last week, presented the information about Cherokee being lowest county in vaccination rate. Printed a lot of fliers to go out with home delivered meal programs. Fliers provides information regarding call-in appointment number, transportation assistance, and registration

assistance. We have not gotten the response expected. Kandi will send fliers being used by DHEC. If there is a group of individuals that haven't had access to the vaccine let Kandi know. We will figure out how to get the vaccine to them.

- Post and Courier did interview – what were the case numbers for COVID in Cherokee? Thought there may be a collaboration since number of vaccination rate is low in Cherokee County. May be where we are having an issue in Cherokee County.
- Angelique to work on a couple of parishes in Greenville County with large Hispanic community to see if they would be interested in vaccine opportunity.
- Kandi talked to Community Team last week. Will confirm the schedules for vaccine clinics are translated each week in Spanish. Will make sure the schedules are sent to Angelique to share.
- Has anyone got any feedback from organizations that have offered money or drawings? Incentive completed at 2 levels – cash bonus if vaccine taken by a certain date. When organization received 70% vaccination rate those vaccinated got another \$100 bonus. Employee Wellness Incentive – struggled to link to immunity in organization. Have seen the needle move slightly.
- If anyone has a great idea to share, share out to email group.
- What are radical rumors you are hearing? This vaccine will eventually wipe out immune system. Fertility and inserting GPS trackers are others concerns. Fertility issue – would love to see educational material on that. If anyone has good material or webinar on that issue, please share. Kandi to research that information. If we identify radical rumors that would help. If you hear anything like that let the group know.
- A couple of weeks ago, DHEC And SCETV did a Town Hall. Includes information regarding going out in rural communities and working with churches. Kandi will share that link with the group.
- Any feedback of other CARE Panels across the state? Variation across the state with input and activity. Impressed with our Upstate group. We are committed to the process to make sure we are providing as many vaccines as possible. The CARE Panels is a standing agenda item for the SCPHA meeting. Will share what others are doing following that next meeting.

#### **Item 4: Tasks:**

- Minutes will be sent out and posted on the SCDHEC website.
- Angelique to touch base with Greenville County parishes.
- Kandi to confirm vaccine clinic schedules are translated to Spanish and share with Angelique.
- Kandi to send fliers out to group regarding DHEC messaging.
- Kandi to send out Gaffney Ledger articles.
- Kandi to share link of DHEC/SCETV Town Hall link.

#### **Item 5: Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

- General Updates

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting  
Wednesday, June 9, 2021  
Via Teams Meeting