

**SC DHEC Pee Dee COVID-19 –
Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity Panels (CARE Panels)
Virtual Meeting
May 11th, 2021
1:00 – 2:00 PM**

AGENDA

Present:

Bruce Bailey, Alliance for Healthier SC, President and CEO, Tidelands Health
Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director
Sandra Gilliard, St. James Health & Wellness, CEO
Kelly Eaddy, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, Covid Operation Deputy
Amanda Heirs, SCHA Representative
Greg King, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region IT
Ann Lewis, CEO, CareSouth Carolina
Suzette McClellan, SCDHEC- Pee Dee Region Community Systems Director
Lesli McGee, McLeod Health, Senior VP Care Coord. and Home Care Services
Ruthie Odom, Director of Covid Operations, SCDHEC Pee Dee Region
Adam Parsons, Executive Director, Access Health Pee Dee
Dr. Nancy Ofendo Reyes, Nursing Professor, SC Commission for Minority Affairs
Dana Rogers, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, Secretary
Heather Shelton, MD, SC Medical Association
Brian Sponseller, MD, CMO, Carolina Pines RMC,
Emily Way, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, Covid Vaccination Lead
Sheila Welch, Director, Vantage Point, SC Department of Aging
John Williams, SCHA Representative

Absent:

Tom Crawford, MUSC, Interim CEO of Florence Division
Katie Dorrell, Williamsburg Rural Health Clinic, Practice Manager
Tim DuBose, Lee County EMS, Director
Chris Hardy, Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO
Rebecca Leach, SC Retail Association, Executive Director
Monty Robertson, SCHA Representative
Madie Robinson, SC Chapter of the NAACP

1. Welcome & Introductions

- a. Dr. Brian Sponseller, Volunteer Panel Chairperson
- b. Introductions of new attendees

2. Review Previously Submitted Recommendations (Jim Bruckner)

- a. Submitted a total of 6 recommendations to DHEC, most have been sent back to the regions to come up with an implementation plan.
- b. April 23
 - i. Focus on / target smaller events out in communities.
 1. DHEC has been doing this since last meeting, have had 26 small events. Of the 6984 vaccines available, only administered 2765, of 4262 1st doses during that period only had 308 new takers, of the 2722 2nd doses admin

during that period only had 2457 to show. Will continue to focus on smaller more targeted events

- ii. Increase outreach efforts targeting smaller communities and use of Community Health Workers/Outreach Workers.
 1. Will let Suzette address this along with the other similar recommendation re: Latino/Hispanic population.

c. April 27

- i. Some sort of outreach for vaccination to independent providers - to become provider or partner to provide vaccine at site.
 1. DHEC is looking at this, has not come back to the region with a response.
- ii. Latino/Hispanic outreach to identify places they frequent, grocery stores and others. Doing more farm worker / migrant worker events.
 1. Suzette- In process of hiring community health workers for DHEC to focus on targeted outreach and education to go out in the community. Have Community Health Educators focused on specifically COVID, doing community presentations, email education material, started with testing and now promoting vaccine and preventive measures in place. Gathered info on Hispanic outreach contacts throughout the region, listing of all catholic churches, doing a targeted clinic for Hispanic/Latino population in Conway church & Florence church w/school. Looking at media outlets to target these populations. Gathering information on the American Indian populations as well. Continuing to outreach with NAACP, Churches, and other groups to host vaccination clinics. Have some groups canvassing communities to get people out to the vaccine clinics as well.
 2. New Tool kit for local government & community-based organizations re: outreach information. Dana will send link via email to CARE panel members, already sent to the county administrators over the weekend. Has social media templates, posters, flyers, etc.
- iii. Determine a type of outreach for individuals that haven't returned for 2nd doses
 1. Something being worked on by DHEC Central Office, haven't hear back
- iv. Request Dr. Kelly to come to next Meeting.
 1. Working on this in the region, passed back to region to coordinate.

3. Panel Discussion

- a. Bruce Bailey – Call from a free clinic, the Hispanic/Latino community very concerned re: license valid ID to get the vaccine. That is a barrier, Tideland's doesn't ask for it, but the pharmacies were, so there is a lot of confusion in the community if they need a valid ID/license to get the vaccine.
 - i. Jim – There were some pharmacy's that did ask for that and other individuals asking for a DL, that has been passed up through the ACC to address, but can put in the form of a recommendation through this group back to them as well.
 - ii. Suzette- Will also be getting that information out to the contacts as well to make sure they know that is not a requirement.
- b. Bruce Bailey – Reading up on outreach, getting the information out to the communities is great but there is still a large amount of misinformation out there and large number in our community that is just not going to get the vaccine because they have read on the internet. Not sure what we do about that but there is going to be a significant majority of the community not going to get it because they read some crazy stuff. We will have to find some way to get past those barriers.
- c. John Williams (SCHA) – We are getting a lot of reports of fuel shortages in the different regions, especially the Pee Dee. Email will be sent out to hospital managers to remind / go over with staff as we see this may affect team member that didn't get the chance to fill up their gas tanks. Will include some recommendations on how to save fuel such

as carpooling, etc. Work force may be impacted. Engineers may want to top of storage tanks for generators. If not impacted currently it may at the rate it is going.

4. Comments from Panel or any requests from DHEC re: Pfizer changing age group to 12 y/o and up? (Dr. Sponseller)

- a. Ann Lewis – We have an association with 59 schools in the area, either for the provision of medical/dental/behavioral health services, still active relationship. Will be reaching out although late in the semester if the schools are interested. Still doing well child physicals in the mobile settings (not Moby's), will offer Pfizer, unfortunate the permission came late, since schools will be out for summer. But will still do an outreach with all 59 schools, hope there will be an interest. Will also use EHR to identify parents who have received the vaccine to reach out about their children.
- b. Ann Lewis – Had a lot of interest from the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, went out last week, the chief was very encouraging but only had 1 person to take the vaccine. That is very discouraging, but we will not give up.
- c. Jim – Will continue to push on the objectives, did meet last week with the partner coalition. A lot of the entities are pulling back from the large events due to very few takers at the moment. There are a few others along with DHEC & CareSouth that will try to do smaller targeted events. Encourage everyone to speak to the hospitals and other provider in your community that provide the vaccine to partner with DHEC in trying to get out in the smaller more rural communities. We are looking at different way from a community block party model – announce a week before and give out flyers, etc. If you know anyone that wants to partner we will be willing to work with them and continue to push forward.

5. Clarify Panel Recommendations for Submittal to DHEC

- a. No new recommendations. Will submit back to the ACC the Hispanic/Latino population's concern of needing a valid license or ID brought up by Bruce Bailey.

6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18th @ 1:00

7. Adjourn

Reminder: Regional data is available on the DHEC website at scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard. It includes heat maps; county and zip code level data; and other relevant factors. Requests for additional data can be made through the DHEC Panel Representative.

Note: In an effort to practice physical distancing, the proceedings will be available to the public via audio using the following call-in information: 1-864-558-7311 Phone Conference ID: 845 625 091#.