

**SCIC Zoom Meeting Minutes – 2/12/2021**

**Attendees:** Marianne Adam (PSU – Schuylkill) mta133@psu.edu

 Cathy Cortese (Nurse Family Partnership) cathycortesenfp@gmail.com

Cyndi Ebling (PSU – Schuylkill) cuf460@psu.edu

John Matz (Sch. Co. Emergency Mgt Agency) jmatz@co.schuylkill.pa.us

John Blickley (Sch. Co. Emergency Mgt Agency) jblickley@co.schuylkill.pa.us

 Mandy Fitzpatrick (Schuylkill County VISION) mfitzpatrick@schuylkillvision.com

Peter Auth (Seqirus) peter.auth@us.seqirus.com

Stephanie Mihailescu (PA Chapter AAP, PAIC) Smihailescu@paaap.org

Emily Schoettler (REACH Project) eschoettler@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Andrea Murray (REACH Project) amurray3@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

Jenny Wagner (Diakon Community Services) wagnerje@diakon.org

**Welcome – guests and members**

**REACH Project – Andrea Murray (Project Manager) and Emily Schoettler (Project Coordinator)**

* Slides were presented to introduce REACH Project initiatives:
* The REACH Project, the Penn State Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Project, is a CDC-funded program focusing on addressing health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities through evidence-based approaches related to nutrition, physical activity, and community-clinical linkages. Their team is based out of the Penn State College of Medicine and works specifically with Hispanic and Latino populations in Lebanon and Berks counties, PA.
* Part of their funding from the CDC is to address barriers and concerns about seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccinations among communities experiencing health disparities throughout the south-central to northeast regions of PA. For the 2020-2021 flu season, they developed an educational marketing campaign to promote flu vaccinations. The campaign focused on highlighting local community leaders and why they chose to receive their flu shots. Examples of materials they have produced were presented. Additionally, they worked with Latino Connection and Penn State Health to facilitate multiple pop-up flu vaccination events in Lebanon and Berks counties.
* Their team is currently developing an educational campaign around COVID-19 vaccinations.

Our Schuylkill County Immunization Coalition will be working with them to share the materials created and help connect community members with opportunities to get vaccinated.

* John M. recommended Stephanie Shirk from Penn State Cooperative Extension as a contact for the REACH project staff; she is involved with Ag Communities (southeast and wester Schuylkill) and link with hispanic migrant workers
* Mandy mentioned work with local Hispanic community through Healthy Shenandoah group and with past state work with Latino Connection

**Mass Vaccinations – John Matz**

* **COVID-19 Vaccines**
* The goal is to get vaccines into the hands of the organizations who need it the quickest; people are becoming frustrated trying to get the vaccine
	+ There is a limited supply; there is an uncertainty of doses we’ll be getting going forward
	+ PA receiving 43,000 doses per week (32% to Walgreens/CVS, 48% to other pharmacies, 20% to Healthcare Networks); LVHN – 6000 given, 3800 scheduled; St. Lukes – 6000 given
	+ County Stats: 10,285 persons received 1st dose, 4816 received 2nd dose
	+ Scheduling has been difficult; there is talk of a DOH web portal to help find locations; a website where people register and par out list to community partners may be helpful
	+ People will need to be patient
	+ A single shot vaccine in PA will make it easier
* Plan for New Vaccines
* Action moving toward people getting their own shots
* Provide small clinics or provide shots right on site (high rises, etc.)
* Sch. Co. Emergency Management Agency:
* For ages 75+: working with Sch. Co. Office of Senior Services, Schuylkill Housing Authority and Pottsville Housing Authority to coordinate vaccines for underserved communities; any age for persons with disabilities; they are working with STS for assistance moving forward
* Working with school district and IU superintendents to determine number of staff needing the vaccine; benefits of getting students back in classroom include better learning, use of school nutrition program and reporting of abuse
* **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – John Matz**
* Volunteers are being recruited to fill gaps at mass vaccination clinics
* 32 students from the LVHN School of Nursing are possible volunteers
* 2 MRC volunteers recently helped at St. Luke’s Miners Memorial Hospital vaccine clinic
* **Partner Sharing**
* Cathy (Nurse Family Partnership) noted that NFP is still providing services via telehealth
* Peter (Seqirus) mentioned that number of influenza cases has been mild this year; possible reasons for this are being studied; Seqirus taking orders for next flu season (demand is there)
* **Shared Materials – Jenny Wagner**
* COVID-19 Vaccine Site List
* REACH Project Flyers and Slides
* Veterans Flyer
* Vaccine Rollout Phases
* Vaccine Eligibility Quiz
* PAIC Updates
* **Action Steps**
* Jenny will send slides from REACH presentation
* Jenny will send email to Stephanie Shirk, connecting her with REACH Project staff

**Next Meeting**

* April 9, 2021 at 8:30 am – Zoom Meeting link to be sent

**SCIC meeting dates for 2021**

* 9 April 2021
* 11 June 2021
* 13 August 2021
* 8 October 2021
* 10 December 2021

**Websites**

The PAIC website can be found at: <http://www.immunizepa.org/>

The SCIC website can be found at: <http://www.immunizepa.org/schuylkill-county-immunization-coalition/>

The SCIC website can also be found by going to “Local Coalitions” tab on the PAIC website.