

Minutes of the April 14, 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, April 14, 2021 at 11:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

The following were in attendance:

David Church, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
Trey Moore, MD, Abbeville Area Medical Center
Mike Marling, Pickens EMS
Juana Slade, AnMed Health
Heather Goss, AccessHealth Mountain Lakes
Dana Tate, New Horizon Family Health Services, Inc.
Sue Veer, Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
Vipin Verma, MD, AnMed Family Medicine Residency Program
Tim Womack, Appalachian Area Agency on Aging
Caroline Brown, MUSC
Angelique Jarvis-Simmons, Hispanic/Latino Advisory Committee Member
Kandi Fredere, SCDHEC
Danielle Wingo, SCDHEC

Also, in attendance were Dr. Ed Simmer, SCDHEC Agency Director, and members of the public.

Kandi Fredere, Upstate Region Health Director, called the meeting to order and stated this meeting was posted through public announcement and was open to the public and will be recorded to be posted on the SCDHEC website.

Opening remarks were provided by Dr. Ed Simmer. He verbally thanked everyone for volunteering their time and input to this group. Vaccine has been a challenge and we need help in identifying locations that we need to go to give vaccinations. The need for the vaccine is there.

Item 1: Introductions/Concerns Made from Panel:

- Hesitancy of taking COVID vaccine. Concern with Janssen vaccine. Homebound, soup kitchen clients – trying to address in our 3 counties. Have peaked in people taking appointments, dropped dramatically in the last week. Awareness campaign and education is needed.
- Reached a good level of saturation in our community who are seeking us for vaccine, now trying to convince people to receive it. Good partnerships with home health to reach other populations.
- Have emergency services, fire/EMS/law enforcement that have been resistant in taking the vaccine. One thing to address with Panel.
- Targeted urban radio station campaign. May be a way through United Way organizations – have group that target AA groups, sponsor something. Targeted campaign to healthcare workers.
- Reduce vaccine resistance. Impact of the news coverage of J&J vaccine.
- Inpatient hospital vaccinations.
- Minority communities. Spread among young people. MUSC interested in working with colleges/universities for a campaign. Marketing – can we do campaign for Janssen?

Item 2: Introduction to CARE Panels:

Review On-Boarding Meeting:

- Panel meetings fall under the State's Open Meeting Rules
 - Meaning it is open to the media and public – since these are virtual meeting audio access will be granted to individuals wanting to listen to the meeting
 - Meeting minutes will be taken and posted for public access
 - Media and public can, when called upon, ask questions related to Panel activities (Panel needs to ID a spokesperson)
 - FOIA requests apply
- Purpose and Scope of Panel – What you are being asked to do:
 - Identify gaps in vaccine allocation and distribution across our region and make recommendations for deploying resources to fill those gaps;

- Offer recommendations on how to best engage underserved communities; and,
- Assisting in connecting community groups and leaders with vaccine providers
- **Panel Recommendations for DHEC – Vaccine priorities to be used in making recommendations to DHEC:**
 - Equitable access – rural/underserved communities are priority
 - Available vaccines
 - Identify, from provider standpoint, if there is a gap, and which provider are best equipped to help fill that gap
 - Need to be well-versed in the data – most current and comprehensive data available: vaccines already administered, vaccination rates by geography, race, age, income, or other relevant factors
- **DHEC Representative Responsibilities:**
 - Non-voting member of Panel
 - Helps facilitate the Panel meetings
 - Will transmit panel recommendations to SCDHEC based on a majority vote of the Panel membership present at the meeting

Item 3: Membership to Elect a Chairperson and Secretary:

- Secretary duties – manage meeting agenda, take minutes and post:
 - Notice – 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting
 - Agenda – on SCDHEC website
 - Minutes – on SCDHEC website
 - *All agreed to keep Angie Barker in that role.*
- Chairperson duties:
 - Point person for the region – Lead Panel Meetings
 - *Sue Veer selected as Chairperson and the Panel will identify a backup.*

Item 4: Frequency/Duration of Meetings:

- Frequency of meeting will be determined by the Panel. Based on need and what we think would help serve our region.
- No duration of meetings given. The Panel will drive that decision.

Item 5: Data Review/Update:

- Available on the DHEC Website which includes a Regional Dashboard (scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard)
 - Includes: Heat maps; county and zip code level data; and other relevant factors
 - Request for additional data can be made through the DHEC representative.
- Before next meeting, look through and review zip code data. Are there pockets by zip code that we need to consider moving forward?
- Need feedback – are there additional data that could be useful to this group? Are there things that will be informative to pull for the group?

Item 6: Task:

- Send out roster of Panel.
- Minutes will be sent out and posted.
- Doodle poll for next meeting and identify a reoccurring date/time.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting
Doodle poll will determine next meeting date
Via Teams Meeting