

## SC DHEC Midlands Regional COVID – 19 Community Assessment Review and Equity Panel (CARE Panel)

April 16, 2021 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Welcome** by Karen Hutto, DHEC Midlands Region: reviewed statewide meeting that occurred and noted the purpose of the CARE Panel: to offer consideration and recommendations. This meeting served as an onboarding meeting and all meetings moving forward are:

- open meetings
- IT available and will note # of attendees
- Meeting is “live” and public can listen in to the panel meetings
- Meeting minutes are open for public access

If the CARE Panel has a recommendation to provide - complete recommendation form and send to Karen Hutto – all members of the CARE Panel should have received the recommendation – if not, email Karen.

Chairperson and Secretary elected by panel members. Sue Shugart from Kershaw Health as the Chairperson and Lindsey Kilgo from Access Health Kershaw as the Secretary.

Jumped right in to discuss barriers and difficulties and/or success:

Gaps in vaccine, engage the underserved, connect with community groups, priorities (vaccine team at state house), view from an equity lens, allocating at the state level are some of the topics and ideas shared.

Discussed DHEC website – data available in various forms: [scdhec.gov/covid19](https://scdhec.gov/covid19)

Karen offered if anyone had any questions – none noted.

SC Reg/CARE Panels/Midlands guidance: Maps green / red dots. We noted the website not working – Karen to f/u with DHEC IT team.

Dr. Lisa Williams noted: Getting providers is a real barrier “lack of workforce”. Notes that people want it but providers not accessible. All DHEC giving vaccines.

Dr. Scott – Prisma Health, shared to have providers set up before vaccine set up – Dr. Scott noted 2 mobile units at end of May. Noted Gamecock Park – 345, 000 vaccines so far, you can get 3-400 with a mobile unit and 3-4k at Gamecock Park. Dr. Scott also mentioned utilizing the vulnerability index-

Karen mentioned Columbia Mall offering vaccines 7 days a week for 12 hours each day for the next 8 weeks. Seeing an average of 1k – Not seeing the numbers of people we’d like. Discussed they are providing transportation for free, bus stops to eliminate barriers.

Dr. Lisa Williams – Holloway provided an example of Beach Island where there is no transportation, need to focus on small pockets of rural areas.

Dr. Scott – Friendly promotions – social media – Grab and Go shot mentality – make it very easy and simple

Tricia Richardson asked question: “can volunteers put information in the system?” Karen noted if the providers are comfortable then yes.

Carolyn noted: The community health clinics are working to get folks vaccinated – has lots of ideas to share

Brett: noted that the vax locator not loading on DHEC website – Karen noted IT will check up and resolve; also noted EMS provider in Chester County and offering to reach out to support others in counties

Dr. Lisa Williams indicated NAACP working with state to set up clinics across SC

Sue Shugart inquired about the SCHA query and if that was available – Karen to follow up with Melanie Matney/SCHA.

**Discussed barriers:** as it relates to actual vaccine – heavily Moderna, 5-day exp. of vaccines is problematic; sites having large % of no-show rates, rural areas with needing 2 trips, storage is an issue, registration – no computers/emails.

It was again noted to partner ahead of time – load providers on the front end – clinic and providers

Sue S. noted the importance of telling the story of why the vaccine is important, building confidence, etc.

Lindsey Kilgo noted making the effort patient centered, education, advocacy – bringing in trusted members of those pockets of communities that need access to speak on those efforts – trust being a major barrier.

Carolyn noted areas of partnership opportunities: churches, bishops, fire dept, EMS, libraries.

Tricia to piggyback on Lindsey Kilgo – maybe hold Focus Sessions – keep it simple: offer education and the ask –

Karen asked for those recommendations to be completed by recommendation form and send to her by email.

Sue noted FEMA website

Connections occurred during today’s meeting across individuals and their organizations

Next meeting: Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Karen to set up meeting and share.