

**Minutes of the April 21, 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 21, 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
Mike Marling, Pickens EMS
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
Angelique Jarvis-Simmons, Hispanic/Latino Advisory Committee Member
Rebecca Leach, SC Retail Association
Kandi Fredere, SCDHEC
Danielle Wingo, SCDHEC

Also, in attendance were members of the public.

Sue Veer, CARE Panel Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Item 1: Recommendation Form/Data Review:

- Took conversation from last week and created recommendation forms for each. The forms have not been submitted at this time, wanted the Panel's input.
- Shared and discussed each recommendation form.
- Recommendation 1 – Data Gaps:
 - Have received data and request was to receive county level data and vaccination sites across the region. Received feedback from data group in Central Office regarding vaccination sites. Don't have historical data for all partners across the region. What we do have and can use is our VaxFinder website. Will pull up and see the clear picture of what has been entered in that website.
 - County level data discussed regarding zip code across the 11 counties. Data set as of Monday, April 26th. Took data for each zip code for completely and partially vaccinated individuals. Can ask someone to add another column for county/town that each zip code is in.
 - Shared demographic data. On website for state level, now have information for Upstate data. Data is by age and race. Requested for this information to be provided by county. Need definition of incomplete – seems higher than what we are doing.
- Recommendation 2 – Education Gap:
 - Education and information are very important for the community in general.
 - Council on Aging received funding to provide factual information regarding vaccination and COVID. Since Cherokee County is our lowest vaccinated county in the state can do brochures, commercials, billboards as needed to get the word out. Someone mentioned radio station, have spokesperson to get someone trusted – willing to put money out for this. Open to any idea on how to spend it. Any help we can do in Cherokee County would be beneficial. Most success is in the African American churches, go to them. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Meat Packing companies – both has a large Hispanic group. Angelique to see what is possible to do. Important that we have Spanish speaking doctor that can assist.
- Recommendation 3: Inventory Resources:
 - Identify how to collaborate for vaccination event. What do we need/recommend from DHEC to ease collaboration? Collaboration of many different providers, do we need to spell out in some way to quickly check to make sure we haven't missed anything?
 - See as a platform. Upload event that we can share the tools and event and tap into each other. More of a community online virtual bulletin board. Need to be mindful of requirements especially of larger organizations. Have a lot of hurdles and compliances we have to follow. Discussed having volunteers go door to door announcing vaccine clinics being held. The more grassroots the more effective it will be.

- Clinical staff – think through, from a system point, what are our barriers to reach the community? Need legal stuff organized beforehand.
- Work with mobile meals to get homebound. Called home care agencies to get vaccine to them. If someone has transportation issue, go to them. Have targeted stuff to reach out to certain agencies. Incorporate into regular visit.

Item 2: Ideas:

- Sounds like we need to have a “kick-off” in Cherokee County. ReGenesis has an office in Cherokee County as well as a migrant program. Need to think of the sub-set communities – Blacksburg and Gaffney.
- Simplify appointments for those that don’t want to go through on-line registration. SRHS has helped sign up about 11,000 people. Has dropped off dramatically. There is not excuse for anyone to not be able to get an appointment. With the vaccine supply in the state, if we can offer vaccine in doctors office now that would be beneficial.
- Sue to look for information from Town Hall she participated in last week and share with group.

Item 3: Other CARE Panels:

- Haven’t reviewed other CARE Panels information. Not sure of their discussion or meeting schedule. Sounds like they are on same kind of path as we are. Kandi to pull and compare notes.

Item 4: Messaging:

- If we have ideas do we have to get approval prior to doing? Education and messaging – if we want to work together and make suggestions, would be good to include DHEC communication department so we don’t duplicate messaging. There is an opportunity for us to collaborate with them. Kandi can ask what the best way is to do that.
- If we want to target Cherokee, would it make sense to have a meeting for those that are familiar with that area, include ReGenesis, Marlon Hunter, to get input on how do we reach those people? Bring in Spanish speaking doctor and get input and get real actionable suggestions. Kind of like a Town Hall Meeting. Sue to reach out to Marlon Hunter for input. Could possibly loop in County Administration and/or County Emergency Manager to assist as well as the Chamber. Those are the kind of people that we need to hear from on how we reach that county. Kandi to get Karen Fradua on this to get everyone needed at the table.
- Is there a designated ribbon color to create awareness of vaccination received? They can be custom made. Would be good if it can be recognized as a COVID vaccine color. Could be good messaging. Sue to send information to group and discuss during next meeting.

Item 5: Next Steps/Meeting Schedule:

- All are good to continue with 9am each Wednesday.

Item 6: Tasks:

- Minutes will be sent out and posted on the SCDHEC website.
- Agenda Item – Door to Door Outreach
- Sue – send link regarding ribbons, coordinate with Marlon Hunter.
- Will revise zip code data to include town/county and ask for a definition of incomplete vaccinated data. Will also send request for county data for complete/incomplete series. Will pull VaxFinder and send screenshot.
- Add recommendation be added regarding panel specifically for Cherokee County.
- Kandi to submit Outreach recommendation form.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting
 Wednesday, May 5, 2021
 Via Teams Meeting