

**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
Saria Saccocio, MD, Prisma Upstate
Juana Slade, AnMed Health
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
Mathew Logan, MD, Self-Regional
Sara Sears, MD, Self-Regional
Kandi Fredere, SCDHEC
Danielle Wingo, SCDHEC

Also, in attendance were members of the public.

Sue Veer, CARE Panel Chairperson, called the meeting to order. We are in uncharted territory. We are dedicated to reach folks that are in hard to reach pocket populations. We need to reduce vaccine hesitancy. Eleven counties are a big geographic area. We have a lot of grounds we are working in this group.

Item 1: Recommendation Form:

- Discussed process of recommendation form.
- Identify or describe any gaps in either vaccine allocation or vaccine utilization; Identify or describe where you believe resources may best be deployed to fill the above-identified gaps; Describe any recommendations you may have as to how DHEC may best engage underserved communities in our region; Additional comments or suggestions.
- This is meant to be wide open for us. We are certainly focused on COVID19 vaccine and getting vaccine distributed out. Up to the Panel on how we best utilize our resources moving forward and where do we move across the 11 counties.

Item 2: Data Review:

- Big question for the Panel – what additional data do we need to have on hand to make good decisions?
- Data presented is available to the public on the DHEC website (scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard).
- Provided overview of data information.
- Cherokee, Union, Laurens, Spartanburg are areas that will pop out on the map due to low vaccination rates.
- Would be helpful to have map categorized by race. Race and zip code will give us a better look at the opportunities to improve.
- Is there a way to overlay by county what vaccination events are going on? Who is already active in that space? That would give us ideas on where there are geographic gaps.
- Zip code data gives the state level numbers of what our population looks like for those that have received the vaccine. Population 65+ are most of the population we have vaccinated.
- From a trying to reach pocket populations, the raw numbers are not too helpful. Would like to see percentage data information instead of raw numbers.
- How do we need to make the data useful in the planning process? Break out county rates by race, age, etc. Ideal would be zip code level data. Overlaying the county maps in where we have had vaccine events.
- Would be helpful to work together instead of individual organizations.
- No data linked back to where population received vaccine.

- One inventory we want to put together, other public service events to marry vaccination initiatives – food banks, daily feeding programs (Meals on Wheels).
- Do we have a good inventory on how agencies are reaching out? We probably are missing ideas and opportunities to bring our work together. It varies across the counties. We need a data picture and a what have we done picture. Need a way to develop an outreach form to detail the services to have a good profile of what we are doing. Would have a better idea for a starting point.
- Events that are scheduled. Hope and request are last minute with communication/coordination since we are seeing a decrease in people showing up. Coordination and staffing are an issue. How many events and can they be combined? Is there an opportunity to pool staff and work together? Event directory and staffing pool. Would give a great message to the community of us working together.
- Is there a place on website for events to be posted so everyone knows what is scheduled? Is there a way to offer vaccination in the ER and/or hospital?
- Need to make sure we are covering the English proficient population. If there is a language need and no process in place, you need to be able to be responsive. That's another thing we need to think about at large events. Finding interpretation services at the time you need them is critical and sometimes challenging. If there is a way to connect with a digital vendor and have virtual equipment available for the sites where we may encounter LED patients.

Item 3: Outreach:

- What are our suggestions about vaccine promotion? How can we start getting to audiences that needs vaccine?
- Urban radio stations – they are well connected and engaged in the community.
- Black sororities and fraternities – the Divine Nine. Huge network that have initiatives going on in each group. Is there a spokesperson? Juana to find out who the spokesperson is. The names of the organizations are there if you search the Divine Nine.
- Concerned with logistics – transportation. Information is a concern – what is keeping people from getting vaccinated? Would be good for someone from DHEC to be available for live questions on a radio station. Would help answer questions for people that are concerned about the vaccination.
- We have adequate vaccine and are in several locations, but people are not getting it. Instead of one general campaign, focus on certain populations – women speaking to women, AA speaking to AA, etc. The spokespersons and message on those need to be both trusted and relatable. The responses need to be in common language, direct and specific to the target population and not so general in nature.

Item 4: Next Steps/Meeting Schedule:

- Would it be possible to continue with 9am on Wednesday for next week? Will put on the calendar and if it doesn't look like it will work, we will adjust.
- Have opportunity to collaborate beyond COVID. Hope it will grow further in Public Health for everyone.

Item 5: Tasks:

- Minutes will be sent out and posted on the SCDHEC website.
- Will compile information discussed and put forward on a recommendation form.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Scheduled Meeting
 Wednesday, April 28, 2021
 Via Teams Meeting