

Annual Community Forum Held on May 7

Westminster, MD – (May 14, 2018) – The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County hosted the annual community health forum known as *We're On Our Way* on May 7, 2018, which was attended by 80 community members and representatives of key local organizations. Participants represented organizations such as Carroll Hospital, the Carroll County Health Department, social and human services organizations, banks, schools, businesses, government, Boys & Girls Club, and local NAACP branch.

The results of the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment for Carroll County were presented during the 2-hour program, which included the priority issues identified for improvement. To follow up on the Assessment, local leaders in health - Carroll Hospital, the Carroll County Health Department, and The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County - have collaborated on a written plan that addresses diabetes, cancer, heart disease, behavioral health, and substance abuse in the Carroll community.

Aliana Havrilla, a Community Coach with the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, presented the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* "Take Action Cycle" and excerpts from the 2018 County Health Rankings Report for Maryland. Havrilla gave the rationale and resources for cross-sector collaboration, highlighting the resources available on the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* web site. She also led an audience participation exercise in which attendees shared responses to several community-engagement questions. Attendees discussed current local initiatives and opportunities for continued collaboration.

Dorothy Fox, Executive Director and CEO of The Partnership, described a new "Collective Impact" model for community health improvement consisting of a *Common Agenda, Shared Measurement System, Mutually Reinforcing Activities, Continuous Communication*, and a *Backbone Support Organization*. Information shared during this program was designed to give the audience a common understanding of the steps required for progress in community health.

An inspiring video profile of the 2018 *Culture of Health Prize* winning community Vicksburg, Mississippi was shown as part of the program. Attendees received copies of the 2018 Maryland *County Health Rankings* report, and detailed data for Carroll County. It was noted that Carroll County is ranked #3 for Health Factors and #3 for Health Outcomes out of all 24 ranked jurisdictions in the State of Maryland.

Attention was called to the many additional data resources available on The Partnership's web site, HealthyCarroll.org. As part of the event's final call to action, audience members were invited to "Take Part!" in creating a healthier Carroll community, by signing up online or via a printed form.

For more information contact The Partnership at ThePartnership@HealthyCarroll.org, 410-871-7645, or visit HealthyCarroll.org.



PHOTO CAPTION: Left to right – Rebecca Herman, Grants Manager, The Partnership; Lisa Wack, Director of Community Health Improvement, The Partnership; Aliana Havrilla, Community Coach, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; Dorothy Fox, Executive Director and CEO, The Partnership

*The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc., an affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center and the Carroll County Health Department, is a private nonprofit organization working to improve health by **connecting people, inspiring action, and strengthening community.***

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