

DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative Minutes:

June 9th, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm

I. Welcome from DOH & Land Acknowledgment- Fathiya Abdi

- **Introduction to youth facilitator - Lynese Cammack, Pierce County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Chapter**
 - Our youth council focuses on leveraging young leaders and providing us the ability to build advocacy skills and celebrate our talents while dismantling racism and accelerating changes. We currently partner with local organizations including the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance to coordinate and hold pop-up vaccine clinics in Black communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Our vaccine engagement work centers community by building partnerships with trusted community leaders to empower community members and ensure we are meeting the community where they are.

II. Progress Updates – Lynese Cammack

- **Mask Guidelines Update - Dr. Bob Lutz, DOH State Medical Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases**
 - The CDC came out with new mask guidelines indicating vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks or face coverings both indoors and outdoors. Although we have no way of checking in on people and asking whether they are vaccinated, we hope that people will do the right thing. We are encouraged by our vaccination rates picking up, especially in our BIPOC communities. The take-home message is that these vaccines are effective and safe for all ages, and we encourage all to get vaccinated and encourage others to get vaccinated. Governor Inslee has stated that June 30th is the expected date for the state to fully open - stay tuned for further updates.
- **CDC Investigation Heart Inflammation in Youth – Kathy Bay, DOH Clinical Quality, Epidemiology and School Section Manager**
 - We are investigating cases of myopericarditis in youth following COVID-19 vaccination. Myopericarditis is the combination of myocarditis, heart inflammation, and pericarditis, an irritation or inflammation of the sack of tissue that covers the outside of the heart, in youth. These cases have been identified through health care providers, the work we have done in Washington assessing emergency room visits and looking for an association with vaccines, and through the CDC as part of the work that's done around vaccine safety. We are looking at which vaccine an individual received and how long between the time of when they received it. We are considering these cases to have a temporal association, meaning that there is an association between cases in terms of times of onset, but these cases are not necessarily caused by the vaccine at this time. As we do more investigation in this review, we'll have more information.

to collaborate with community partners, local health departments, and engage local folks where we can.

- **Community Question:** *How many vans does the Care-A-Van have?*
 - **Answer:** We have at least four vans right now. Depending on the needs, that may change in the future. The more advanced notice we have for events, the higher likelihood we will be able to meet the request.
- **Community Question:** *Will Care-A-Van serve youth experiencing homelessness?*
 - **Answer:** Yes! if there is an event you would like the Care-A-Van to attend, serving people unhoused - please fill out a request: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine/CareA-Van>
- **Community Question:** *What kind of vaccine is Care-A-Van providing?*
 - **Answer:** The type of vaccine will depend. You can indicate this in the request! Vaccine type will also depend on LHJ; we are currently coordinating closely with LHJs. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine/CareA-Van>
- **Community Question:** *Is there a maximum number of people the Care-A-Van can serve?*
 - **Answer:** The estimated amount of people at your event can be indicated on the request form and Care-A-Van will take this into account. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine/CareA-Van>
- **Community Question:** *Is DOH calling individuals and offering to vaccinate at people's houses?*
 - **Answer:** The Care-A-Van is separate from homebound vaccination service access. If you are unable to leave home to get the Covid-19 vaccine, homebound vaccination services are available. If you know of someone or you need homebound vaccination services due to a medical or behavioral health condition or have a physical or intellectual disability preventing you from getting vaccinated in the community, or require special needs accessible transportation, homebound vaccination services are available. The Washington State Department of Health and many local health jurisdictions already have mobile vaccine teams out in the field providing homebound vaccination services to those otherwise unable to get it. These teams are working together to help connect individuals across the state to available supports. If you need homebound vaccination services or know of someone else who needs this service, please see options below.
 - Call your [local health jurisdiction](#) to get homebound vaccination services.

- Call the [State COVID-19 Assistance Hotline](#) to let them know you need homebound vaccination services. Dial 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816, then press #. Phone interpretation is available.
- Use the survey link to complete a registration form to link you to available County and/or State Mobile Vaccine Teams who can provide or arrange for homebound vaccination services. Survey Link: https://redcap.link/WA_HomeBasedVax
If you have questions about this service, please email: covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov.
- Additional Care-A-Van FAQs can be found here: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine/CareaVan>

III. Panel Discussion: Youth Engagement and Vaccine Access

- **Tristan Holmes**, Youth Action Committee; Northwest Youth Services
 - **Question:** *Youth are essential partners in our vaccination efforts in that they project a powerful voice, provide critical insight, and can mobilize their peers. What are some successful youth empowerment strategies you have incorporated and/or seen in vaccination efforts?*
 - **Answer:** At Northwest Resources, we have found that a good way of engaging youth is to offer transportation to different pop-up sites around town. Not only listening to the youth, but hearing their concerns and needs around getting vaccinated, as well as looking at it from the lens of unhoused youth.
 - **Question:** *What are important access issues to consider to ensure that we reach all youth? For example, unhoused youth and unaccompanied youth tend to be missed through many traditional engagement channels.*
 - **Answer:** A lot of youth have started to trust the vaccine more as they have encountered people who have been vaccinated and nothing bad happened. But to get vaccinated, I might have to go out of my way and not get a meal that day. I might not be able to rest during the time that I would normally be able to rest. Organizations like Northwest Youth Services are looking at ways to compensate youth who have been vaccinated, such as through gift cards, to incentivize them to get vaccinated.
 - A lot of the vaccine hesitancy in youth comes from a lack of trust in government and the medical establishment, especially from BIPOC youth who are queer and trans. This entire year we have seen a lot of anti-trans health care laws passed, which is scary. For folks who are already disabled and seeing discriminatory legislation passed, it has caused people to not trust the government.
 - **Question:** *In some cases, youth are overlooked or inadvertently left out of critical health-related conversations. And, yet, engaging youth, their*

parents, and guardians is critical in ensuring that they feel comfortable that they are getting a safe and effective vaccine. How are you engaging youth in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?

- **Answer:** Right now, there is a lot of misinformation out there on social media. Most youth do not have cable and get their information online through Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube. Having to meet youth where they are at doesn't just end in person, but it continues on the internet. Most youth are not going to trust the government, but they are going to trust people that they have built a rapport with and that care about them. Youth are not going to listen to a random person that they have no connection to.
 - **Lynese Cammack:** I agree, I am 18 and I see most of my information on Instagram. It's very easy to lose some of the credibility in this information.
- **Zaira Hernandez, Youth Expert; REACH Tacoma/ACT Program**
 - **Question:** *What are important access issues to consider to ensure that we reach all youth? For example, unhoused youth and unaccompanied youth tend to be missed through many traditional engagement channels.*
 - **Answer:** From my perspective, we are really concentrating on getting youth vaccinated, but as a youth who has struggled with unstable housing, getting vaccinated is not the first thing that comes to mind. We are trying to survive and put food on the table. The vaccine isn't something that doesn't feel mandatory to us and we have to go out of way to actually get a vaccine. And sometimes even scheduling an appointment with a nurse or a doctor could be overwhelming especially when the nurse on the phone is rude and you don't have medical insurance. As a youth who is scared to get the vaccine, I want to see more data and information before I get vaccinated. There is a history of lack of trust within the medical field and vulnerable populations.
 - And from hearing the heart inflammation problems going on with the vaccine makes me a lot more discouraged to want to go and get vaccinated. For one, I do not have medical insurance. And second, I'm considered overweight. I already owe money from just getting tested for COVID, so I don't want to go through the trouble of getting vaccinated right now. I think I'm going to wait until we have more data and results from the vaccine before I get vaccinated. Youth are more scared of getting the vaccine than actually getting COVID.
 - **Question:** *How are you engaging youth in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?*
 - **Answer:** I know there are a lot of commercials and daily news regarding the vaccine, but some of us barely have time to do basic things after work such as napping or cooking. We are not going to sit and watch or read the news. We are checking

outlets like Facebook or Twitter. Perhaps using these outlets to promote accurate data about the vaccine would reach youth.

- **Devon Isakson**, Program Manager; REACH Tacoma/ACT Program
 - **Question:** *What are some successful youth empowerment strategies you have incorporated and/or seen in vaccination efforts?*
 - **Answer:** We engage youth through representation. We make sure our outreach specialists that engage youth in services are diverse and representative of the community that we are trying to serve. Another successful strategy has been to have youth compensated to do the outreach work and education. The more you are employing youth to work with you, the more successful you are going to be.
 - **Question:** *What are important access issues to consider to ensure that we reach all youth? For example, unhoused youth and unaccompanied youth tend to be missed through many traditional engagement channels.*
 - **Answer:** I think meeting youth where they are is the main point to consider when reaching all youth. One of the best methods to reach youth is through word of mouth. If a young person feels supported in what they received, they will tell their friends and pass on their trust to their friends, and their friends will then be comfortable approaching you for services.
 - A lot of young people are more afraid of getting the vaccine than they are of getting COVID.
 - **Question:** *How are you engaging youth in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?*
 - **Answer:** I agree with the idea of compensating youth to incentivize them to get vaccines. There is a lot of emergency funding out there right now, and writing a grant to compensate people to get a vaccine would be a really cool thing to do. And I think gearing vaccine events to reach youth. I think the Care-A-Van is a great idea to tie into a youth advocacy event.
 - I also wanted to add that we are using antiquated ways to get messaging out about vaccines that we expect young people to have access to. For example, young people don't have cable. Young people watch YouTube. Right now, youth are not getting information about vaccines from sources they have access to.
- **Lylia Nichols**, Pediatric Nurse; Integrated Wellness
 - **Question:** *What are some successful youth empowerment strategies you have incorporated and/or seen in vaccination efforts?*
 - **Answer:** One of the big things that we highlight when we are vaccinating youth is empowering them by giving them a voice, allowing them to be heard, and also allowing them to give objections or rejections if they have them. We also want to allow space for rest, questions, or rebuttals.
 - **Question:** *What are important access issues to consider to ensure that we reach all youth? For example, unhoused youth and*

unaccompanied youth tend to be missed through many traditional engagement channels.

- **Answer:** I would just reiterate that you should meet the youth where they are and try to reach them throughout the community.
- **Question:** *How are you engaging youth in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?*
 - **Answer:** We need to empower our youth and provide them with the tools they need to understand the issues we are talking to them about regarding the vaccine and the pandemic. We need to talk to them in a language that they understand, not from a medical perspective. As a pediatric nurse, I can talk to youth at a level they understand without taking away from what I am trying to explain, and I won't stop until all questions are answered. An open forum could be beneficial for youth to discuss their feelings around the vaccine in a safe space, an open transparent outlet for youth to ask questions can empower them to make their own decision about getting a vaccine.
- **Annie Hetzel**, School Health Services Consultant; Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - **Question:** *What are important access issues to consider to ensure that we reach all youth? For example, unhoused youth and unaccompanied youth tend to be missed through many traditional engagement channels.*
 - **Answer:** One of the things I wanted to mention that I think is really important is that there is the McKinney-Vento Law that allows school nurses and school counselors to provide consent for minors who are unhoused. This law is an important resource that we have tried to highlight in recent communications with school nurses out there because not everyone knows the law. We have given some advice to school nurses that when they do sign a consent for youth that wants to be vaccinated, or anything else covered under the McKinney-Vento law for students who are unhoused, to bring copy of the law along with the consent form. It is important to note that this law covers some unhoused youth, but does not cover the part of this population that does not attend school.
 - **Question:** *How are you engaging youth in COVID-19 vaccine efforts?*
 - **Answer:** While I have not used any of these strategies, it has been my experience that being available to answer questions in an honest and nonjudgmental manner engages youth more.

IV. Panel Q&A – Passia Abraham

- *Which sources would you trust to get this information out to continue to push the vaccine?*
 - **Zaira Hernandez:** One of my favorite news outlets is through TikTok. For example, I didn't know we were getting the second stimulus until some

- guy on TikTok made a video. After work we are really tired and we like to look at short videos on TikTok or a screenshot of a good news article.
- **Tristan Holmes:** If someone screenshots an article and puts it on TikTok, Twitter, or Instagram, I am more likely to get actually get the information than if I click on an article and I'm being forced to read. I also have ADHD and reading can be hard. It's not necessarily what sources you trust but what sources you are willing to let in when you have a billion sources that are vying for your three-second attention span.
 - **Lynese Cammack:** It sounds like DOH needs a youth-led TikTok account.
 - **Community Question:** *Regarding the mask regulations, I'm a bit hesitant about these changes because some people that are anti-vax are also anti-mask. Additionally, we don't know how long the antibodies that the vaccination has provided will last. And at the start of the pandemic, the CDC was wrong about masking. So, I am hesitant to go back to normal and not use a mask anymore.*
 - **Annie Hetzel:** There is a personal choice about what level of risk you are willing to take. There are times and places where I still wear mask such as going to the grocery store. If I'm in a crowd, I will continue to wear a mask. We are allowed to continue wearing them. I feel like going outside is relatively safe. I would recommend just continue to make the choices that work best for you as much as you can.
 - **Community Question:** *One of my main concerns is while it's important to educate and provide accessibility and resources to those that do want to get vaccinated, I am concerned about those that have not decided to get vaccinated and what that looks like in terms of segregation of non-vaccinators and vaccinators. And this isolation that's been built up around the push to get people vaccinated. I was wondering if any of the panelists can touch on how you're creating a safe space for those that have not decided to get vaccinated or who may have only gotten their first shot.*
 - **Devon Isakson:** As a service provider, we are going to continue to wear masks around our clients. We are going to do that to honor the fact that they may or may not choose to get vaccinated and because we are in social services and are protecting our clients.
 - **Tristan Holmes:** From what I have heard at Northwest Youth Services, staff is continuing to wear masks around young people seeking services. And we have forms you can sign if you have been vaccinated to not wear a mask in the office space where staff work away from youth. In circumstances where there are a lot of unvaccinated people, a lot of people are still choosing to wear masks. It is a huge transitional period.
 - **Community Question:** *Have the panelists witnessed or experienced issues related to consent for the vaccine if a young person is not connected to their parents or guardians and are also not enrolled in school?*
 - **Annie Hetzel:** There is another law, the Mature Minor Law, where people can ask questions of a young minor and establish that they are mature enough to make their own decisions. This process is voluntary so not all of the clinics and health care providers will do it. We have

had discussions with DOH to create a list of those providers that will do that and to hopefully encourage other providers to do the same so that those who are unhoused, but not connected to a school, can also consent for themselves. It is more cumbersome for the providers and it isn't as easy as having a school nurse or counselor do it.

- **Tristan Holmes:** I have also heard of some youth going around loopholes where some people who are staying with families, such as foster care families, go through that family to try to get vaccinated.
- **Community Question:** *How can advocates help ensure McKinney-Vento liaisons, school nurses, and counselors help with vaccines and consent over the summer?*
 - **Annie Hetzel:** A lot of school staff are incredibly burned out right now and many of them need to take a break for part of the summer. But, a lot of districts are doing summer school so there is a possibility for staff to help with these consents. It is a matter of calling up the district or school and asking if there is someone available to provide these consents.
- **Community Question:** *What kind of incentives would be reasonable and attainable among youth to get a vaccine?*
 - **Tristan Holmes:** With Northwest Youth Services, we just got funding to give gift cards to youth. I struggled with food insecurity and other financial insecurity during the pandemic, so money is a good incentive. Summer is coming up and a lot of people don't have their summer wardrobe so potentially a clothing exchange. I recommend talking to people in your community to see what types of incentives they would like.
 - **Devon Isakson:** At my agency, REACH, we usually do a cash transfer through PayPal.
 - **Lylia Nichols:** We are offering Visa gift cards to the first 50 youth for an upcoming vaccine event.
- **Community Comment:** *I really appreciate this discussion about differences of opinions on vaccines. I also appreciate the vulnerability you all have in talking about the struggles of being in the system, being homeless, not having health insurance, or having a hard upbringing. It is not easy to figure this stuff out and it has been such a great meeting for me to be a part of.*
- **Community Question:** *What is the best way to distribute information through apps such as TikTok?*
 - **Tristan Holmes:** I think having a variety of ways of sharing information is good and also beneficial for your reach on the TikTok algorithm. Such as looking to see which audios on TikTok are most commonly used and combining the trends with your information.
 - **Zaira Hernandez:** To catch the eye of the youth, you have to be really funny. Don't scare us with too much information, but provide enough information.
 - **Lynese Cammack:** There are sounds on TikTok that are trending that you can use in your videos. On other social media platforms, you can think about reaching out to Snapchat or Instagram advertisements. Most youth do not use Facebook.

V.Closing Remarks - Passia Abraham

- Thank you to our panelists, facilitator, interpreters, and captioners!
- Please share your feedback about the Collaborative through this [survey!](#)
- Feel free to reach out and contact us at: vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov