



Insights for the Quarter

Share Health continues its mission by partnering with the Southeast Health District to support the 16 counties by providing resources and improving healthcare access to make communities healthier. Recently, the new Administrative Liaison, Kristie Quick, joined the organization. Phone calls and email contact continue to be made to community partners to determine if any PPE items (masks and hand sanitizers) are needed. Weekly social media posts continue around COVID-19 education and prevention. Recently, PPE items were distributed to three partner organizations, Pierce County Food Bank, Candler County Action Pact Senior Center and Southeast Georgia Communities Project. This month's newsletter for the Share Health Board of Directors focuses on health education, social media posts, introducing Share Health staff and the new COVID-19 contract. Additionally, updates will be provided on events the coalitions have and will be hosting as they work to accomplish their mission. Find more information about everything Share Health has going on lately below!

Share Health Staff Highlight *Dwight D. Williams Jr., MA*



Share Health's Staff Highlight is our very own, Dwight D. Williams, Jr. Dwight is Share Health's Data Analyst. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida. Dwight is the fiancé of Ailyah Mateen and the father to two sons, Dwight III and Drew. Currently obtaining his DrPH in Public Health Leadership at Georgia Southern University, Dwight obtained his B.S. in Public Health at the UNC-Greensboro and a M.A in Administration at Barry University. He enjoys dates with his fiancé, spending time with his two sons, sports, fishing, and traveling. Dwight's grandfather, Prince Phillips, Sr., was born and raised in Graham, Georgia. Family reunions in Appling County have been an annual tradition for his family all of his life. A fun fact about Dwight is that he is an aspiring Appling County farmer. He has been working the last few years to develop some family land he has in Appling County into an organic farm. If you have or know anyone that may be able to mentor or assist him through this process, it would be greatly appreciated. The farm is called Mother Earth Organic Farm and the website is www.motherearthorganics.org. His life goal is to establish a farm-to-store operation that provides communities in rural areas recognized as food deserts with quality and accessible sources of organic and non-GMO fruits and vegetables. "Appling County has had a tremendous impact on the person I have become today. My family and friends in Appling County have been a huge support. With my involvement with Share Health and the coalitions, I look to pay this support forward, and attempt to impact the people and communities in Appling and surrounding counties the same way they have my family."

Share Health Updates

Share Health was awarded a COVID-19 Health Equity Navigator contract from the Southeast Health District in January. The goal of this contract is to identify the root causes of vaccine hesitancy. COVID health navigators will be hired to conduct community outreach to educate and promote vaccinations throughout our 16 county-area with a focus on underserved populations including migrant farm workers. Focus groups, community questionnaires, and interviews will be conducted monthly to determine those root causes and garner the community's perspective on the COVID19 vaccine. Additionally, through this contract, Share Health will provide information on accessing tests, testing locations and vaccination sites in addition to providing PPE to community partners. Share Health will be partnering with Southeast Georgia Communities Project in Lyons, Georgia. This organization has a 25-year history of providing outreach and education to migrant and seasonal farmworkers in southeast Georgia.



Past and Upcoming Coalition Events

Jeff Davis Substance Abuse Coalition (JDSAC)

JDSAC is working to submit the Drug Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The DFC Support Program has two goals: 1) Establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, public, and private non-profit agencies, as well as federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions working to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth (individuals 18 years of age and younger); and 2) Reduce substance use among youth and, over time, reduce substance use among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. The Coalition decided to address alcohol and nicotine use in the first year and add prescription drugs and marijuana use in the third year of the grant. The grant requires the involvement of 12 sector representatives including: youth; parent; business; media; school; youth-serving organization; law enforcement; religious/fraternal organization; civic/volunteer groups; healthcare professional; state, local or tribal government agency; and an organization involved in reducing substance abuse. All 12 sector representatives have been recruited and secured. The grant awards up to \$125,000 per year for up to five years, with an option to reapply for an additional five years.

Wayne County Recovery Coalition (WCRC)

The Wayne County community hosted a listening session with community members to lift up the voice of recovery and increase services for Wayne County and surrounding areas. This event was held January 27, 2022, at the Train Depot from 530-700pm. Renee Bolin, WCRC Coordinator, and Charlotte Whymys, the Director of the Bridge, decided to move forward with opening a Recovery Community Organization together in Wayne. The purpose of the listening sessions was to gather community members to determine if the community would be open to a RCO. The Georgia Council on Substance Abuse facilitated this listening session with Augusta University.

Coalition for a Healthy Appling County (CHAC)

CHAC hosted several events last year and is bringing back Free Fit Fun classes this year. Free, Fit, Fun classes aim to improve physical activity options for residents. Tai Chi for Health was the February 2022 Free Fit Fun class hosted at the Senior Center. Jennifer Crosby, the Wellness Coordinator from the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Area Agency on Aging, taught participants about the purpose and fundamentals of Tai Chi for stress reduction and improving balance. The Free Fit Fun class for March will be held at the Jones Community Center from 10am-12pm. A date is still being determined. Appling Extension will be teaching a nutrition class and Any Time Fitness of Baxley will lead everyone in a fitness class. CHAC is planning a 5K Walk/Run for National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). NCVRW is April 24-30, 2022. The 2022 NCVRW theme is Rights, access, equity, for all victims. The theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by 1) enforcing victims' rights, 2) expanding access to services, and 3) ensuring equity and inclusion for all. This event will raise money to assist the local Fair Haven women's shelter and Safe Harbor children's shelter, both located in Baxley.

Health Observances for the Quarter

Share Health's social media posts focused on cardiovascular disease and COVID-19. February was American Heart Month. Cardiovascular disease posts focused on prevention tips, common treatments, and CVD's correlation with COVID-19. With COVID-19 cases rising, posts included at home tips to follow during one's infection period. Posts included information on helpful home remedies and exercises, the differences between variants' signs and symptoms, and how to conduct an at home self-test. Information about these topics were posted on Share's Health Facebook and Instagram pages weekly. It is important to continue practicing safe measures regarding COVID-19 such as wearing a mask, avoiding large gatherings, and sanitizing surfaces daily. The vaccination rate for Georgia has increased to 62% for persons who've received at least one dose and 55% of persons who are fully vaccinated. It is imperative to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to keep you and your loved ones safe. To locate a place to get the vaccine, please visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) for more information.



Highlight of Coalition for a Healthy Appling County (CHAC)



Reported by:

Liivy, Hiers-Davis, CHAC Program Coordinator



CHAC's goals/vision for the coalition remain the same as its original purpose: to transform the Appling County Community to live healthier lives. We have made great progress with implementing healthier opportunities in Appling County through our Healthcare Georgia Foundations funding opportunity. This includes programs such as implementing a gleaning program, creating a community garden, creating more breastfeeding stations, providing behavioral health to more Appling County residents, providing free exercise equipment at a public walking track, and so much more. We plan to do even more work as we transition to our partnership with Appling Partners for Health and our HRSA funding opportunity. Our goal is to start prioritizing Appling County residents living with Diabetes and CVD by developing a remote patient monitoring system. We hope this system is ready to accept patients by February 2022. Fifty patients will be enrolled in the remote patient monitoring system. The project will expand current nutrition classes available through Appling County Cooperative Extension and nutritional guidance and support will be provided by the Nutrition Services Director at Southeast Health District. I am looking forward to our access to healthcare opportunity we plan to provide to patients suffering from diabetes and CVD the most this year. Heart disease is one of the main causes of death in Appling County, and to be a part of a program that plans to decrease those statistics reminds me why our job is so important and worthwhile.

COVID-19 had a big impact on many of our CHAC partners. While some partners did not mind going virtual, it left others feeling disengaged and we lost a few partners because of this. Over time, we have brought back some of those partners. Anytime Fitness of Baxley has recently gotten involved by offering to teach two of our Free Fit Fun classes. Another partnership that has been developed is with Monica Jones of the Jones Community Center in Surrency. Monica quickly opened her doors to CHAC and said that she was happy to help CHAC provide access to exercise and nutrition classes at her community center. Because of her location in Surrency, we can reach a new demographic of people that experienced transportation barriers to attending classes and events in Baxley. The Nicole Knowles and Edith Gibbs families are two partnerships that consist of families that want to help out any way they can. This is also a tremendous help because we are always looking for extra volunteers.

Appling County can continue to help the Coalition by plugging in and serving at various CHAC events. I always believe that the stronger the team you have, the better your organization will be. Another way that Appling County and our Board members can continue to help the Coalition is by liking, sharing, and tagging the Coalition on Facebook to help spread the word for all we have going on. The Coalition has helped me as a leader in more ways than one. I quickly learned that you could do much more impactful work as a team, than by yourself. I have also learned how to effectively communicate with our partners and listen to our partners. One of my proudest moments from working with CHAC was being asked to glean satsuma oranges with Appling Extension. I asked Becky Collins with Appling Extension to let me know the next time they gleaned, so that I could actually see firsthand some of the projects that CHAC is a part of. It was refreshing to see volunteers take time away from their own busy lives during the holiday season to help others. It reminded me how wonderful this community is".

