**UC AHEC Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 12, 2024**

**Present:** Pat Achoe/UC College of Pharmacy, Dr. Michael Dietz/Healthsource of Ohio, Tina Dothard Peterson/UC College of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Bruce Gebhardt/UC College of Medicine, Yvonne Kaszubowski/Warren County Career Center, Tiffany Mattingly/The Health Collaborative, Lois Mills/Otterbein Senior Living, Brenda Poynter/UC Clermont

**Staff:** Sharron DiMario, Taylor O’Shaughnessy, Dr. Sarah Pickle

Dr. Pickle offered thanks to Lois for agreeing to serve a second year as chairperson of the ‘re-formed’ AHEC community advisory committee after a ten-year hiatus and welcomed Tiffany as the new chairperson.

Sarah shared that the topic for tonight’s meeting is to discuss the ways we can harness our strengths and work on areas for improvement for AHEC.

**Highlights from the Quarterly Reports:** Taylor said the sixth AHEC Scholars cohort is finishing its first year and the fifth cohort will graduate in April. A recent event with Dr. Tim Putnam, past president of the National Rural Health Association, got Scholars energized about rural health. (Tiffany shared in the chat that she has a copy of Putnam’s book but has not read it yet.) Our UC AHEC and North Central Kentucky Scholars event is on March 23rd. Recruitment for the seventh cohort is underway with three students submitting applications. The HOSA project at Milford High School is going well. Several students competed in the regionals and placed for the state competition next month. Taylor is serving as a co-chair of the National AHEC Organization partnerships and sponsorships committee and helped create NAO’s first sponsorship guide. She is presenting at the International HOSA competition in Houston this summer about the collaboration between HOSA and AHEC.

Sharron reported the Regional Behavioral Health Workforce Coalition is working with the Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio, Talbert House, Interact for Health and the Hamilton County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board on an $800000 grant application to the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services to create a pathway for high school students to become certified Qualified Mental Health Specialists and continue to get an associate degree.

Sarah explained that the group will break into small groups for the next 25 minutes and discuss how to leverage members’ skills and expertise to vet and create program ideas and enhance networking. She shared the committee’s charter and scope of work. The breakout groups considered three key questions:

1. What are the success stories and achievements of the committee

2. How can we improve how you advise us during the time together in our quarterly meetings?

3. How would you like to stay informed between meetings?

**Success stories and achievements:** Collaboration between members, building relationships and spreading awareness of resources available, particularly from a career-tech education (CTE) center perspective. There are items (e.g., aging suits, VR goggles) we can borrow and having visits from AHEC Scholars and Rural Health Interest Group members to area CTE programs because ‘near peers’ can be more influential. We should share these resources broadly and remind the teachers about them. Consider creating a professional development day for teachers and share this information. Continue finding and promoting experiential opportunities for students.

Specifically, Warren County Career Center struggles to obtain a dentist to supervise hygiene students on “Community Day.” There should be a page on the UC AHEC website that shares available resources and create a thirty second TikTok to highlight specific resources. (The Health Collaborative does have a robust website that identifies career awareness and training opportunities, as well as shadowing, etc.) It would also be helpful to include need lead time to schedule a speaker.

Create a ‘members only’ section of the UC AHEC website. Develop a resource compendium. Lead each meeting with a proposed idea and ask the group to develop solutions. Tina wondered if there could be subcommittees, particularly around complex or large issues?

**Advisory committee meeting schedule and communication between meetings:** Members agreed a quarterly meeting is sufficient. An informative email between meetings would be helpful, every two weeks. And, if there is something that requires an urgent response, that is ok.

Topic for the June meeting is a grant application that Sharron is working with with The Freeman Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at UC Health and Cincinnati State to create a pathway for direct care and home-based service workers. Lois mentioned Project Search helps with the employment of individuals with IDD and Pat mentioned that the College of Pharmacy has a neurodiversity program that trains interns for higher level roles. She would also like to see what best practices are for IDD programs.

Sarah closed the meeting and reminded the members of the remaining meeting dates: June 11, 2024,    
September 10, 2024, and December 10, 2024.