



**FACILITATOR**

**Sydney Raifsnider, Grant Coordinator, Huron County Public Health (HCPH)**

**PARTICIPANTS**

1. Sydney Raifsnider, Huron County Public Health
2. Jason Veletean, City of Willard
3. Kamaria Wilson, Mercy Health Willard Hospital (TEAMS)
4. Mindy Birkholz, GLCAP—Nadine Thompson in place
5. Lynden Ramsey, Norwalk Parks and Recreation
6. David Ditz, Huron County Sheriff's Office
7. Jana Martin, Mercy Health Willard Hospital (TEAMS)
8. Rebecca Riley, HCBDD
9. Elisa Brown, Village of Monroeville
10. Eunice Collene, Village of Monroeville

**AGENDA- APRIL 21, 2026**

- ❖ **Introduction/ Thank You's/ Welcome Jason Veletean- Willard Parks and Rec Director**
- ❖ **FY26/ 27 Calendars**
- ❖ **FY26 CHC Project Updates**
- ❖ **Norwalk Nourishing Garden Updates**
  - Planning for early May planting this year
  - Donations made throughout the summer
- ❖ **Norwalk Public Library Summer Event**
  - July or August for a CHC and garden presentation
  - Partnering with Fisher-Titus Nutrition team for a cooking demo with fresh produce
- ❖ **Huron County Fair 2026**
  - Garden Seeds
  - New activities and boards this year
  - Healthy Eating/Active Living Community Feedback Board
  - Adult/Youth Health Survey
  - If anyone would like to donate, reach out to Sydney
- ❖ **Mercy Health Cooking Classes**
  - Kamaria Wilson running
  - Will host several healthy cooking classes open to the public throughout the year
- ❖ **HCPH Smoothie Bike Purchase?**
- ❖ **2027 Project Overview and Presentations- CHC Applications due May 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - Norwalk
  - Willard
  - New London



- Monroeville

❖ **Discussion, Reminders, and Thank You**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Huron County Creating Healthy Communities Committee met on April 21, 2026, in person and virtually for the Quarter 2 meeting. Sydney Raifsnider began the meeting promptly at 9:30AM. Sydney welcomed those in person in attendance as well as online; a total of 9 people were present.

**CHC REVIEW**

Sydney reviewed all information to participants via PPT. She went over the CHC mission and vision statement for CHC and began reviewing the fiscal year 2026 schedule and upcoming potential 2027 schedule as well.

**2026 PROJECT REVIEW**

❖ **Willard Kiddie Land Sustain**

The Willard Kiddie Land project is nearing completion as of April 2026. Sydney informed the group that last fall most items were completed for this project including: all equipment installed, turf, new fencing, and a press release. She noted that Jason is waiting on a custom sign to be made, so the city can hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony as it will officially be completed then. Jason mentioned he is hoping that could happen later this summer.

❖ **Willard Woodbine Park Sustain**

The Willard Woodbine Park project is coming together. All materials have been purchased as of April 2026, and we will focus on breaking ground later this summer.



**2026 PROJECT REVIEW CONTINUED**

❖ **Greenwich Bike Infrastructure Sustain**

The Greenwich Bike Infrastructure project is wrapping up and will be completed by the end of the summer of 2026. Almost all steps have been completed, including: crosswalk paint, crosswalk signage, hydration stations installed, bike racks installed, and a press release. Sydney informed the coalition that they will be doing a community survey during the library's summer reading program to collect feedback from residents. She also mentioned that the old bike rack is still there, so the village will need to remove that at some point.

❖ **Monroeville Supportive Pedestrian Infrastructure**

The Monroeville Supportive Pedestrian Infrastructure is coming along nicely. All materials for the project have been purchased as of April 2026. The village will be having Olgesby Construction in on the project needs including: new paints lines, crosswalk signage, flashers, etc.

❖ **Willard Community Garden**

The Willard Community Garden project has all materials purchased as of April 2026. Jason purchased chicken wire fencing to add around the garden to help keep wildlife out.

❖ **NOURISHING HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE**

The Nourishing Huron County Community Garden will be getting underway mid-May! A reminder that this garden is free for the community to come and pick their own produce! We also donate to the local food banks/ pantries and bring produce to summer events.

❖ **NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER EVENT**

Sydney will be hosting a small presentation on the CHC Grant and the Nourishing Huron County Garden at the Norwalk Public Library this summer! The event will take place in mid-August and be open to all. She will be partnering with Fisher-Titus' Nutrition team/ Chef, and they will put on a small cooking demo with local produce. More information will come as we get closer to the event!

❖ **HURON COUNTY FAIR 2026**

The Huron County Fair is right around the corner; August 17-22! The HCPH team will have their usual building with CHC being featured. We will have our garden seeds readily available, as well as NEW games and activities for all. If you or someone you know wants to donate to be featured at our table, please reach out to Sydney 😊

❖ **MERCY HEALTH COOKING CLASSES**

Mercy Health Willard (Kamaria Wilson) will be hosting healthy cooking classes open to the public in 2026/2027! More information will be available as Kamaria gets everything together for it 😊



<p>❖ <b>HCPH SMOOTHIE BIKE PURCHASE?</b></p> <p>Sydney discussed with the group potentially being able to purchase a smoothie bike for a fun new activity/ tie in for all healthy eating and active living projects!</p>
<p><b>2027 PROJECT PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATIONS</b></p>
<p>❖ <b>MONROEVILLE SUPPORTIVE PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Elisa Brown (Old Sould Woodworking) and Eunice Collene (Village Fiscal Officer) represented the Village of Monroeville in supporting this project proposal. Elisa had a presentation and video on the project. In summary, they are requesting to add a supportive fence along the sidewalk on the pedestrian bridge that is in downtown Monroeville on Route 20. This would give a safer place for pedestrians and even students to walk.</p> <p>❖ <b>WILLARD COMMUNITY GARDEN/ FARMERS MARKET</b> The City of Willard and Parks and Rec Director, Jason Veletean, are proposing to collaborate with a local farmers market to host an annual farm-to-table event every summer. They would also be partnered with the Willard High School FFA team.</p> <p>❖ <b>NEW LONDON TEACHING KITCHEN</b> The New London Boys and Girls Club (Niki Cross) would like to partner with CHC to expand their already established Teaching Kitchen. They want to open cooking classes for the public and families. The Boys and Girls Club would propose new equipment and possibly advertising.</p> <p>❖ <b>NORWALK MCGUAN PARK</b> The City of Norwalk Parks and Recreation Department (Lynden Ramsey) are proposing to revitalize a portion of McGuan Park. McgUan Park was a CHC strategy in 2021/22 where an inclusive spinner equipment piece was purchased and assisted in a renovation project. However, the other half of McGuan Park is not updated and is getting to be dangerous for children. Lynden would like to add an obstacle course piece of equipment and a few other swings with CHC funding.</p>
<p>❖ <b>DISCUSSION, REMINDERS, AND THANK YOU</b></p> <p>The coalition group wrapped up their Quarter 2 meeting with an open discussion on all topics. A big piece of this was the 2027 project proposals; many, if not all the group gave their input on each project.</p> <p>Nadine Thompson asked Jason if they could use their already established community garden for their annual farm-to-table event for summers. Sydney also chimed in on that and let Jason know to reach out to the Willard High School FFA teacher for volunteers and additional help.</p> <p>Rebecca Riley and Lynden Ramsey loved Sydney's idea of a potential HCPH purchase for a smoothie bike to take to events around the area. This was also a tie-in idea for Jason and Willard's potential project idea.</p> <p>All coalition members enjoyed Eunice and Elisa's project idea for the pedestrian bridge in Monroeville. Several members voiced their concern over the safety of the bridge currently and would love to see this project implemented.</p> <p>Sydney closed the discussion with several reminders on important dates and info and a</p>



# Huron County Public Health

Creating Healthy Communities

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general thank you to everyone who supported today:

- May 4<sup>th</sup>- CHC 2027 Applications are Due!
- May 12<sup>th</sup>- Sydney All CHC Meeting Columbus
- July 10<sup>th</sup>- Quarter 3 Project Report Due
- July 14<sup>th</sup>- Quarter 3 CHC Coalition Meeting

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05am.