



Elmore County Health Coalition Meeting

Thursday, June 18th, 2026

2:00 – 3:30pm

In-person Meeting Location:
Doyel Ray Hope Center
1140 Airbase Road (W 6th S)
Mountain Home, ID 83647

MISSION

*To bring together and work with community partners to
empower our communities through strategic initiatives that
advance equity and health for present and future generations*

Welcome and Introductions (Please mark the sign in sheet, if in-person)

View attendance and contact information [here](#).

View meeting recording [here](#).

Community Presenter: Maritza Sanchez (Desert Sage Rural Health Grant Presentation)

- See 16:00 to 36:20 in recording.

Maritza provided updates on their current HRSA grant, which runs from 2025 to 2029, serving Elmore and Owyhee counties through three sites and school-based behavioral health services, with Mountain Home as the largest clinic. The grant aims to improve access and quality of care for underserved populations.

Desert Sage and CHEMS established bi-directional referrals for rural residents with complex comorbidities, holding bi-weekly case staffing meetings to address high-risk patients, facilitate home visits, and provide chronic disease self-management education. Roger Williams noted improved access and coordination, including joint food drives and open clinic days.

Desert Sage collaborates with Central District Health to complete screenings for blood pressure and lipid panels, with referrals to Desert Sage for patients needing primary care. The partnership aims to improve health outcomes by connecting patients to primary care providers.

Anna, the community health worker, uses an electronic pre-visit questionnaire to identify patients needing assistance with food, finances, or insurance. The expanded screening has increased patient engagement and allowed Anna to address a broader range of needs.

Desert Sage's mobile medical unit (MMU) outreach is limited by staffing shortages, but St. Luke's has helped fill gaps by deploying their unit to schools. The team is seeking input from partners on additional geographic areas for MMU expansion and collaboration.

Desert Sage and St. Luke's are working to prevent emergency department admissions through data sharing, case manager communication, and CHW follow-up. Chrissy Hastings shared updates on a new Valley Regional Transit pilot for medical transportation, including details on eligibility, funding, and plans for radiation oncology patient transport.

Community Presenter: Meg Hurley (El Ada Community Garden)

Not present

Community Presenter: Courtney Kelly (Elmore County HRSA Grant Application)

-See 38:20 to 50:00 in recording

Courtney Kelly from Central District Health described the HRSA RCORP planning grant as a two-year, \$200,000 award focused on building capacity and planning activities to address substance use disorder in rural communities, with the potential for additional funding after the planning phase.

Courtney requested coalition members sign a letter of support to participate in grant activities, emphasizing the need for commitment to meetings and planning, with the grant application due July 8th and signatures needed by mid to end of next week.

Vicky Jekich asked for clarification on capacity building, and Courtney explained it involves forming a focused group for substance use disorder, leveraging the existing coalition's strengths, and planning future activities and programs.

Vicky inquired about geographic limitations, and Courtney confirmed the grant is limited to Elmore County and Central District Health's service area, with flexibility to target various populations such as veterans, seniors, and marginalized communities.

Courtney clarified that CDH would manage the funds, with input from coalition members on program selection. Vicky requested best practices from Valley County, which Courtney agreed to provide, noting Valley County's successful implementation of similar grants.

If you would like to be eligible to vote to support opportunities like this and have a say in future coalition support, please make sure to fill out [this member agreement](#)

In order to be eligible for voting, you must **1. Have a member agreement on file with Mindy and 2. Attend at least half of the full coalition meetings that have occurred since joining or filling out the member agreement.**

Please reach out to Mindy if you're not sure if you have filled out a member agreement, or have questions related to coalition functioning.**

ECHC Committee Updates (See 50:30 to 1:01:57 in recording)

Nutrition- Heather Whitehead

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- Heather announced a community open house at the Mountain Home Community Garden on June 27th, inviting partners to host resource tables. The event is organized by El-Ada, Central District Health, University of Idaho, and Harvest Heroes, which focuses on growing produce for veterans and pantries.
 - The garden is fully stocked with supplies, funded by CDH and sponsors, and features nine beds. Heather emphasized the need for volunteers to help with weeding, planting, and maintenance, and encouraged involvement from those with base contacts.
 - Vicky highlighted the benefits of horticultural therapy for trauma and mental health, suggesting outreach to military groups. Youth Rising expressed interest in organizing youth volunteer activities, and Heather confirmed the garden is open for educational and mental health-related projects.
 - Heather plans to offer nutrition education at the garden throughout the summer and fall, positioning the space as an open classroom for community learning and engagement.

Nicotine/SUD- Heather Terrian

- Heather is preparing an article for July's 'Plastic Free' month, focusing on the environmental impact of disposable vapes and seeking additional information or facts from the group.
- The subcommittee is planning virtual presentations to educate parents and youth about substance use, aiming to increase participation across rural areas and improve outreach.
- A rotation of educational activities for youth on substances and nicotine will run from July 2026 through June 2027, incorporating games and facts at community events, with data collection to assess knowledge and impact.

Mental Health- Mindy Curran (Lisa Melchiorre to sub)

Lisa shared Mindy's updates on the Mental Health Committee's efforts.

- The committee is updating its list of local mental health resources and managing the Padlet hub, now overseen by Lutheran Community Services Northwest, to prioritize local resources and reduce repetition.
- Mindy requests information on upcoming events needing mental health resources, so the committee can provide materials and support as needed.
- Vicky reminded the group that September is suicide prevention month, with plans for coalition involvement in awareness campaigns and educational outreach, including a grant-supported journal project for schools.

Roundtable Updates- Open to All

- Heather T asked to connect on summer opportunities for youth cooking classes, addressing challenges with previous partnerships and exploring new models, with Heather W confirming access to Cooking Matters and University of Idaho curricula for age-appropriate nutrition education.
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- Vicky suggested leveraging online resources and recipe cards for food pantries, and discussed potential collaboration with the nutrition subcommittee for in-person and virtual delivery.

Community Events Announcements:

- **Anna:** provided dates and details for the Juneteenth 5K run, festival, movie night, Harvest of Hope in October, and a car show in August, encouraging attendees to share information with car clubs and other community groups.
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Next meeting: August 20th, 2026

Find the Elmore County Health Coalition landing page and past minutes and presentations here:
<https://cdh.idaho.gov/community-health/community-health-partnerships/elmore-county-healthcare-coalition/>