THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members Present: Victor Capoccia, Tnisha Chandler, Leo Christian, Leslie Clapp, Irene Bright Dumm, Rebecca Eldeiry, Julie Fay, Alan Ganapol, Victoria Haeselbarth, Tom Hallahan, Marcy Holmes, Mary Holmes, Judy Jones, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Karen MacPhail, Paddy Moore, Megan Panek, Kathleen Perrotta, Dan Pesch, Lena Prisco, Mary Jane Williams, Megan Rose, Barbara Rush, Mark Saloio, Sue Sanford, Sheila Shapiro, Myra Stark, Karen Tewhey, Christine Todd, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young,

Guests present: Elizabeth Brown (summer public health graduate student intern), Kathleen Samways, Mary Leddy

7:30 **Call Meeting to Order/Approval of Minutes of April 17 Meeting**--Mary Jane Williams called the meeting to order; Minutes of the April 17th meeting were approved

7:35 **Review Meeting "Ground Rules"--**Christine Todd gave an overview of how groups can assure that time in meetings is well spent. Christine distributed some guidelines (see attached). Bob Laskowski made a few comments: importance of keeping on point; making sure that one's comment is additive to the discussion; and simply "being nice." Tom Hallahan added that the chair in her/his role has the ability/responsibility to help guide the conversation to be sure that all points of view are heard and that redundant comments are minimized. Tom added that parliamentary procedure calls for discussion after a motion is seconded. He stated that he has found that many people misunderstand the "second" as precluding further discussion.

Christine added that she believes that the Health Council should evaluate its performance. She suggested that a self-evaluation questionnaire be developed. Alan Ganapol noted that he felt it was a good idea; however, the results should be acted upon. Terre Young added that she felt that such a survey could be of help to new members in understanding their role.

Christine stated she would do more research on the issue and bring it up at a future Coordinating Committee meeting.

7:40 **Rural Scholars Proposals Update**--Dan Pesch reviewed the status of this year's process. Two proposals have been received. One of the proposals is to evaluate the possibility of establishing a health clinic in the Regional High School. The second proposal is from the Island Disability Coalition to look at the issue of recreational opportunities for the disabled. The scope at this point is quite broad and will need to be narrowed. Both proposals are well researched and well supported by organizations. Dan stated that the Rural Scholars Committee will make a recommendation at the next Health Council meeting. The proposal(s) submitted to U Mass for consideration will be fully "fleshed out" with a list of stakeholders, letters of support and other details. Dan stated that both of these projects are very exciting from an educational perspective.

Christine Todd asked for a clarification about what type of disability would be the focus of the Island Disability Coalition's project.

7:45 **Review Results of Health Council Priorities Exercise**

Mary Jane Williams began the discussion. Health Council members submitted a list of 62 potential priorities. Bob Laskowski stated that he sorted them into general categories. Oral Health, Housing, SUD, Cancer, Aging, Access, Data and Other. Victor Capoccia asked for clarification of the purpose of the exercise and how it might be used. Bob replied that the idea was to help guide the work of the Health Council--i.e. does the Health Council have a process to address the areas that Health Council members believe are important? As an example, the Health Council does have a Substance Use Disorder Committee; it does not have a Housing Committee, and despite a great deal of expressed interest in the area of Cancer care, the Cancer Committee has been inactive.

Health Council members then addressed a number of related issues:

Dan Pesch noted that currently the Hospital is using new approaches to minimize the need for Vineyard residents to travel off-island for specialized services. Dan described an "electronic consult" program in which hospital physicians can get expert rapid online opinions from Mass General doctors concerning the care of their patients. Dan stated that he found this service to be very helpful. He noted that received prompt answers to his questions. This enabled him to confidently care for more complex patients without the need for an off-island referral. Alan Ganapol noted the importance of having rapid access to specialty expertise especially in urgent situations.

Bob Laskowski noted that the Health Data Committee is working to develop a "health dashboard" to enable Health Committee Members to gain a quick up to date overview of health issues.

Christine Todd made a motion to establish a Housing Committee, the motion was accepted and unanimously adopted. A charter for the Housing Committee will be developed and reviewed. Karen Tewhey noted that housing issues are often thought to synonymous with homelessness. She stated that homelessness is only a small part of the problem. Many more people have issues of substandard or inconstant housing and are at risk of becoming homeless.

There was further discussion about Committee membership. It was noted that Committee members do not need to be Health Council Members.

Barbara Rush and several members suggested that the preliminary results be used as the basis of a survey of members to establish priorities. Alan Ganapol offered to put together an email poll of members using the "survey monkey" software.

8:40 **Role of the Health Council in facilitating coordination of organizations in health related programs--**Christine Todd introduced the topic. She cited a recent example of a grant opportunity that required cooperation among organizations. Unfortunately, the parties involved were not able to meet the submission deadline. Christine stated that she felt that this was a missed opportunity. She wondered how the Health Council might be helpful in facilitating collaboration among Vineyard groups, so that grants like the recent one could be obtained.

Julie Fay commented that in this example collaboration among organizations was quite good. The issue was one of additional work required of already busy people and short timelines. The organizations simply did not have the capacity to do the necessary work to assemble a grant request that would be competitive and so decided to pass.

A Health Council member noted that timelines are generally short for all grant proposals. Organizations that are particularly successful in obtaining grants generally have in infrastructure that makes it easier to respond rapidly to grant opportunities when they occur. He noted that the Health Council itself lacks to resources to enable such an approach. The new concept of Integrated Island Public Health Collaborative (i2PHC) might be able to perform such a function.

9:00 The Meeting was **adjourned.**