Dukes County Health Council

Minutes

Via zoom conference

Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members present: Ellie Beth, Victor Capoccia, Tnisha Chandler, Leslie Clapp, Louise Clough, Cynthia Doyle, Betsy Edge, Beka ElDeiry, Alan Ganapol, Bruce Golden, Tom Hallahan, Michael Joyce, Sarah Kuh, Robert Laskowski, Karen McPhail, Paddy Moore, Susan Sanford, Myra Stark, Joyce Styles-Tucker, Martina Thornton, Christine Todd, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young, Marie Zadah Sheryl Taylor, Cindy Trish, Beth Folcarelli. Guests present; Chip Coblyn, Mary Korda, Theresa Manning, Diane McKeller, Chantelle Patterson, Susan Mercier, Claire Seguin.

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:30 AM**:** Mary Jane Williams ~ Welcome to all. Request for approval of January minutes, moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Substance Use Disorder Coalition - “On Island’ update** Chip Coblyn, chair of the Substance Use Disorder Coalition On Island Committee, said that today we want to talk about what’s going to happen after the film but first wanted to recognize the people who took part in the film. What they did for the community needs to be recognized and lauded. Mary Korba, the SUD On-Island Committee project coordinator then gave a detailed presentation which will be made available to DCHC members after the meeting. Phase 1 of the program is funded and near completion. It included: formative research; the documentary film; a program website; and a branded campaign. Phase 2 is not yet funded. If funded, it will consist of a Healthy Behavior Change Campaign with a goal of creating a culture of responsible substance use, including preventing or delaying first use among Island youth.

Paddy Moore hopes that some specific work can be done with the Island’s older population – a lot of them have drinking problems. Cindy Trish said that Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard just completed an island wide survey with 2500 participants. She will share results re: older adults’ behaviors including alcohol use with the Council. She also said that Healthy Aging will get involved with the substance use issue particularly with older adults’ behaviors and their roles as influencers.

Paddy asked Victor what SUD is looking for from Council members. In response the Immediate Action slide was brought up again, showing this information:

Initiate & participate in peer to peer groups to develop guidelines on responsible/delayed use.

* Youth, Adults, Seniors, Parents, Families, Educators, Brazilian community, Wampanoag, etc.

Virtual discussions to generate awareness and conversations

* Prevention and early intervention
  + - * Removing shame and stigma
  + Genetics of substance use disorder
  + Identifying root causes: link between substance use and trauma
  + Recognizing addiction/signs and symptoms
  + Understanding harm reduction
  + Finding support/local resources
  + Treatment and recovery
  + SUD and mental illness/co-occurring disorders

Christine Todd asked what is going on in the schools? Chip said they are scheduling a meeting with the school system, but also getting a lot of interest from parents, so want them to be part of the discussion.

Mike Joyce asked whether the schools are coming up with a health teacher? We are having focus groups with some high school kids re what are the issues and getting them to be ambassadors to junior high students. Chip said that one parent suggested having a young people SUD coalition working in parallel with the SUD.

Sheryl Taylor said that schools have health teachers, including some guidance counselors, but there needs to be an effort for them to work together have a comprehensive approach. She said that the Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug curriculum which used to be introduced in the 6th grade is now being introduced in the 4th grade. There has not been discussion of how to incorporate the On Island film at this time. The public schools have launched a health and wellness website: mvyps.org/wellness.

Beka ElDeiry asked if we were going to come up with something super customized or would we be using models that are being used all over the country such as from the Department of Health and Human Services. Victor said they using empirically based models, but developed specifically for our project.

Theresa Manning talked about the impact of family culture.

**COVID Vaccination for the Island’s vulnerable and invisible populations** Marcy Holmes reported that the hospital has identified individuals who may have difficulty getting the vaccine and has plans in place to reach out to them.

**Hospice of Martha’s Vineyard transition to Medicare certification** Tom Hallahan hired a consultant in 2019, and the board decided to pursue Medicare certification. They also have a project manager. This is a lengthy preparation process, and Medicare certification is expected in 2022. Tom stressed that the hospice will continue to do what they’ve always done and will be able to expand services. The name is being changed to Hospice & Palliative Care of Martha’s Vineyard, to emphasize that they have always provided, and will continue to provide, palliative care. They will have arrangements with the hospital for short term inpatient care and with Windemere and possible other locations for respite care. Tom is leaving in May and the internal coordinator will take over during the search for a new director. He stressed that ongoing community support will be critical to the future of the hospice.

**Other Business:**

Bruce Golden said that the Oral Health Committee has been making some progress and pulled together a needs assessment related to the Health Safety Net patients. He asked for help from someone with aggregating the data. Bob Laskowski offered the resources of the Health Date Committee and said that he would contact Bruce.

Louise announced that at last night’s Dukes County Commissioners meeting Sheryl Taylor, Beth Folcarelli, Cindy Trish, and Alan Hirshberg were appointed to the Council.

Mary Jane thanked Christine Todd for the Community Forum about COVID vaccine with Denise Schepici. Christine said that they hoped to have ongoing forums about this.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00**

The next regular Health Council meeting will be held via zoom on March 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Clough, secretary