THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2019

 Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members Present: Eleanor Beth, Victor Capoccia, Kevin Carey, Tnisha Chandler, Leslie Clapp, Betsy Corsiglia, Cindy Doyle, Irene Bright Dumm, Alan Ganapol, Victoria Haeselbarth, Tom Hallahan, Marcy Holmes, Mary Holmes, Judy Jones, Michael Joyce, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Karen MacPhail, Patsy McCornack, Paddy Moore, Megan Panek, Kathleen Perrotta, Mary Jane Williams, Barbara Rush, Sue Sanford, Sheila Shapiro, Myra Stark, Karen Tewhey, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young, Marie Zadeh

Guests present: Holly Bellebuono

7:30 AM **Call Meeting to Order/Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2019 Meeting**--Mary Jane Williams

7:35 AM **Public Health Grad Student Internship Preliminary Reports: Integrated Island Public Health Collaborative (i2PHC)/ Qualitative Health Data--**Elizabeth Brown

* Elizabeth Brown reported on her work with Island Healthcare on assisting in the development of the i2PHC project. One of the primary goals of i2PhC is the development of a coalition of organizations on the Island who share an interest in the community's health. Elizabeth focused on identifying potential relationships among organizations by examining their mission statements. This information will form the basis of identifying themes for a planned upcoming meeting of organizations interested in being part of i2PHC.

 Discussion:

Victor Capoccia noted that the MV Commission was engaged in a mapping of the functions of social service agencies and wondered how this relates to the i2PHC work. Bob Laskowski noted that the MV Commission mapping project commissioned by Healthy Aging MV had not yet been completed, and might be addressing some of the same issues.

Bob asked Kathleen Samways how Elizabeth's work relates to i2PHC. Kathleen stated that it is intended to form as a basis for discussion at a future stakeholder meeting with the goal of facilitating collaboration. Kathleen also noted that the i2PHC focus was broader than services for elders.

Bob commented that the Health Council could be helpful in promoting "connectedness" among groups. A useful goal would be to assure ease of access to information that would permit collaboration and reduce the risk of unintentional, ineffective or redundant action.

* **Health Data Dashboard--**Marley Jurgensmeyer

 Marley Jurgensmeyer presented her work on developing a Health Dashboard for the Health Council. She demonstrated the organization and highlighted examples of data. She noted that the sources of data are noted in the graphics to enable further exploration. Bob noted that these questions demonstrated the importance of understanding data rather than simply assuming the meaning of a given number. It is the intent of the Health Data Committee not only increase access to data, but also to foster a deeper understanding of data's meaning and limitations.

Marley went on to demonstrate a section on Health Care Concerns. The Health Care Concerns organizes by health topic. The intent is to form an online repository of information that is gathered by a variety of agencies. It includes annual reports, specific surveys and links to outside databases.

Kathleen Samways commented on the importance of the summer internship programs. She noted that the Island benefited from the work of several other summer interns. These included Sarah Podget (?sp), Alison Randall(?sp), and Alex (?sp). Their projects included an analysis of the availability of medically substance use disorder treatment and the establishment of a confidential list of vulnerable individuals likely to require assistance in a major emergency. Marina Lent commented on the importance of the latter project.

8:15 AM **Access to Care: Transportation Issues**--Leslie Clapp

 Leslie Clapp led the Health Council in a broad ranging discussion concerning the availability to transportation to medical appointments for neighbors with limited income. She noted the recent strike by VTA workers exacerbated an already problematic area. A key state grant to the VTA to provide off-Island transportation expires this October and is not eligible for renewal. The transportation system on the Cape, administered by its own regional transit authority, does not meet the needs of Island residents. The time required for its use and its scheduled routes make it highly problematic for most Vineyard patients requiring specialty services only offered off-Island.

Holly Bellebuono noted that Healthy Aging MV has identified Transportation as a major issue. Holly reported that she has again reached out to the Cape Cod Transit Authority to see how they can be helpful. Past efforts to engage them have led to good sentiments but little action. Victor Capoccia noted that funds for "transportation" were included in some grants to Vineyard organizations. Other members commented that these funds were limited both in their amount and in the specific purpose.

Several members raised the question of what role that the Health Council might play in improving the situation. Among several ideas, advocacy with our legislative leaders emerged as a concrete proposal. Some members noted that our state representatives appear to be quite responsive to Islanders needs. In order to maximize the Health Council's effectiveness, Mary Jane Williams suggested that any outreach to our legislators be as specific as possible. The results of the upcoming discussion with the Cape Cod Transit Authority and the resolution of the VTA labor action will help to inform those specifics. It was suggested that the current Health Council Members who are currently working on the issue coordinate their efforts and bring back a recommendation to the Health Council at an upcoming meeting.

8:35 AM **Housing Committee Charter--**Karen Tewhey/Bob Laskowski

At a prior meeting, the Health Council noted that the housing shortage that many of our neighbors in the community face is an issue of public health. As a result, the Health Council voted to establish a Housing Committee. The Health Council reviewed and adopted the charter of that Committee.

8:45 AM **Health Council Priorities**--Alan Ganapol

Alan Ganapol reported the results of the prioritization exercise for the Health Council. He noted that Housing, Access to Health Data, Substance Use Disorders and Aging were listed by respondents as the Health Council's leading priorities.

9:00 AM The Meeting was **Adjourned.**