THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Via conference call

Thursday, March 19, 2020

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members Calling in: Ellie Beth, Michael Bellissimo, Victor Capoccia, Leslie Clapp, Louise Clough, Katrina Delgadillo, Cindy Doyle, Betsy Edge, Julie Fay, Alan Ganapol, Bruce Golden, Judy Jones, Omar Johnson, Meris Keating, Robert Laskowski, Susan Sanford, Karen Tewhey, Christine Todd, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young, Marie Zadeh

Guests present: Sheryl Taylor

7:36 AM **Call Meeting to Order/Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2020 Meeting** Mary Jane Williams literally called the meeting to order via a conference call. Cindy D. made the motion to approve minutes, seconded and all voted aye.

7:40, New members were asked to introduce themselves with the promise to do this with all members when we can meet in person again.

Mike Bellissimo comes to the council with a background in health care management with the Cleveland Clinic

Louise Clough comes with a long history of Health Care management and compliance

Katrina Delgadillo is the MVH director of Communications and oversees the Community Benefits Program

Betsy Edge is the director for the island’s Family Planning, Health Imperatives program for over 15 years.

Bruce Golden is a practicing Pediatric dentist. His practice is closed for the next 3 weeks by request of the American Dental Society and two other American Dental groups, whose names, I did not capture

Meris Keating is the new director of the of senior services at the ECOA, the activities director and is a certified dementia practitioner and has a masters in gerontology

Mary Jane informed the new members that they will need to wait to be sworn in by Superior Clerk, George Davis, as the courthouse is currently closed. They will not be able to vote until they have been sworn in and the hope is that this in can happen before our next meeting when voting to approve the minutes and or any other item will be their privilege. Alan suggested that zoom could be used for them to do so collectively and Christine offered to check with the county to see if this is possible.

**New Member responsibility:** - Christine Todd

Christine noted that this would be a reminder for all members as well as for new. The By Laws have specifics for members’ rights and responsibilities, attendance, voting, length of term and participation in committee work. We will recruit for committee memberships once we see where needs are on the various committees. Christine will try to bring people to those committees in need. Bob will email information on all committees to all 38 members. Christine encouraged us all to understand and respect that information we share is meant to be shared with this body and everyone is to protect that information.

**SUD Coalition/Committee Update –** Victor Capoccia

Victor reports that there has been a lot activity in especially 2 or 3 categories. 1. The public health sub committee of the coalition work with the community ethic is organizing a brief film with background interviews, which identify and discuss people from this the island to understand what issues are on island. An island wide survey has been designed and distributed via the MV Times and Facebook with the hope for 500 responses. Please take this survey and encourage others to as well. Anyone on the council, please share this survey with your groups. 2. The recovery Center organized by Community Services is now open and active on the grounds of the hospital. 3. 2 grants are being explored with a focus on prevention. The first is complete and has a focus on SUD mental health. The second is due in a week and requires a broader community coalition. The group recommends not going forward given what we are experiencing with the virus and that the group needs more time together. Clarification was asked about this later in the meeting and the answer lays here best. Victor explained that the grant requirement of having explicit relations and is due in two weeks, and in a competitive way. With everyone working from home they can’t do this work in a matter of two weeks time with all the attachments, the group does not know how to do it.

He notes that because of the virus disturbance, group meetings for self help are being offered on line at specific times. People accessing medications are now being handled at Community Services and MVH, and needs a routine basis for distribution. Off island centers are being more careful with admissions, not to spread the virus. Recovery coaches are paying close attention. The general medical community explores and shares the fact that these people with sud are at highest risk with co-morbid conditions, such as liver disease, Hep C and that health care response needs not be overlooked as they often are.

Christine asked if the recovery center will stay open. Julie Fay, of CS said the building is closed as community services is taking recommendations from their funding state agency. The staff continues to work and see people on a 1 to 1 basis and to get people to detox as needed. CS is closed except for urgent care, with call ahead, not walk in. Distance is kept along with other precautions. The Emergency Service team along with the hospital has worked out remote access with the ES clinicians working with ZOOM and then loaded to the hospital’s EPIC patient records. Island Wide Youth Collaborative has a skeletal staff. Their main number will access distribution of food, diapers & wipes via phone. The Rape Crisis center is also working remotely with a skeletal staff. Daybreak, which serves those with chronic and severe mental illness, also operates with skeletal staff with medication and food distribution. CORE staff has stepped up contact with clients, also remotely.

Christine asked how SUD medications are kept up such as Suboxone. Janet Constantino, NP with ICS is continuing to see people individually and continues to administer medications. Yes there are co morbidities making these people more vulnerable so everyone works remotely, some just have to be seen. And they are screened before seen. The screening process is from a Public Health checklist to determine if presumptive symptoms exist.

Christine also asked if the island is following S. Korea’s method of not allowing people who test positive to go home, does that happen here. No one is aware if this here. Katrina explained that the hospital’s emergency management team meets with the towns and all are exploring how to handle this.

Mary Jane offered great thanks to Julie and her staff for the important work they are doing.

**Update on MVH Preparedness:** --Katrina Delgadillo, Things are constantly changing. As of 8 pm yesterday there are no positive results from testing. Employees are being deployed to other departments, no elective surgeries or procedures. Tests are available, they are guided by strict CDC guidelines, they have enough personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep things going for now, short but using wisely. Some tests have been given but results are not back yet.

Judy Jones was asked about the status of her clinic, Island Health Care. She reports that people are calling, staff is screening at the door before entry, and visits are reduced to acute, as they understand patients need to be seen. They are setting up telephonic connections. Staff is working from home via ZOOM. They can test but very limited, following CDC & DPH. They have a small amount of PPEs trying to get more. Asking patients to call rather than walk in. Christine asked what can the health council be doing better, what voids are there. Judy replied that telephonic is easiest way to connect with patients, unfortunately Medicare does not pay unless visual. We can talk with legislatures to change this. DPH sent Judy 10 supplies instead of 2 because they understand the key is getting supplies to the island. She needs, gowns, medium gloves, m95 masks, and goggles.

Susan S. asked Katrina about a rumor that some patients are concerned about the availability of the hospital’s orthopedic surgeons for emergency surgery. Katrina said yes, for emergency, not elective. She promised to double-check this. The hospital’s doors are locked but one door will open soon, hopefully tomorrow. They are proceeding with emergency surgery with staff, no travelers. CT, What kind of traffic for testing? Katrina, quite a bit as of yesterday. There are 7 pending cases. Results to come.

**New Committee for Emergency Preparedness** – Mary Jane

To get this committee started, we need a chair and several members. Mike B. volunteered. He has sat in on town selectman’s meeting with this topic in discussion. We suffer from 6 towns needing resources, yesterday, West Tisbury declared a state of emergency and he asks if each town could join this committee. Yes! Alan G offered to join as an EMT and reminded us that one needn’t be a council member to join committees. Terre recognized Omar Johnson, WT Board of Health Agent, new member who just joined the conversation and asked if this would be a committee for him, yes, he replied. Terre suggested that Liz Durkee of OB be invited to join this group. She has been very focused on this work for some time and wants to work with the council, eventually becoming a member. We are encouraged to reach out to community members, the coast guard for example in order to provide information for all citizens of the island. This will not only be about health care but all resources. And there is a significant influx of people arriving. A draft has been started for this committee and these new members can work together to confirm, and Bob will distribute. Judy offered to have the Public Health RN from her clinic join this committee. Sheryl Taylor, a guest today from the school system holding a new position implementing new health education at all schools and to enhance that role with communications to and from the community, offered to join this committee as well. So, we have; Mike B, Alan G, Omar J, Cheryl T, IHC Public Health RN, hopefully, Liz D. with more to come. Thanks to you all for volunteering and taking on this important work.

**Election of Coordinating Committee Members:** --Mary Jane The Coordinating Committee is still looking for a secretary. Bob, Ellie and Terre have all held this position and are willing to help during the transition. “Power is in the Pen” Mary Jane reminds us! Current members are Mary Jane Williams, Ellie Beth, Christine Todd, Bob Laskowski, Leslie Clapp, Terre Young. Our by laws allow 7 on this committee so, Secretary please step forward!! You’ll have lots of support!

Mary Jane reminds us to contact her or anyone on the Coordinating committee if you know of an agenda item you would like to have discussed and we will organize that for a meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 with a send off for all to stay well.

Our next meeting will be April 16th.