# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Meeting MInutes

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

***Approved May 26, 2016***

**Present:** Jacque Cage, Kevin Carey, Leslie Clapp, Betsy Corsiglia, Cindy Doyle, Jay Ferriter, Victoria Haeselbarth, Charles Hodge, Mary Holmes. Sarah Kuh, Nancy Langman, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Patsy McCornack, Dan Pesch, Sue Sanford, Ashley Shattuck, Myra Stark, Ray Whittaker, Berta Giles Welch, Terre Young

**Absent:** Eleanor Beth, Bill Croke, Matt D’Andrea, Julie Fay, Alan Ganapol, Karen Gear, Judy Jones, Karen Kukolich, Michael Loberg, Theresa Manning, Paddy Moore, Joann Murphy, Dean Rosenthal, Kathleen Samways, Martina Thornton, Joyce Stiles Tucker

7:40 AM Meeting Called to Order by Dr. Charles Hodge.

Members of the health Council were welcomed and introduced themselves to each other.

Minutes of the March 23, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved without modification.

**Announcements/Review of Agenda**

* Dr. Hodge announced the appointment of new officers for the Health Council. These include himself as Chair and Dr. Robert Laskowski as Secretary.
* In addition, Dr. Hodge announced that Dr. Dan Pesch was now chairing the Rural Scholars Committee
* The Substance Abuse Committee is currently in the process of selecting a new Chair. Members of the committee voiced their hope that a new Chair would be selected by the next meeting of the Health Council.
* Nancy Langman reported on a new grant to support the Memory Café. Ms. Langman noted that the grant was provided by Massachusetts Disability Services. This grant will support the operation of the Memory Café. Memory Café support group meets at the Featherstone Art Center Wednesdays 930 to 11 AM. Ms. Langman invited interested Council members to visit.

**Sign-up for Committees**

* Dr. Hodge noted that the work of the Health Council is done mostly through committees. These committees include: The Coordinating Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Committee, the Youth Task Force, the Rural Scholars, and Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard. With the exceptions of the Coordinating Committee and the Nominating Committee, all other committees are open to all members of the Health Council as well as interested members of the public. He strongly urged all new members of the Health Council to be active on at least one committee. A list of Health Council members’ committee memberships will be circulated.

**Rural Health Scholars Project for 2017**

* Dr. Hodge noted that it is now time to submit proposals for consideration by the Rural Scholars Committee for 2017. The Rural Scholars Program is a program of the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. A select group of medical students and other healthcare professionals annually do research on a specific topic jointly selected by The Rural Scholars Committee and the students. Recent projects have included assessments of the status of the coordination of services for the elderly and the issue of homelessness.
* Dr. Dan Pesch, Chair of the Rural Scholars Committee outlined this year’s process. Health Council members or other interested parties who would like to have a project considered should contact Dr. Pesch in the next several weeks. The the goals of recommended project should be briefly described in a brief paragraph. Additionally, it is important that every project have a “sponsoring organization” in order to assure both that the project has adequate support and that its findings will be implemented. Dr. Pesch noted that the Committee plans on reviewing proposals with the goal of submitting a recommendation for Health Council’s approval at its June meeting. Dr. Pesch answered several questions for clarification from Health Council members.

**Bylaws Revision**

* Dr. Hodge initiated a discussion about an update of the bylaws For the Health Council. He noted that it been several years since the bylaws had been examined. Over the history of the Health Council its function and purpose had evolved. This evolution however had not been fully captured in the organization’s bylaws.
* A preliminary updated draft of the bylaws was distributed. Dr. Hodge suggested that members review the draft over the next month and come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. He noted that the changes to the bylaws will need to be presented to the County Commissioners for their approval. There is no deadline for this review.

**Succession Plan for Officers and Committee Leadership**

* Dr. Hodge noted that the bylaws do not specify terms of office for officers of the Health Council. Recently, this has post a challenge for the Council in renewing its leadership. He suggested that the Coordinating Committee take responsibility for drafting a proposal for a succession plan for the officers of the Council.

Dr. Carey stated that it was his view that it would be best not to amend the bylaws to include a succession plan. Rather, he believed it preferable to have such a plan simply be a matter of policy. His rationale for this approach was that policies are much easier to change the bylaws. Several other members concurred with his recommendation.

Several members noted that the history of the Health Council was that of a grassroots organization concerned about the status of the system healthcare on Martha’s Vineyard. Consequently, the initial charge of the Health Council was to develop a “plan” for a coordinated system of care. Over time, the Health Council’s focus broadened to larger issues of health with less focus on healthcare systems alone. The initial grassroots effort was recognized by Dukes County. The County Commissioners then officially authorized the Health Council as a County sponsored organization. This affords the Health Council the ability to receive funding. Additionally the County’s sponsorship highlights the important role that the Health Council can play in highlighting and facilitating the coordinated response to islandwide health issues.

**Report Schedule for Grants**

* Dr. Hodge noted that hospital has funded a number of small grants. Part of the funding requirement for these grants is a regular report to the health Council on their status. These grants include:
  + MV Partnership for Health
  + New Paths Program
  + CORE
  + Tick Borne Illness

In addition to these grants, to “mini grants” were made to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and to Island Grown Initiative.

All of these grants will be reported on over the next two meetings, with the exception of the Tick Born Illness grant which has already been discussed with the Council. A schedule for reporting will be developed prior to the next meeting after consulting with the projects’ leaders.

**Committee Updates**

* *Substance Abuse Committee* – Cindy Doyle noted that the work of this important committee continues. The finalization of the selection of the next Chair of this committee is not impeded its work. A key piece of this work is the development of a existing resource assessment. This is underway. The assessment is being conducted by a small group of trained volunteer interviewers. The results of this resource assessment will be shared at a “stakeholder” meeting which is being planned. Additionally she noted that the county commissioners have awarded Health Council $4000 in the upcoming year budget to support the work of the Committee.
* *Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard (HAMV)* – several members of that committee noted that the First Stop information service for elders and their families was supported in warrant votes in Edgartown and Oak Bluffs. This important service is staffed by Karin Kugel. First Stop provides both an online and telephonic service. The operational infrastructure of the service is capable of being expanded to serve other groups than the elderly. Committee members further noted that the work of HAMV continues to implement follow-up actions based on the recent communitywide public survey. Four working groups, Transportation Challenges Caregivers and Community Outreach, are in the process of being formed.
* *Youth Task Force* – Cindy Doyle commented that The Youth Task Force works closely with the Islandwide Youth Initiative to coordinate an approach to preventing and ameliorating drug use by the Island’s young people.
* *Nominating Committee –* members of the nominating committee include Nancy Langman, Patsy McCornack and Terre Young. This committee meets in the fall to develop recommendations for new members for the Health Council. Committee members asked that other colleagues on the Health Council let them know about individuals who they think might be good Health Council members in the future.
* *MV Healthcare Access—*Sarah Kuh reported that the Access Program has been approved for two new positions. These positions include staffing to assist with the meeting of the needs of the homeless needs of the homeless and another position to assist in arranging the provision of other services (e.g.. food stamps, etc.). This work is done as part of a regional effort through CAC Cape Cod and the Islands.

8:45 New Business/Suggested Future Agenda Items

9:00 Adjourn

***Reminder: Next Meeting Thursday May 26, 2016***