# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Meeting MInutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

***Approved June 23, 2016***

**Present:** Eleanor Beth, Jacque Cage, Kevin Carey ,Leslie Clapp, Betsy Corsiglia , Bill Croke , Julie Fay, Jay Ferriter, Karen Gear, Victoria Haeselbarth, Charles Hodge, Judy Jones, Sarah Kuh, Karen Kukolich, Nancy Langman, Robert Laskowski ,Marina Lent, Michael Loberg, Paddy Moore, Dan Pesch , Sue Sanford, Kathleen Samways Ashley Shattuck, Myra Stark, Terre Young

**Absent:** Matt D’Andrea, Cindy Doyle, Alan Ganapol, Mary Holmes, Theresa Manning, Patsy McCornack, Joann Murphy, Dean Rosenthal, Martina Thornton, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Ray Whittaker, Berta Giles Welch

**Guests:** Julia Sierpatoski ( Aquinnah Board of Health), Christine Todd (Dukes County Commission)

7:30 AM **Meeting Called to Order** by 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** with the following modifications:

* the Rural Scholars Program of the University of Massachusetts is jointly sponsored by both the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, and
* the students in the Rural Scholars Program *choose* a project from among the projects that are *recommended* to them.

7:35 AM  **Rural Scholars Program**—status of requests

Dan Pesch reported on the work the Committee. Currently Committee has 2 requests-one concerning services for the elderly and another concerning the problem of substance abuse on the island. These requests will be reviewed with the intention of bringing a recommendation to the Health Council for approval at the June meeting. A discussion followed concerning the possibility of submitting 2 proposals for consideration by the Rural Scholars Program. Health Council members noted that this had been done in the past with success. Other members noted that the logistical issues posed by supporting 2 projects were problematic. In particular, they noted that the projects frequently relied on interviews for each project that in some instances were a burden on the time of the interviewers, since they were often the same person being interviewed for both projects. The short time frame of the onsite visit for the rural scholars (2 weeks) also posed issues of housing. Finally, it was noted that the criteria for supervision of the students’ projects had been expanded in recent years to help assure that their experience was satisfactory from an academic standpoint. These latter points suggested too many members that only one proposal could be adequately supported.

7:45 **Announcements**

Jacque Cage reminded Council members of the recent call by Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands (ESCCI) for letters of intent for Request for Proposals for small grant funds to be distributed by ESCCI as part of the Title IIIB and IIID provisions of the Older Americans Act. She noted that a specific announcement with details appear in the Vineyard newspapers on the day of the meeting. LOIs were due on May 31 by noon.

7:50 **Substance Abuse Committee—preliminary results of stakeholder survey**

Myra Stark gave a presentation concerning the preliminary results of survey of key stakeholder concerned with the problem of substance abuse on the Vineyard. Myra noted that while the process of completing stakeholder interviews was continuing that it was possible to highlight several important conclusions. One prominent conclusion was universal agreement that the issue of substance abuse, in particular the abuse of opiates, was a major concern. While there was broad recognition that many agencies were very active in addressing the problem and that much good work was being done, this was offset by concern that the magnitude of the problem was outstripping the resources available to address it.

Members of the Council engaged in an extensive discussion which echoed the concerns raised in the survey. Points raised by several Health Council members and by guests to the meeting included:

* the importance of fully understanding the scope of the problem by compiling adequate data
* the need for a coordinated approach to address the issue
* recognition of the good work being already being done by many, and
* the need for aggressive focused action now

Charlie Hodge noted that a community forum had been scheduled for the evening of June 6. He encouraged Health Council members to attend if possible. He also noted that he planned to devote the bulk of the agenda at the next Health Council meeting on June 23 to followup to the substance abuse issue. In particular, he stated that he would like the Health Council to consider how the Health Council might best be helpful.

A copy of Myra’s slides are attached to the Minutes.

8:40 AM **Report on CORE grant program** by Joyce Ganapol **(**Senior Clinical Advisor)

Joyce Ganapol gave a brief summary of the CORE program to supplement the material that had previously been distributed to the Health Council

* The Councils on Aging developed CORE (Counseling, Outreach and Referral for the Elderly) cooperatively with Island Counseling Center (ICC) of Martha’s Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) to address the significant inter-related health, behavioral health, social and case management needs of elders. In order to actively engage elders in individualized services that enrich their lives, keep them healthy and safe and involve them in the programs and activities of the community, CORE is providing coordinated care through a combination of community, office and home-based behavioral health and support services to people 55 years and older. She highlighted the number of individuals served by the outreach programs. She concluded her written report with a number of suggestions for colleagues and concerned citizens to be helpful in the future:
  + Provide volunteer friendly visitors who can spend time talking, having a meal, or accompany elders on shopping trips, to activities and on car rides.
  + Join together for long term collaborative projects and grants to fund the coordination of services through Wrap Around Services.
  + Attend regular meetings to plan for expansion of services, programs and activities and prevent duplication and gaps.
  + Continue to identify and refer people in need of mental health services age 55 and over to CORE.
  + Help develop and provide innovative, exciting programs that will continue to engage the growing population. For example Artful Aging, connecting elders to part time or volunteer jobs.
  + Assist with providing/obtaining accessible housing and modifications that allow elders to stay in their homes.

Ms. Ganapol noted that the CORE program will continue after its current grant support is completed.

8:55 AM **Report of MV Partnership for Health** Kathleen Samways

Kathleen’s report was deferred until a future meeting because of lack of time. She did announce the MA Service Alliance/Commonwealth Corps and Island Health Care Community Health Center are recruiting 4 service members to engage the Island community in the MV Partnership for Health’ s wellness and healthy living goals. She stated she hoped Council members would contact her if they knew of individuals who might be interested in this opportunity.

**New Business/Suggested Future Agenda Items**

9:00 The meeting adjourned.

***Reminder: Next Meeting Thursday June 23, 2016***