# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Meeting MInutes

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

***Approved October 27, 2016***

**Present**: Jacque Cage, Leslie Clapp, Bill Croke, Alan Ganapol, Victoria Haeselbarth, Charles Hodge, Mary Holmes, Judy Jones, Sarah Kuh, Karen Kukolich, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Patsy McCornack, Paddy Moore, Dan Pesch, Kathleen Samways, Ashley Shattuck, Myra Stark, Martina Thornton, Ray Whittaker, Berta Giles Welch, Terre Young

**Absent:** Eleanor Beth, , Kevin Carey, , Betsy Corsiglia, Matt D’Andrea, Cindy Doyle, Julie Fay, Jay Ferriter, Karen Gear, Michael Loberg, Theresa Manning, Joann Murphy, , Dean Rosenthal, Sue Sanford, Martina Thornton, Joyce Stiles Tucker

**Guests:**

AM Charlie Hodge called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the June 23, 2016 were approved.

7:35 Charlie Hodge announced the appointment of **Marina Lent as Chair of Substance Abuse Committee**

7:40 Other—Paddy Moore, Chair of Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard (HAMV), reminded the Health Council that Sept 22 was **National Falls Prevention Day**. The National Council on Aging designates the first day of the season of Fall to remind the country that injuries due to falls are one of leading causes of injury. This is especially true for the elderly. HAMV has facilitated the establishment of a Falls Prevention Coalition. Coalition members include the Councils on Aging, VNA of CC, and a number of other agencies and community members. Members of the Coalition acknowledged Falls Prevention Day by highlighting existing prevention activities and distributing consumer focused information supplied by the VNA.

Health Council members engaged in a wide ranging discussion of the importance of fall prevention. This discussion highlighted multiple issues including: personal experiences with often severe consequences of falls, both medical and social; the availability of in-home fall risk assessments; and, resources to help make the homes of individuals at risk of falling safer. Paddy Moore noted that falls prevention will continue to be a major focus for HAMV.

7:55 **Substance Abuse Activities**-- Marina Lent reported on the work both of the DCHC Substance Abuse Committee and of the recently formed Island Coalition on Substance Abuse. She noted that the Coalition has brought together the treatment community with law enforcement agencies. The Vineyard has a number of excellent programs addressing the major problem of substance abuse. The Coalition has enabled closer contact among these programs.

Discussion then focused on the future work of the DCHC Substance Abuse Committee. Marina stated that the prime purpose of this committee was to facilitate a better understanding of the problem of substance abuse in our community through the collection of important, relevant data. The systematic collection of such data will enable future substance abuse treatment and prevention efforts to be based on better information. Several Council Members raised the question of how this would be used to spur action and what the role of the Health Council might be in facilitating future actions.

8:10 Rural Scholars Program – Dan Pesch, Chair of the Rural Scholars Committee reported that 8 nursing and medical students from U Mass were involved in the Rural Scholars program on the Vineyard this year. Their project concerns developing better sources of information on the problem of substance abuse in our community. The students will be on the Vineyard from October 16 to October 27. A preliminary report on their findings is scheduled for October 27 at 4 pm. A final report will be issued early in 2017.

8:20 Charlie Hodge open the discussion of the topic of the **role of the Health Council.** He asked that the Council break into small groups to discuss two questions:

* **Looking at the past, what has the Health Council done well?**
* **Looking at the next year, what should the Health Council do?**

The Coordinating Committee of the Health Council will review the discussion notes. A summary will be shared with the Health Council at the October meeting. Charlie stated that he hoped that the results of this discussion will help formulation of an agenda for the next 12 months. (Summary of discussion is attached)

9:00 Meeting was adjourned.

Reminder of Next Meeting – **Thursday, October 27, 2016 7:30-9:00 AM**