# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Meeting MInutes

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

**Present**: Eleanor Beth, Jacque Cage, Kevin Carey, Leslie Clapp, Bill Croke, Jay Ferriter, Alan Ganapol, Karen Gear, Charles Hodge, Mary Holmes, Judy Jones, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Michael Loberg, Patsy McCornack, Dan Pesch, Myra Stark, Berta Giles Welch, Terre Young

**Absent:** Betsy Corsiglia, Matt D’Andrea, Cindy Doyle, Julie Fay, Victoria Haeselbarth, Mary Holmes, , Sarah Kuh, Karen Kukolich, Theresa Manning, Paddy Moore, Joann Murphy, , Dean Rosenthal, Kathleen Samways, Sue Sanford, Ashley Shattuck, Martina Thornton, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Ray Whittaker

**Guests:** Joe Woodin, CEO Martha’s Vineyard Hospital

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:

**Discussion/Reports/Action Items**

7:35 Introduction **of Joseph Woodin, CEO of Martha’s Vineyard Hospital**

Charlie Hodge introduced Mr. Joe Woodin, who assumed the role of CEO of Martha’s Vineyard Hospital this past spring. Mr. Woodin stated that he was learning a great deal about the community be meeting with people and listening to them. He stated he intended to continue this process of learning. He did note that he had initiated a couple of planning processes at the hospital. These included the development of an updated master plan for the campus and the development of a 3 year strategic plan. Members of the Health Council asked a number of questions. These included questions about plans to address problems in primary care access. Mr. Woodin thanked the Health Council for the opportunity to meet with them and stated he was agreeable to returning later this year once to share his views with the group. Charlie Hodge thanked Joe for attending the meeting.

7:50 **Update on Rural Scholars Substance Abuse Disorder Data Project**

Dan Pesch related that the U Mass Rural Scholars had completed the on-island research phase of their project. They were scheduled to give a preliminary verbal report to the Health Council and other members of the community at 4 pm. A final report would be forthcoming after the preliminary report was reviewed by U Mass faculty. Dan stated that it could be expected early in 2017. Dan thanked all the Health Council members who so generously participated in this year’s Rural Scholars Program. Dan felt that the students benefited greatly from the insights of Health Council members. He also felt that the work of the Rural Scholars would be helpful in further helping the Island Community effectively address the issue of substance abuse disorder.

8:45 Follow**-up Discussion of Role of Health Council**

Charlie Hodge opened for discussion by the full Health Council a follow-up concerning the role of the Health Council. The results of the small group sessions were summarized in the attached to the September 22 minutes.

The major themes that emerged from the follow-up discussion were:

* *“Information” concerning the health issues that affect the citizens of Martha’s Vineyard is the major role of the Health Council.* Health Council members voiced a variety of opinions concerning the nature and purpose of “information.” Opinions included: The Health Council being a *source* of health information to the County Commissioners, Towns, community agencies and the community at large; the Health Council being the *recipient* of information from health related agencies; the Health Council being a *coordinator* of information gathering effort; and, the Health Council being an *active communicator* of information. Health Council Members gave examples, both past and potential, of the role of the Health Council in receiving, generating and distributing information in specific areas of health concerns.
* *“Communication” is an important role for the Health Council*. Some Health Council members voiced the desire for the Health Council to have a much more visible presence in the community through public communication channels like newspapers and local cable tv. Other members stated that they believed that the Health Council had been most effective by not seeking public visibility, but rather communicating less directly through the work of committees and reports. There was general agreement that a continued focus on effective communication would be important.
* *Networking and Information Sharing* *is a major role for the Health Council*
	+ The monthly agenda for the Health Council should regularly include reports by Health Council Committees, workgroups, community agencies and others as appropriate
	+ Health Council members believed that scheduled reports on the agenda should be accompanied by a written summary distributed to Council members ahead of the meeting. They felt that this advance information would help stimulate discussion and make the meetings more effective.
* *Health Council members agreed that The Health Council’s method of “working through Committees” had proven to be very effective over the years and should be maintained*.
* *The Coordinating Committee should be the main vehicle for setting the agenda for the Health Council.*
* *The Nominating Committee’s function of assuring a broadly representative Health Council membership is critical.* The selection of new members must be actively supported by all Council members through their suggestion of individuals who would be important contributors to the Health Council’s work.

Charlie Hodge stated that the Coordinating Committee will act upon the sense of the discussion in formulating agendas for the upcoming year.

No other new business was introduced.

9:00 the meeting was adjourned.

***Approved December 1, 2016***