# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Meeting MInutes

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

*Approved January 19, 2017*

**Present**: Jacque Cage, Kevin Carey, Betsy Corsiglia, Jay Ferriter, Karen Gear, Victoria Haeselbarth, Mary Holmes, Judy Jones, Sarah Kuh, Karen Kukolich, Robert Laskowski, Patsy McCornack, Kathleen Samways, Ashley Shattuck, Myra Stark, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Terre Young

**Absent:** Eleanor Beth, Leslie Clapp, Bill Croke, Matt D’Andrea, Cindy Doyle, Julie Fay, Alan Ganapol, Charles Hodge, Marina Lent, Michael Loberg, Theresa Manning, Paddy Moore, Joann Murphy, Dan Pesch, Dean Rosenthal, Sue Sanford, Martina Thornton, Ray Whittaker, Berta Giles Welch

**Guests:**

7:30 AM Meeting Called to Order by Jay Ferriter.

**Minutes** of the **October 27, 2016** meeting were unanimously **approved**

7:35 Presentation on **Martha’s Vineyard Cancer Support Group**

Myra Stark made a presentation about the MV Cancer Support Group.

* The MV Cancer Support Group is a non-profit 501c3 organization devoted to supporting the financial and needs of patient and families with cancer (http://www.mvcancersupport.org/). It raises money from donations. The annual Evening “Under the Stars” and Daffodil Day events are prime sources of fund. All funds raised are given to support Island residents. It is an all-volunteer organization, with no administrative budget. The organization is governed and managed by a 12 member board that meets monthly with weekly workgroup meetings. There are no paid staff. The annual budget varies depending on donations received but generally is less than $40k per year. The MV Cancer Support Group (MVCSG) supports individuals with cancer who need financial assistance with travel off island, housing, limited support of mortgage payments and similar acute financial needs. Individuals self-refer for assistance by completing a request form that is available online. The Group receives 2-4 application a month.
* In response to the question “**What can the Dukes County Health Council do to support the Cancer Support Group**?” Myra listed the following actions:
  + **Pay attention**
  + **Help outreach efforts through gathering and disseminating better information about cancer (e.g. cancer incidence)**
  + **Assist in getting new members for Board of MV Cancer Support Group**
  + **Facilitate distribution of pamphlet Resources for MV Cancer Patients and Their Families (pdf copy to be distributed with minutes)**
* Myra’s presentation engendered considerable discussion about the role of the Dukes County Health Council in addressing the issue of cancer in our community.
* **ACTION**: The resource list developed by MVCSG will be shared with the First Stop health resource information service that was established last year by Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard.

8:10 AM *Potential Role of Health Council in addressing issues related to* ***Cancer and Cancer Care***

Council members engaged in a broad discussion concerning the role of DCHC in addressing the important issue of cancer.

The following needs and areas of concern were discussed:

* Need for “resource list” for cancer patients
  + Good role for First Stop
* Need for information concerning Cancer
  + Incidence/prevalence of cancer on MV
  + How well are people being served by cancer care services
  + Status of cancer prevention efforts—what are they; are they effective
  + Ideas for enhancing cancer prevention outreach efforts-use of libraries, points of public gathering (e.g. hair salons; barber shops; pharmacies; markets)
  + Community support groups—who are they
  + Potential role for “rural scholars” project? Other ways to organize a cancer related project other than rural scholars?
  + MV Hospital’s new electronic health record as a resource for statistics on prevention?
  + Other topics:
    - Need for Cancer coach; navigator role; current role of primary care practices; confusion about “cancer team”

**ACTION:** The discussion will be reviewed by the Coordinating Council to determine the process to define a role for DCHC in cancer care.

8:30 AM *Follow up on* ***Communication*** *Discussion*—Bob Laskowski

* Bob Laskowski reviewed the discussion from the DCHC meeting concerning the importance of communication. Council members voiced agreement about the vital importance of effective communication. Council members felt that effective communication was needed within the Council, to the public about the work of the Council and to the public about important health issues. Bob raised the possibility of the creation of a time-limited workgroup of Council members to meet and formulate specific recommendations to the Council. Members agreed with the formation of such a workgroup

ACTION: The Coordinating Council will appoint interested members to a **Communication Workgroup** and develop a charge to the workgroup based on the discussions of the DCHC members.

8:50 AM *Responsibilities of Health Council Members to participate in* ***Council Committees****—Terre Young, Bob Laskowski*

* Bob Laskowski distributed the current list of Committee membership and noted that it was not completely up-to-date. He asked Council members to update the list and indicate any new committees that they wished to join. He noted that the most important work of the Council is done by Committees.
* Terre Young, Chair of the Nominating Committee reviewed the process for the nomination of members of the Health Council. The process formally begins in December with the review of open spots on the Council, the review of individual Council Members intentions for future participation and the solicitation of names of potential new candidates. The vetting process continues in January with the County placing ads in local papers announcing and soliciting interest from the public. At list of nominees is presented to the Council at the February meeting for approval. New Members are sworn in at the March meeting. Terre emphasized that the important work of the Nominating Committee can only be successful if all Council members are alert to providing the Committee with names of individuals that they believe would be good Council members.

8:50 *Review of Meeting/Topics for Future Meetings*

* Jay Ferriter asked for feedback about the meeting. Council Members said that they liked the format of the meeting. Specifically, Members liked format of brief presentation by a program (agency or service) followed by discussion and then a discussion of a health topic of importance (eg cancer and cancer care). They felt that this type of agenda was engaging, interesting and helpful.
* Jay asked members to suggest topics for future meetings

The list prepared by Charlie Hodge was reviewed

* + Members were very supportive of presentations (limited; with ample time for discussion)
  + Upcoming topics: Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard Jan Paddy Moore (Jan); Island Health Care—Kathleen Samways (?March)
  + Additional Topics:
    - Immigration Issues; Health Issues of Undocumented Residents
    - Youth Task Force
    - Role of Town Nurse—at present job definition not well understood by anyone, including town nurse
    - Dental Care Issues-particularly access
    - Flu Vaccination Strategy

*Update on Substance Use Disorder Committee*—Marina Lent

Information *deferred until next meeting*