DUKES COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday October 18, 2018

WEST TISBURY Public Safety Building

7:30-9:00 AM

7:35 AM Call to Order—Lena Prisco

Meeting Called to Order by Lena Prisco

7:40 AM Approval of September 20, 2018 Minutes

**Minutes** from September 20, 2018 meeting were **approved** without amendment.

7:45 AM **Welcome of New Members: Lila Fisher** (Board of Health Public Health Nurse/ Island Health Care)**, Bernadette Thomas** (MV Hospital)

7:50 AM **Volunteer Caregiver Workgroup – Follow and Charter**

Victoria Haeselbarth provided background information regarding a current list of caregivers which she derived from her prior list and reconciled it with a list from the hospital. The entire list has been updated. Areas of concern are;

* What organizations should maintain these lists
* Legal and other issues surrounding the sharing of the lists
* Potential role of the Health Council

General discussion led to the following considerations/recommendations

* Consider whether the County might maintain the list
* Remember that First Stop should be included
* Expand the stakeholder representation on the workgroup (Area Councils on Aging, Hospital, Hospice, Healthy Aging Task Force, Vineyard Village at Home)
* Consider ways to increase the number and quality of available caregivers, including education programs

8:05 AM **Role of Health Council in Educating the Public**

Christine Todd presented the background. There appears to be a significant lack of coordinated effective public education on health issues. High profile areas such as substance use disorder show low level of public knowledge, for example, there is little knowledge of access to HIV testing and testing for hepatitis. Since health literacy appears to be very important for the health of individuals and communities it is suggested that the Health Council consider its role in supporting effective public health education.

It was suggested that Lena Prisco and Christine begin a discussion with Martina Thornton regarding a committee/subcommittee and availability of funding.

There was significant discussion regarding First Stop and various problems related to it. Problems included; accessing the site, difficulties with searches relating to keywords, difficulties with linkages.

Also, it is recognized that individuals with difficulty accessing computers and with poor computer literacy need health information.

Resources identified as valuable include town libraries and librarians, the Rural Health Council, resource lists maintained by the Cancer Support group. Particular note is made of the availability of health information kiosks available at several Boston area hospitals. It is to be determined if this technology could be accessed by Martha’s Vineyard Hospital through the Partners’ affiliation.

8:30 AM **Towns Initiative to Facilitate Coordination of Social Services**

Christine Todd again provided the background. She noted that a number of town councils have been looking to consolidate the funding for many social services organizations and increasing the scrutiny of funds requested, with an eye toward reducing costs. There appears to be increasing dissatisfaction with the methodology for distributing the expenses among the towns.

Discussion centered on what the Health Council’s role should be in addressing this issue.

* Should the Council be vetting the funding applications in some way
* Should the Data Group be utilized

This area is also recommended for inclusion in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

9:00 AM **Adjournment**