

DUKES COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL

Minutes

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Chairman Dave Caron called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM

Our next meeting will be June 26 in the Public Safety Building in West Tisbury. This will be our last meeting before our summer break.

Members attending: Eleanor Beth, Dave Caron, Jacque Cage, Kevin Carey, Gary Cogley, Betsy Corsiglia, Tad Crawford, Julie Fay, Jay Ferriter, Angie Grant, Charles Hodge, Diane Jetmund, Judy Jones, Carol Kenney, Chris Knowles, Karen Kukulich, Nancy Langman, Marina Lent, Michael Loberg, Patsy McCornack, Paddy Moore, Gail O'Brien, Dan Pesch, Sue Sanford, Joyce Stiles-Tucker, Kathleen Samways, Connie Teixeira, Terre Young

Guests: Melinda Loberg, Jennifer Neary, Matt Poole, Ilene Klein

Members absent: Hadley Antik, Tom Bennett, Cindy Doyle, Mary Holmes, James Klingensmith, Michael Joyce, Sarah Kuh, Theresa Manning, Martina Thornton, James Weiss

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin Carey reported that there is still \$214.60 remaining in the FY14 appropriation. These funds have been committed to support the Rural Scholars program but Kevin has not gotten an invoice to pay as yet.

Rural Scholars Proposals

Paddy Moore stated that at this time there is only one proposal that will be considered. This proposal is still in the conceptual stage and turned the discussion over to Julie Fay. She introduced Jennifer Neary who will be working on this proposal regarding elder abuse. They are hoping the Rural Scholars will evaluate how the island serves elders in terms of abuse of all kinds. They will be working with Elder Services of the Cape and Islands. Gail O'Brien stressed the need to focus the work of the Rural Scholars.

Paddy explained that they also heard proposals around the homeless census and services to veterans but at this point there was no organizational support for these and it was felt that they might find such support for next year's process. Chris Knowles asked Paddy what an individual can do if he has an idea but no sponsoring agency. Paddy stated that organizational support for a proposal is important and since the Health Council is taking a more active role in the process, perhaps we will be able to identify ideas and agencies earlier in the process in the future.

Dave suggested that an individual could approach an agency and ask for support but Paddy stressed that it was too late for this year due to deadlines they have to meet.

Grant Recipient Updates

Island Wide Boards of Health Tick Borne Illness Project

Matt Poole presented an update on this, the third year of the five year grant program. He began by reviewing all the people involved and then the steps taken this year:

In the area of medical education:

- 1) They started a school based curriculum and that will continue in 2014;

- 2) Portuguese education materials – there was a bilingual presentation to the Adult Language Program; he stressed the need to continue this as the Portuguese speaking community has a large presence in the landscape business on the island putting them at even greater risk for TBI;
- 3) Their website has improved and they have added very popular videos;
- 4) TBI disease incidence monitoring;
- 5) Pursuit of an island wide standard of care for diagnosis and treatment – they have held two Grand Rounds and a dinner with medical personnel.

In the area of environmental management:

- 1) Followed through on 2011-2012 yard surveys on Chappy; visited the yards before and after giving recommendations to owners;
- 2) Yard surveys on 60 properties in Chilmark; he commented that Chilmark has a much higher tick density than Chappy;
- 3) Trail assessment – continued into 2014;
- 4) Aerial thermal imaging to determine deer density; at first thought to be 50 per square mile; now felt to be closer to 30 but still determined to be one of the most dense deer populations in the state;
- 5) More press coverage and a presentation at the Chilmark Community Center;
- 6) Trying to connect property owners with hunters for deer management;

He described the 2014 objectives:

- 1) Find a home for the work after the grant expires in 2015;
- 2) Develop an online tracking system for severe late stage disease;
- 3) A 3 session adult education course through ACE MV – already accomplished;
- 4) Continued outreach to schools and the Brazilian population;
- 5) Host an onisland medical conference for prevention, diagnosis and management of TBI;
- 6) Continued yard evaluations;
- 7) Facilitate deer herd reduction in deer dense areas.

The Power Point presentation will be attached to the email with these minute and more information can be found at www.mvboh.org.

Connected Health for Elders

Guest Ilene Klein, MD, a former Martha's Vineyard physician and member of the Health Council, made a presentation on mobile medical devices. She stated that mobile devices (cell phones and tablets) are virtually ubiquitous around the world, including with seniors. She described many of the advances in medical monitoring that are available now to help seniors and their caregivers provide and coordinate their care. As examples, she mentioned a program on her phone that will take an EKG and transmit the information to her doctor, patches that can replace halter monitors, a simple wrist monitor for hospital stays, a room device that can monitor activity, and programs in smart phones that can diagnose twenty common conditions without a physician.

She stressed that there is an increasing demand for care with no visible increase in supply and that the Vineyard has a history of early online "tele medicine." She stated the goal of keeping patients out of the hospital after discharge. Under the Affordable Care Act, hospitals will be penalized if patients are readmitted within 30 days of discharge so they need to find ways to help seniors manage their after care and these technologies can help. She showed videos of sensors in people's homes that will help elders, their families and their medical providers coordinate care and make sure discharge instructions are followed.

She stated that technology is a means to an end with better outcomes, lower cost, better coordinated care and ability for seniors to maintain their independence.

She ended with a quote from Roy Amara: “We tend to overestimate the effect of technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor S Beth, Secretary