THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

Members Present: Kevin Carey, Leslie Clapp, Vanileze Cortez, Lila Fischer, Alan Ganapol, Victoria Haeselbarth, Tom Hallahan, Judy Jones, Michael Joyce, Sarah Kuh, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Kathleen Perrotta, Dan Pesch, Lena Prisco, Myra Stark, Christine Todd, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Martina Thornton ,Mary Jane Williams, Berta Giles Welch, Marie Zadeh

Guests present: Cynthia Mitchell, Holly Bellebuono, Kathleen Samways, Brian Morris, Becky Flanders, Matthew Stackpole, Denise Schepici, Marcy Holmes, and Amy Houghton

7:30 AM Kevin Carey, who chaired the meeting, **called the meeting to order**.

7:35 Health Council members unanimously **approved the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting**.

7:40 Alan Ganapol, the Chair of the Nominating Committee reviewed the nomination process for new members of the Health Council. Alan announced the nominees for membership: **Mark Saloio, Marcy Holmes, Tnicia Chapman, Victor Capoccia, Leo Christian, Barbara Rush, Karen MacPhail, and Terre Young.** Health Council members **unanimously approved** all nominees. New Members begin their terms at the next Health Council meeting March 21, 2019.

7:55 **Island Integrated Public Health Collaborative-Cynthia Mitchell**

Cynthia Mitchell, the Executive Director of Island Healthcare, described a proposal for an "Island Integrated Public Health Collaborative" (i2PHC). She distributed a concept sheet and PowerPoint presentation that described the initiative's rationale and conceptual structure. Cynthia noted that i2PHC hopes to engage a broad group of community organizations in a deeper understanding of the public health needs of the community. This understanding will uncover unmet needs, permit an assessment of the adequacy of current public health efforts, and enable a prioritization and organization of future public health efforts. i2PHC's design should enable enhanced inter-organizational cooperation which will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public health efforts on the Vineyard.

Cynthia then described the outlines of i2PHC's structure. She envisions it to be a formal voluntary association of a broad array of "stakeholders" engaged in public health related activities. (A preliminary list of likely participants appears on one of the attached presentation slides.) A Steering Committee, yet to be formed, will provide organizational guidance. Cynthia envisions the Dukes County Health Council as a key partner.

The initial work of i2PHC will be to flesh out its organizational design and to construct its approach to assess the community's needs. Island Healthcare currently supports the effort through an in-kind allocation of personnel and the use of existing funds targeted for substance use disorder (SUD) activities. SUD related assessment will comprise a significant part of i2PHC's immediate work. Island Healthcare currently is writing grant requests to support the effort. These additional resources will permit the hiring of full-time staff for community needs assessment work.

Cynthia noted that Island Healthcare has taken the lead in developing the concept and would facilitate i2PHC's initial implementation. However, she emphasized the Island Healthcare's role is simply to initiate the concept. Members of the collaborative would determine its future organization and management.

Cynthia reported that she has made presentations to the County Commissioners, the County Advisory Board, and to all the Boards of Selectman. She stated that these groups have been very supportive. She noted that all of these groups are concerned that the social service/public health initiatives on the Vineyard may be inefficient and duplicative. These governmental groups believe that i2PHC may help them in assessing the value of current community efforts.

Members of the Health Council then engaged in a rich discussion. Many members voiced their support of the concept. Denise Schepici, CEO of MV Hospital, joined the discussion to add her support. She reported that she and Cynthia had discussed using the design of the upcoming Hospital community needs assessment as a first step in the collaboration envisioned in the i2PHC.

Several Members inquired about the potential "assessment" role of i2PHC. Cynthia noted that while this role was popular among elected officials, its nature and scope remained to be determined. She added that an assessment of community need that reveals the gaps in existing services would itself be a step toward greater effectiveness of public health efforts. In response to a Member's question of specific actions that the Health Council might take to support the project, Cynthia stated that the Health Council might consider restructuring its Committees to fit with the workgroups developed by i2PHC.

8:55 **Announcements/Other Agenda Items--ALL**

The Rural Scholars project selection process begins soon. Groups that wish to have ideas for a Rural Scholars project should contact Dan Pesch in the upcoming weeks.

9:00 **Meeting** **Adjourned**