THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

**Minutes**

**Thursday, OCTOBER 17, 2019**

**Public Safety Building – West Tisbury**

**7:30 - 9:00 AM**

**approved**

Members Present: Ellie Beth, Cindy Doyle, Beka ElDeiry, Julie Fay, Tom Hallahan, Victoria Haselbarth, Marcy Holmes, Sarah Kuh, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Kathleen Perrotta, Dan Pesch, Christine Todd, Barbara Rush, Sue Sanford, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young

Guests present: Marie Doubleday, Sheryl Taylor School wellness coordinator, Katrina Delgadillo, Communications Director, MV Hospital

7:30 **Call Meeting to Order/Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2019 Meeting**--Mary Jane Williams called the meeting to order; Minutes of the September 19, 2019 were approved.

7:35 **Rural Scholars Project-**Dan Pesch

Dan reported that the students arrive this Sunday and will be welcomed with a dinner. They will then begin their study on services and access to recreational services for disabled individuals, especially youth. The presentation of their results is scheduled for October 31 from 4:30-6:30 pm.

7:40 **Housing Committee**-Bob Laskowski noted that the DCHC Housing Committee is looking for members. Karen Tewhey is the Co-Chair.

Christine Todd reported that the funding for Karen’s position as Associate Commissioner of Homeless has been dropped. The County Commissioners voted to re-appropriate surplus funds for her position. The vote now goes to the County Advisory Board. Bob made a motion that the Health Council write a **letter of support informing the Advisory Board of the importance of this position and the need for continued funding.** **The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

7:50 **Nominating Committee: -** Terre Young outlined the nomination process for membership on the Health Council. It is as follows: Soon the committee members will reach out to those whose two-year term is up and ask if continuing is what those members want. Once this step is complete, we will know how many vacancies we have and then look to fill those specific slots, created by the county, with new members. The county advertises for volunteers in the local papers in January. Once we know who the potential new members are we bring those names to the council members for a vote at the February meeting and those same names, once council voted, go to the commissioners for their vote in February. New members will be welcomed to our table in March.

**Terre invited members to bring suggestions of new members to the Nominating Committee.**

**Terre also stressed that the Nominating Committee needs new members.**

8:00 **Relationship of Health Council to i2PHC** – Mary Jane Williams.

Mary Jane reported that the Coordinating Committee met with Cynthia Mitchell to attempt to define the role of the Health Council in i2PHC's work. In general, it appears that the Health Council will play a collaborative role with I2PHC steering committee as an advisor. Mary Jane further noted that i2PHC envisions a support system with the ability to gather data--a key need for health related planning on the Vineyard. Bob Laskowski offered that i2PHC has the potential to tap into resources which the Health Council does not have. Furthermore, he noted that i2PHC appears to be an organization intent on developing the ability to launch programs. In contrast, the Health Council's role has been less "action oriented" and focused more on raising issues, developing interest networks and advising the community. Bob noted that there may be some risk of duplication between the roles of i2PHC and the Health Council.

Terre Young noted the Health Council has a diverse membership that has been carefully constructed. This diversity may useful as 12PHC develops.

 Christine Todd added that i2PHC could form the basis for an effective coordination of grant writing efforts that would make our community's grant requests more competitive.

Marcy Holmes noted that Health Council meetings are *public* meetings--open to all. She asked whether i2PHC meetings would also be open to the public.

Mary Jane noted that Cynthia Mitchell will attend the November Health Council meeting to continue this discussion.

8:05 **Adolescent Vaping -** Bob introduced Beka ELDeiry, the Associate Commissioner for Youth. He noted that the current risks of e-cigarettes are unknown. However, the recent reports of severe lung injuries and the CDC's warnings to the public are very disturbing. Mary Jane noted that in her explorations she discovered that electronic cigarettes have been around since the 1930’s.

Beka noted that she has great concerns that the issue of vaping by young people in our community has not received the attention that it should. Her concerns are both as Associate Commissioner for Youth and as the parent of a young person. She distributed written recommendations for the schools and community to consider.

An extensive discussion followed. The highlights and themes are summarized below:

Beka stated that she has looked extensively at the resources available in our schools and elsewhere. Beka noted that much effort has occurred in addressing the issues of wellness and prevention, however, she believes that the demands on the school to attend to the needs of its large student body has left some students behind. Specifically, she believes that communication about issues with parents has not been active enough. She noted that parental support that the Brewster school systems offer for marijuana use, vaping, smoking, and stressed students appears to be a model we could emulate. Furthermore, the planning timelines for improving the health programs in the schools are too long.

Kathy Perrota noted that school system is aggressively addressing the issues as rapidly as possible. Kathy also stressed her appreciation of Beka's observations and efforts.

Mary Doubleday noted that the NAACP, of which she is a member, is concerned about vaping.

Julie Fay stated she appreciated the sense of urgency. She added that some ongoing efforts may not be visible. Among them she noted that: MV Community Services has recovery coaches in the high school and the middle schools; the Dept. Mental Health is funding the presence of an ICS social worker in the high school and charter school which include bilingual services; future funding opportunities are being pursued. Julie cautioned against forming another committee to address the issues.

Parental involvement is often a problem, in that attendance at meetings intended to be helpful to them are often poorly attended.

Members raised multiple other issues that included: the importance of culture and social norms; problems with sharing sensitive information between parents and the schools; the lack of regional coordination of services and information.

Marina Lent noted that the state has a current initiative to review public health issues at local levels with the goal of encouraging sharing of services. Sue Sanford noted the vital importance of effective communication using marketing techniques.

Beka re-emphasized her appreciated of current efforts but stressed her sense of urgency and asked that it be shared and acted upon in concrete ways.

8:30 **MV Hospital Community Needs Assessment 2019** – Katrina Delagdillo, the MV Hospital Director of Communications reported on the recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CNA) completed by the hospital. (Katrina's PowerPoint presentation and the full CNA report were distributed electronically to all Health Council members. The CNA report is also available online on the hospital's website).

Katrina noted that part of the CNA included a community survey. The survey received 346 responses, of which 19 were in Portuguese. Access to the opinions of the Portuguese speaking community as well as other underrepresented groups in the community continues to be a concern. Sarah Kuh and Marie Doubleday offered suggestions and potential help with future outreach efforts.

Bob Laskowski asked Katrina whether the CNA process resulted in any "surprises" for hospital management or the Board. Katrina replied that there were none. Karen Tewhey noted that "housing" appeared prominently as a priority in the CNA. She discussed some of the health implications of inadequate housing including its negative effect on people with chronic illnesses and potential risk to women with high risk pregnancies. Katrina noted that housing is also a concern for its effect on hospital staffing. Last year the hospital partnered with Island Housing Trust to create housing for 15 hospital staff. Katrina thanked Karen for her insights.

9:00 **Other**

Mary Jane invited all council members to a forum at the Hebrew Center on **November 20th, at 6:30. Dr. Barbara Satler from California will be presenting information on fire prevention.**

Sarah Kuh reminded everyone of the **Health Care Access Program**, an organization birthed by the Dukes County Health Council **20 years** ago, will celebrate its **anniversary** at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury, Thursday the 24th from 5 to 7 pm. She encouraged all to come join in the festivities.

Mary Jane closed the meeting with **congratulations to Julie Fay** for her many years and accomplishments with MV Community Services. Mary Jane was saddened to hear about Julie’s retirement plans and thanked her for the yo-woman’s job she has done. Health Council members concurred with Mary Jane's remarks.

9:05 **The Meeting was adjourned.**

Our next meeting will be, Thursday November 21st 7:30 am.