Zoom AI generated summary

for Dukes County Health Council Meeting

July 18, 2024

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| **Meeting summary for Dukes County Health Council Meeting (07/18/2024)** |

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| **Quick recap** |
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| The team discussed the formation of a Mental Health Committee, the progress of a shared community assessment, and the need for improved collaboration and resource utilization in healthcare on Martha's Vineyard. They emphasized the importance of a defined continuum of care to better serve the island's aging population and enhance access to healthcare services. The group also discussed the need for formalizing workflows, improving visibility of the system, and sustained funding to ensure efficient collaboration among team members. |
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| **Next steps** |
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| • Coordinating Committee to synthesize ideas and develop next steps for improving collaboration and continuity of care. |
| • Bob Laskowski and Michael Werthheimer to debrief and summarize key points from the discussion. |
| • Health Council to consider taking the lead on improving collaboration and continuity of care efforts. |
| • Beth Focarelli to participate in or assign someone to a subgroup for assessing current needs and connectors in the healthcare system. |
| • Health Council to explore piloting working meetings focused on collaboration and continuity of care. |
| • Health Council members to complete required credentialing and ethics training. |
| • Kathleen Samways to reach out to members about forming small working groups before the September meeting. |
| • Health Council to review and consider recommendations from the Rural Scholars project. |
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| **Summary** |
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| **Mental Health Committee, Community Assessment, and Housing Funds** |
| Bob and Kathleen led a discussion that included a review and acceptance of the minutes from the previous meeting. Kathleen provided updates on various agenda items from the last meeting, including the formation of a Mental Health Committee and progress on a shared community assessment between Island Healthcare and the hospital. Bob then provided an update on the affordable housing situation, highlighting the inclusion of a $50 million Seasonal Communities Housing Innovation Fund in the Senate bill, but the exclusion of the local Option transfer fee. The discussion concluded with Kathleen introducing the topic of coordinating the continuum of care on the island, with a discussion between Dr. Michael Wertheimer and Bob planned for later. |
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| **Improving Continuity of Care on Martha's Vineyard** |
| Michael Wertheimer, a retired surgeon and seasonal Vineyard resident shared his background and his passion for improving healthcare on the island. He highlighted the importance of continuity of care, especially in the context of the rural and isolated environment of Martha's Vineyard. He noted the current fragmented state of healthcare on the island, despite the presence of several healthcare entities. Michael proposed the need for a defined continuum of care to better serve the island's aging population and enhance access to healthcare services. |
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| **Improving Collaboration and Resource Utilization** |
| The Health Council then discussed the need for improved collaboration and resource utilization among various organizations on the island. Bob Laskowski led the discussion, referencing the Rural Scholars Review Project and emphasizing the importance of using the continuum of care and continuity of care as a framework for collaboration. Christine Todd and Dan Pesch raised concerns about the lack of collaboration and the need for leadership to initiate and implement it. Lenore <last name> advocated for cross-cultural collaboration, data sharing, and diverse representation in planning forums. Cathy Wozniak proposed public forums to increase awareness of available services; one member suggested improvements in communication and a more integrated approach to addressing mental illness and homelessness. |
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| **Improving Health Council Communication and Collaboration** |
| Concerns were expressed about communication with the Health Council and suggested bringing in more experts to improve collaboration and coordination. Christine Todd agreed, suggesting that the Health Council could play a key role in enhancing cross-town boundaries and bringing agencies together. A member highlighted the need for a platform to track patient care and emphasized the importance of patients being active in their care. The group also discussed the need for better public communication to improve community understanding of available resources and connections. |
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| **Improving Workflows and Continuum of Care** |
| Kathleen Samways emphasized the need for formalizing workflows and improving visibility of the system to ensure efficient collaboration among team members. She also suggested mapping out the continuum of services to identify gaps and connectors, and to ensure a warm handoff in case of service gaps. The importance of sustained funding and a dedicated point person to lead and facilitate collaboration among various agencies and entities was emphasized. .Additionally, the need for an education process to raise awareness about the continuum of care among the community was noted. |
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| **Improving Patient Care and Collaboration** |
| Michael Wertheimer urged the Health Council to take the lead in developing a system for improved patient care, emphasizing the importance of acceptance and commitment to this endeavor. Christine Todd shared about a similar initiative launched by the Nantucket Select Board, suggesting the Health Council could learn from their approach. Lenore proposed preliminary mapping of existing programs to avoid duplication and ensure sustainability. Dan Pesch suggested transforming the meeting format into a working one, where each organization could share their ongoing projects, challenges, and improvements, promoting collaboration and better communication among organizations. |
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| **Assessing Healthcare Resources and Coordination** |
| The group discussed assessing the current landscape of healthcare resources, services, and connections on the island to identify gaps and improve coordination. Beth provides details on the complexity of Community Services' programs. The discussion touches on potentially forming a subcommittee to map resources and connectors. Lenore <last name> suggests piloting some activities within this group first before building a larger model. There is consensus that this work is important but should proceed thoughtfully given the challenges of maintaining trust and avoiding unintended impacts on organizations' grant funding. |
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