THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Via zoom conference

Thursday, May 21, 2020 7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members zooming in: Ellie Beth, Michael Bellissimo, Victor Capoccia, Leslie Clapp, Tnisha Chandler, Leo Christian, Louise Clough, Vanileze Cortez?, Katrina Delgadillo, Cindy Doyle, Betsy Edge, Julie Fay, Lila Fisher, Alan Ganapol, Bruce Golden, Tom Hallahan, Meris Keating, Robert Laskowski, Karen McPhail, Paddy Moore, Kathleen Perrota, Dan Pesch, Barbara Rush, Susan Sanford, Myra Stark, Joyce Styles Tucker, Karen Tewhey, Martina Thornton, Christine Todd, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young. Guests present: Deide Weiler, Laura Silber, Sheryl Taylor ~ and possibly others whose phone numbers I do not recognize. Sorry

7:30 AM **Call Meeting to Order:** Mary Jane Williams ~ Mary Jane asked for a motion to approve the minutes from our April meeting. Mike, so moved, second by Cindy, unanimous vote in favor or approving.

Homeless needs: Karen Tewhey shared that as of June 30th, she is leaving her position with the county working as Associate commissioner for the homeless, which she has held for 4 years. She is concentrating her efforts on Harbor Homes, which is opening in 2 weeks. This position is not being advertised and there is no funding for a person to coordinate the homeless support on island. Concerns are first with the higher expectation with the virus, that everyone is housed. This is still not possible because some cannot go to hotels and hotels are starting to ready for opening. She has funding for about 20 people from the hospital, MVCS, PE and MV Bank. Her biggest concern is that there won’t be any hot line or number to call if they need help/ She typically gets calls from the hospital, counselors, community services, clergy and police. As far as she knows there is no one replacing a voice at the end of a phone line. Her two concerns in homeless prevention is regional entity and most funding is coming out of Barnstable County, the only way to get and individual into permanent housing. The only one way to get individuals and families into supportive housing is to have a specific screening instrument filled out and sent to Barnstable. In the past year, 6 individuals have been screened and housed on the cape. There is no one to do this, so no island residents will have access to these openings on the Cape unless screened and on the wait list. The last thing is that she has been writing grants for funding and no one is identified to this either. Grant writing is critical right now because the state has come out with a lot of money to help with emergency shelter during covid. There is no one to write this grant. The state wants applications for two things, reimbursement costs for shelters, motels. This funding covers march to June of this year. State is also asking for a budget for what the cost for an emergency shelter from 7/2020 to 6/30/2021. They have allocated and Karen knows of no one who is writing this grant. Mary Jane asked Karen if she knows of anyone who is in a position to write this grant, anyone who is knowledgeable? Karen is writing grants for Harbor Homes now and had data to help anyone. She doesn’t have time to take this all on.

Christine spoke to the county commissioners’ feelings that the island’s response to the homeless situation has been completely insufficient. ‘It’s like we want to pretend it doesn’t exist and then scramble and scrape.” We have a public health issue that will grow with this crisis and the challenges people are facing economically. The Commission has $150K to look at/study the immediate needs.

Martina added that the county can supply some support, can do intake but not emergency shelter. Town meeting warrant articles are attached to SUD and homeless prevention. If the towns can fund $25k for a year the county could hire a part time person who could do grant writing and keep the network on homeless prevention going and attend off island meetings of regional networks and keep us linked to resources of off island works. Without town funding the county would not be able to do this piece. One problem is that the county has been going to the towns for dollars and towns have become more critical. Mike adds, there will be belt tightening at all towns with their loss of revenue. Finding private funding and grants would be a way forward.

Paddy offered that prior to the county’s work, homeless prevention was provided by Community Services. She suggested we table this conversation to explore with CS if they have the capacity, or the commission.

Mike spoke with a debt of gratitude to Karen for her work and asked what it would take resource wise to run this program, can she estimate how much money would be needed. Karen replied that she would need some time to think on this answer.

Paddy suggested this be tabled and a committee be formed. We should be able to come up with a collaborative solution. The motion was accepted and this will be on next meeting’s agenda.

Advance Care Planning: Paddy, Cindy and Bob. Paddy introduced Cindy Trish, the new Executive Director of Healthy Aging MV. Cindy has a strong background in marketing and program development and will be a wonderful collaborator with you all. Paddy also introduced Deide Weiler who is a consultant to the hospital and formerly held the position of Chief Quality Officer under Tim Walsh. Cindy D. and Bob introduced their project of Advance Care Planning to us with the goal of having everyone over the age of 18 have an advance care plan. Once 18, parents cannot speak for their children and this is very important, especially during this time of pandemic. This group is offering workshops to any and all. They have now adapted to on line delivery. The point it to stimulate conversations about what is to happen in your life. They have 3 buckets; 1 know, 2 feel, and, 3 do.

Here, I will defer to Bob’ power point slides for the information shared.

Cindy and terre shared their stories about their father’s care and how advanced directives played out. Also Leo shared his family’s experience at his mother’s death. He also spoke to his work with congregation members who have had the conversations and the better situations family find when a family is prepared with knowing the wishes of their loved ones.

Bob and Cindy encouraged us all to join them in this effort for island wide participation. Volunteer to bring them to your organization, give them advice on how they might improve their presentation and how to reach more people. Have the conversation with your family and friends; give your completed forms to the medical records department at the hospital.

Cindy shared a video from the Conversation Project. This video is used in their presentation to stimulate conversation. They also use Honoring Choices and 5 Wishes. All these materials come with the program and follow up from the presenters comes 1 or so months after.

The video focused on these points:

* Why directives are not enough. Have ongoing conversations they matter the most. ER or ICU is not the place to have these conversations
* Choosing proxy, can be anyone who can follow your decision. Download free kit [www.healthcareproxy.com](http://www.healthcareproxy.com)
* Having practice starting conversation
* Booklet for distribution-normalizes conversation – honoring choices, get started tool kit and 5 wishes, on line group work, defines important terms.

MOLST form – Mass orders for Life Sustaining treatment, has specialized info meant to guide MET people to know what to do and is best used by people who are really sick. A difference from the other forms is that a doctor has to sign the MOLST.

Deide shared that the hospital’s advance care directives can be found on their website, Pt. & Visitor guide tab. Best to copy your form and mail it to Medical Records, Department PO 1477 OB 02557. The department’s number is 508-957 9831. Partners has changed their name to Mass General/Brigham, MGB. All records are shared with MGB. One valid ACP is needed and a review has found that several are outdated or invalid. The hospital is identifying high-risk patients and starting the conversation project with them and their RN, Cheryl Kram. PCP can send forms to patients via gateway and patient can complete also via gateway. Our hospital can streamline info into medical records both at time of office visits and inpatient care. They are trying to identify what really matters to older adults and developing that as they want to make sure that clients across all agencies have HCP and are entered in EMR. MVH quality & safety department plans to initiate advance directive care procedure and process has been delayed by covid. Deide plans to track the process and provide feedback. She wants to follow with more tracking and provide metrics.

Myra asked if the MOLST form is still legal if the signing physician has died? Deide will look into this. ***She has reported back to us that Yes, the MOLST is still valid****.*

Bob will provide us with these documents; they are available electronically and also as a packet. Cindy Trish thanked Cindy and Bob. The team would love the opportunity to present this to others, your organizations. Meris said she would love to bring this to the Anchors and also explore ways to streamline the information and make it more accessible to the public. Cindy D. said that if people can host the presentation know that the conversation is the hardest part and that this is their main point ~ to make the conversation happen. As Atul Guwande said, “You don’t want to land in the hospital fighting. The hardest thing for doctors is to make decisions for the patients. This is the thing that keeps them awake at night!”

Any questions please shoot Bob and Cindy an email. Martina asked if plans include helping people without family on island to find HCP. Yes, the situation is recognized and they are working with Kathy Perotta in the schools, the churches, Laurie Schaller, Hospice’s chaplain and the COAs. Paddy identified and thanked the team; Lorna Andrade of the NAACP, Sandy Coor-Dolby of Horizons Health, Tom Hallahan, Hospice, Kathy Perotta MVRHS, Deide of MVH, Mary Jane Williams of the DCHC, and Dan Pesch who started with this group 4 years ago. This work has been an eye opener for everyone.

Mary Jane thanked all who are working on this extremely important project. It is a great effort and essential to all people. She also thanked Karen for her work. If any members would like to join a homeless committee please send her your name.

**Reminder to all: We will have a special meeting on Thursday May 28th, at 7:30 via zoom. We will have Marina Lent representing the island Boards of Health and Nancy Gardella from the Chamber of Commerce to lead a discussion on how the island is preparing to open and for the summer. Please join us. A link will come to you on Tuesday.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 with a send off for all to stay well.

Our next regular meeting will be June 18th. 7:30 am via a zoom

Respectfully submitted, terre young, secretary pro tem