THE DUKES COUNTY

Health Council

Minutes

Thursday, Nov 21, 2019

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

7:30 - 9:00 AM

Members Present: Eleanor Beth, Victor Capoccia, Tnisha Chandler, Leo Christian, Leslie Clapp, Vanileze Cortez, Judy Jones, Michael Joyce, Robert Laskowski, Karen MacPhail, Paddy Moore, Joann Murphy, Megan Panek, Kathleen Perrotta, Dan Pesch, Mary Jane Williams, Myra Stark, Karen Tewhey, Christine Todd, Joyce Stiles Tucker, Mary Jane Williams, Terre Young, Marie Zadeh

Guests present: Cynthia Mitchell, Kathleen Samways, Brian Morris

7:30 AM **Call Meeting to Order/Approval of Minutes of Sept 18, 2019 Meeting**--Mary Jane Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:35AM by Chair Mary Jane Williams.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved unanimously

7:35 AM **Approval of Payment for Video Costs incurred for recording Rural Scholars' Presentation--**Ellie Beth

The Rural Scholars presentation was recorded by MVTV in accordance with the desires of the Health Council. MVTV is requesting payment of $250 of providing that service. This payment requires approval of the Health Council according to our policies.

*Motion: Pay $250 to MVTV from Health Council funds for video services provided at the Rural Scholars presentation on Oct 31, 2019*

Vice Chair Ellie Beth presented an invoice of $250 to pay for the videotaping of the Rural Scholars Presentation in October. The Council **approved** payment unanimously.

7:40 AM **Decreased Budget for Health Council for 2020--**Mary Jane Williams and Christine Todd

Dukes County anticipates reduced funding and increased costs in the fiscal year beginning July 2020. Accordingly, Martina Thornton has recommended that the Health Council budget be reduced to $1000 per year. This current year's budget is $3000. Year to date expenditures have been limited to approximately $700 (reimbursement of travel expenses for the Rural Scholars). Approximately $2000 this current year is allocated to Substance Use Disorder related activity

County Commissioner and DCHC member Christine Todd explained the budget constraints being faced by the County and let the group know that the County Manager has only included $1,000 for the DCHC in the proposed budget for FY2021. We have $3,000 in our budget for the current year. To date, including the above approved amount for videotaping, we will have spent $950. Bob Laskowski mentioned that he had been contacted by Victoria Hasselbarth who has been working as a volunteer on the Council’s website. She is looking for someone more “tech savvy” to assist her on this. Bob commented that while we do a great deal with volunteers, this is an area we could spend some of our appropriation. Christine suggested Victoria contact the County Manager for technical assistance.

Mary Jane pointed out that there is an issue with education on transgender children. She may speak to the hospital about having an expert come to the Vineyard for a forum on the issue. She cited this as another example of how we could use the Council’s appropriation.

Bob asked that Christine determine if the remaining $2,050 in our budget is restricted to expenses related to substance use disorder or may be used for other Council expenses. She will check and let us know.

7:50 AM **Rural Scholars Update--**Dan Pesch

On Oct 31, eight graduate nursing and medical school students from U Mass gave a presentation on their research into the availability of recreational opportunities for disabled youth on the Vineyard. Dan will provide a brief summary of their findings. A more in-depth review of the results and recommendations will be scheduled early next year.

Dan Pesch reported a very successful visit. He thanked everyone who participated. He especially cited the Island Disability Council whose members did a lot of work on this project. The scope of the project included identifying services available now, determining the need for change and recommending next steps.

Some recommendations include:

* Increased awareness of programs that exist
* Increased support for parents
* Institute peer support
* Increased collaboration with IDC and other organizations
* Support to local businesses to encourage them to hire those with disabilities
* Increased funding

7:55 AM **Review of Committee/Workgroup Assignments--**Bob Laskowski

The Health Council does most of its work through its committees and workgroups. Health Council members are expected to participate in one or more of our committees. Health Council members will have the opportunity to review and update our current committee membership list and express their interest in joining committees.

Bob reminded members of the commitment of all members to serve on committees of the Council. Sheets were passed around for members to update their assignments and sign up for committees. Bob will collate the information and notify chairs of committees of interested Council members.

8:00 AM **i2PHC Update**--Cynthia Mitchell

Cynthia Mitchell, the Executive Director of Island Healthcare, will give an update on the status of i2PHC.

Cindy Mitchell introduced her team: Judy Jones, Clinical Director; Kathleen Samways, Quality Officer and Brian Morris, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder coordinator. They reported on the activities to date. Cindy stated that they made the decision to allow the collaboration to “happen organically” and allow it to “find its own way.”

At this time, the mental health and substance use disorder services coordinated by Brian Morris are being provided in the I2PHC space in the county owned building off State Road. He explained that they have hosted many island wide events and programs as well as providing direct peer to peer support. He stated that they have worked with the Substance Use Disorder Coalition on a variety of program. People who wish to connect with this program do so through Island Health Care but need not be patients of that clinic. This program is funded by grants through Island Health Care.

Cindy also discussed work done by interns employed this past summer to assist in their moving toward a more formal collaboration with partners but to date it is still “happening organically” and not formalized.

Kathleen Samways presented work the coalition is trying to do in work force development in health care. A visioning session planned on this topic was a victim of one of the large fall storms and not held. It will be held after the first of January.

Cindy then began the discussion on how the DCHC would partner with I2PHC. When she met with the Coordinating Committee, it was decided she would report to the Council regularly, perhaps on a quarterly basis. They welcome input and guidance on how they are proceeding and on the formal partnerships. They expect to create five work groups:

* Ongoing needs assessments (building on the one done by the hospital)
* Data collection (perhaps combining with the DCHC Committee)
* Strategic planning – this group will work with the first two groups
* Workforce development
* Committee engagement and outreach

They would like to be able to apply and receive grants including the HRSA grants that required consortia but will not be able to without at least a memorandum of understanding with the hospital, MV Community Services and the county. As yet, this has not formally happened but according to Cindy, “we are getting there.” Representatives have been meeting and may form the basis for the steering committee for I2PHC.

Victor Cappoccia pointed out all the active coalitions that already exist and felt it would be a challenge to figure out how I2PHC will work with these.

Karen Tewhey suggested an additional work group to work on grants and other funding mechanisms might be helpful.

8:40 AM **Transportation Update**--Leslie Clapp

Leslie Clapp updated the group on the current problem of on island transportation for attendees of the supportive day program. The VTA has cut back on this program and wants to eliminate the program citing the view that this is transportation for “social” purposes and they wish to concentrate on “medical” transportation. In the short term, she has worked with families to provide transportation along with the VTA. It has been suggestions that the senior centers get their own vans for this purpose. Under this plan, the VTA would provide the buses; in addition, they would provide the insurance, fuel and maintenance at cost and train the drivers who would have to be employees of the senior centers. Leslie stated that she has already included $10,000 in her budget proposal for FY2021 to cover these additional costs. Bob Laskowski pointed out that this additional cost to the towns would not be well received and that this is a service that has been and should be provided by the VTA.

Victor pointed out that there are most likely lots of vans on island and perhaps these could be made available.

Leslie will keep the Council updated.

Leslie will give an update on the status of healthcare related transportation services for Vineyard residents.

8:50 AM **Meeting was Adjourned**