

## DUKES COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL (DCHC)

**Chair:** U. Lena Prisco, PhD dchealthcouncil@gmail.com

Phone: (508) 687-9025

Website: www.dchcmv.com

Meeting Time: DCHC meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7:30AM at the West Tisbury Public Safety Building.

Minutes of the DCHC meetings are available on the County Website: [www.dukescounty.org](http://www.dukescounty.org) and on the DCHC website [www.dchcmv.org](http://www.dchcmv.org).

### Board Members

NAME	Title
U. Lena Prisco	Chair
Eleanor Beth	Vice Chair
Robert Laskowski	Secretary
Kevin Carey	Treasurer

### Active Members

NAME	POSITION	TERM
Eleanor Beth	Consumer, Vice Chair	2020
Kevin Carey	Consumer, Treasurer	2020
Victor Capoccia	Consumer	2021
Trisha Chandler	Community Health Org.	2021
Leo Christian	Public Official	2021
Leslie Clapp	Community Health Org.	2020
Betsy Corsiglia	Practice Professional	2020
Vani Cortez	Community Health Org.	2020
Cindy Doyle	Consumer	2020
Rebecca ElDeiry	Ex Officio, Associate Commissioner for Youth	E.O.
Julie Fay	Community Health Org.	2020
Lila Fisher	Practioner/Professional	2020
Alan Ganapol	Public Official	2020
Karen Gear, DDS	Practioner/Professional	2020
Victoria Hasselbarth	Community Health Org.	2020
Thomas Hallahan	Practioner/Professional	2020
Marcy Holmes	Practice Professional	2021
Judy Jones	Practioner/Professional	2020
Michael Joyce	Consumer	2020
Sarah Kuh	Ex Officio, VHCAP Director	E.O.
Robert Laskowski	Practioner/Professional, Secretary	2020
Karen MacPhail	Consumer	2021
Marina Lent	Public Official	2020
Paddy Moore	Consumer	2020
Robert Moore	MV Public Charter School	2019
JoAnn Murphy	Ex Officio, Veteran's Agent	E.O.
Kathleen Perrotta	Wellness Coordinator	2020
Dan Pesch	Practioner/Professional	2020
Lena Prisco	Practioner/Professional, Chair	2021
Megan Rose	Elder Services	2019
Barbara Rush	Practioner/Professional	2021
Susan Sanford	Practioner/Professional	2020
Kathleen Samways	Ex Officio, Assoc. Commissioner for Disabled	E.O.



Denise Schepici	Practitioner/Professional, MVH CEO	2021
Sheila Shapiro	Vineyard House	Guest
Myra Stark	Consumer	2020
Christine Todd	Ex Officio, County Commissioner	E.O.
Joyce Stiles-Tucker	Public Official	2020
Karen Tewhey	Assoc. Commissioner for Homeless	2019
Martina Thornton	Ex Officio, County Manager	E.O.
Berta Welch	Public Official	2019
Mary Jane Williams	Consumer	2019
Terre Young	Consumer	2019
Marie Zadeh	Practitioner/Professional	2020

## Mission

The Dukes County Health Council (DCHC) is a volunteer coalition of community members, public officials, health practitioners, and health organizations whose mission it is to identify critical unmet needs and seek ways to address them. We promote community-wide health and wellness through the development of a cooperative, integrated health care network and through public education. Critical island resources such as Island Health Care, Vineyard Health Care Access Program, the MV Youth Task Force, Healthy Aging MV and FirstStop MV were formed from the efforts of DCHC. The Health Council has established several committees and work groups that focus on relevant issues and concerns for the MV community.

## 2019 Health Council Priorities:

Each Year Health Council Members vote on relevant community issues and the results are used by the Coordinating Committee in the formation of agendas for the remainder of this year. The DCHC also has several ongoing committees and workgroups that remain active year over year. The 2019 list of DCHC priorities are as follows:

1	•Advanced Care Planning
2	•Neurology Care Access
3	•Island Community Vital Statistics Information
4	•Cancer Care access
5	•Substance Misuse Initiatives
6	•Community Health Education
7	•Community needs survey (with MVH)
8	•Dental Services Access
9	•Youth Use of Illicit Substances
10	•Transportation for care
11	•Other Specialty Care Access
12	•End of life care
13	•LGBTQ Health issues and Care access

## Rural Scholars

One of the main activities of the DCHC is the annual hosting of the Rural Scholars, consisting of medical and advanced nursing students from the University of Massachusetts. The Rural Scholars spend two weeks on MV collecting data regarding their current project. In the fall of 2018 the project was “Laying the foundation for



Advanced Care Planning on Martha's Vineyard.” The presentation is available on the MVTV website and on the Health Council Website.

This presentation highlighted important issues for the MV community specifically that in order to accomplish effective and comprehensive Advanced Care planning several important steps would need to be undertaken and which have already begun. Of these the most vital are improving communication between health-related organizations, across island provider integration, extensive and consistent outreach to vulnerable populations beyond the elderly and finally normalization and comfort with advanced care planning through community education.

### **Substance Abuse Committee**

In 2018, the Group approved a \$3500 allocation for the employment of a part-time data entry assistant to collect data on local opioid use. The substance abuse committee also continued to work closely with the highly successful Island Coalition on Substance Abuse. Both groups worked to bring the treatment community and law enforcement agencies together to tackle this issue.

A Poster Campaign highlighting that substance misuse is a disease and where to obtain treatment on the island was completed using a series of posters placed across many island sites beyond healthcare facilities and in MVTA buses. They are part of an outreach effort to help more individuals afflicted with substance use disorder engage in therapy. In 2019, this effort will continue with another poster and flyer campaign that again emphasizes the need for life-long support and treatment.

### **Communication Work Group**

Beginning in 2017 and following into 2019, the DCHC Communications Work Group created a website that provides DCHC activities and communications for the public. On <https://www.dchcmv.com> information such as specific meeting minutes and agendas, affiliated organizations, resources, topics of interest and all of the Rural Scholars presentations. The content of the site is reviewed periodically and is in process of being updated with more health-related information of interest to islanders.

### **Healthy Aging MV Committee (HAMV)**

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (formerly the Healthy Aging Task Force), developed as a subcommittee of the Dukes County Health Council, is a new planning and advocacy coalition of over 70 leaders representing 37 nonprofit and municipal organizations serving Martha's Vineyard elders and their families. The results of the the formation of this group has burgeoned into several work groups to tackle several issues related to our aging island community including:

- Advanced care planning
- Healthcare access challenges
- Fall prevention
- Geriatric education
- Medical related transportation



### **Cancer Care and MV Cancer Support Group (MVCSG)**

The Health Council continues to support and bring awareness to the MV Cancer Support Group. This non-profit organization funded by private donations and run by a 12-member Board which works to support cancer patients with travel off-island, housing, limited mortgage payment support and other financial needs. The group receives 2-4 applications from the community each month. MVCSG hosts several annual events that are prime sources of funding including the annual “Evening Under the Stars” and “Daffodil Day.” In 2019 and beyond, this group will be partnering with Martha’s Vineyard Hospital Cancer Services to enhance and broaden the scope and access to cancer-related care.

### **Health Access Martha's Vineyard**

This is a program of Dukes County initially founded by the Dukes County Health Council in 2017. Its mission is to assist residents of Martha's Vineyard to obtain affordable, high-quality health care, and safety net services. The DCHC remains committed to aiding this organization in bringing healthcare to vulnerable populations on the island, especially to non-English speaking persons and the LGBTQ community. Information about the assistance and program is available at: <http://mvhealthcareaccess.org/about/>.

### **Health Data Workgroup**

Beyond demographic data collected and collected by the State and locally by the County, it became apparent to the DCHC that as an island community we are lacking vital health-related statistics. In the age of electronic medical records, it is now possible to collect such de-identified disease-related data in order to provide our island organizations with better insights into the acute and chronic conditions prevalent in our community. In 2018 in order to accomplish these goals efforts have begun to identify and consult with potential sources of existing health-related data resources (e.g. Mass Dept. of Health databases, Commonwealth Fund analyses; US census data, to name a few) and potential community partners for data acquisition specific to MV (e.g. MV Hospital, Martha's Vineyard Commission, Island Health Care, MVCS). The goals of this workgroup are to identify and provide recommendations for Island community-based models for the organization and presentation of health data (e.g. county health status dashboards). Interviews with community partners have already begun and potential assistance via internships with local universities for data collection and organization are being explored.

As stated on the DCHC website, through the work we do in committees and workgroups by establishing partnerships throughout the Martha’s Vineyard community, our vision is a healthy community with seamless, complementary, coordinated and accessible health and wellness services for all residents of Martha's Vineyard.

