# **HEALTH** **COUNCIL**

## COUNCIL

THE DUKES COUNTY

Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Public Safety Building – West Tisbury

Approved April 20, 2017

Present: Eleanor Beth, Kevin Carey, Leslie Clapp, Betsy Corsiglia, Cindy Doyle, Jay Ferriter, Karen Gear, Victoria Haeselbarth, Tom Hallahan, Mary Holmes, Sarah Kuh, Robert Laskowski, Marina Lent, Patsy McCornack, Bob Moore, Paddy Moore, Kathleen Perrotta, Dan Pesch, Lena Prisco, Dean Rosenthal, Kathleen Samways, Sue Sanford, Myra Stark, Karen Tewhey, Ray Whittaker, Berta Giles Welch, Mary Jane Williams

Guests: Sheila Schapiro, Terry Young, Liz Sanderman, Melanie Parrish

7:30 AM Welcome

Jay Ferriter chaired the meeting in Charlie Hodge’s absence

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

7:35 AM Introduction of New Health Council Members- Jay introduced new Health Council Members:

* + **Mary Jane Williams**, PhD, RN, MS – retired nurse educator, relocated from Connecticut
  + **Bob Moore** – head of the Martha’s Vineyard Charter School, 19 year resident of Martha’s Vineyard, served as a Peace Corps member in Tunisia and Brazil
  + **Kathleen Perrotta** – long-term resident of Martha’s Vineyard, leader of wellness program at the Regional High School
  + **Karen Tewkey**-- County Coordinator of Homeless Prevention Services
  + **Tom Hallahan** – Executive Director of the Hospice of Martha’s Vineyard, long-term vineyard resident, executive director of Hospice of Martha’s Vineyard, former County Commissioner, audiologist by training
  + **Lena Prisco PhD** – nine year resident of Martha’s Vineyard, background in clinical/laboratory research, former director of clinical laboratory at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and
* 7:50AM Summary of Health Council Committees Charters the Chairs of the health Council committees and workgroups gave a brief overview of their group’s work:
  + **Substance Misuse Disorder Committee** – Marina Lent gave a brief update with a focus on the efforts of the committee to collect real-time data to assist in the prevention and treatment efforts; Marina will distribute a summary of the data collection efforts to date.
  + **Youth Task Force** – Cindy Doyle gave a brief overview of the group (the youth task force’s report to the Council, made last meeting, was distributed with the February minutes)
  + **Communication Workgroup**-- Victoria Hasselbarth updated the group on efforts to develop a website. The website strategy has two parts: an update of the Health Council’s presence on the county website and the development of a specific new website for external communication with the community. Both efforts are proceeding well. A preliminary design for the outreach website will be reviewed by the coordinating committee and **presented to the Health Council at its next meeting.** Additionally a monthly newspaper column is in development
  + **Vineyard Health Care Access** – Sarah Kuh gave a brief the history of the Vineyard Health Care Access. This program which has been in existence 19 years, works to pair vineyard residents with healthcare insurance and services that they need. Vineyard Health Care Access as an advisory board and also oversight members. Its range of services includes access to health care, dental care housing and senior citizen issues.
  + **Nominating Committee**-- The Nominating Committee meets to recommend new members for the Health Council and recommends membership on the Coordinating Committee
  + **Rural Scholars** – Dan Pesch briefly describe the rural scholars program. He noted that new proposals are currently being solicited. At present there has been expressed interests by cancer care, women’s health services healthy aging Martha’s Vineyard, Veterans affairs and the Wampanoag tribe. A list of proposals will be completed by July and submitted to the University of Massachusetts medical school for review during the summer.
  + **Oral Health Care Workgroup**- Karen Gear describe the work of the workgroup. Current concerns are access to dental care for the elderly the uninsured and the underinsured. In addition we workgroup is addressing concerns over the lack of specialty dental care on Martha’s Vineyard. Finally they are discussing the issue of fluoridation. Currently only Oak Bluffs has fluorinated water among the Island’s towns.
  + **Healthy aging Martha’s Vineyard--** Paddy Moore gave an overview of the history of healthy aging Martha’s Vineyard and its work so far. (A more complete description was presented in February’s Council meeting and included in the minutes.

8:15 AM **Health Issue Discussion: *Community-wide Initiative – Advanced Directives, Management of Choices concerning Chronic Illness and End-Of-Life Care***

* Paddy Moore, the Chair of Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard, led health Council members in a discussion concerning a potential communitywide effort to increase the awareness and use of advanced directives in end-of-life care. She pointed out that while the rapid increase in older adults living a Martha’s Vineyard makes “conversations” conversations concerning end-of-life care particularly relevant to Martha’s Vineyard, in fact, the issue knows no age limits. She related the history of La Crosse Wisconsin which engaged its community in similar discussions in the mid-1990s. This resulted in 96% of individuals having advanced directives. She reported that the effort took some three years to organize and require the broad cooperation across the community. In Massachusetts a statewide coalition to transform the care of severe illness has been established. This effort has supported the implementation of “The Conversation Project” sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. The founder of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Dr. Don Berwick, is a seasonal resident of Martha’s Vineyard. Paddy stated that Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard was considering adapting the Massachusetts state efforts and in learning from the La Crosse Wisconsin success. She stated she was looking for guidance as to how to proceed at this very early stage of planning.

Health Council members related a number of personal stories that confirmed the need for attention to this area. The comments supported consideration of a broad-based effort. Liz Sanderman and Melanie Parrish, representatives of the VNA of Cape Cod, reported on a program sponsored by the VNA entitled “Who’s Your Agent” this program has been implemented on the Cape. The VNA is considering bringing it to Martha’s Vineyard. Other Health Council members related experience with several other programs as well. Paddy reiterated that Healthy Aging Martha’s Vineyard group was in its early stages of considering such an effort. She stated valued the comments, insights and advice from the health Council. She further noted that she will seek additional guidance from the Council as planning on the project progresses.

9:00 AM Meeting adjourned

Reminder of Next Meeting – Thursday, April 20, 2017