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| |  | | --- | | **Meeting summary for Dukes County Health Council Meeting (06/20/2024)**  (AI Generated, lightly edited) | | |
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| **Quick recap** | |
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| The team welcomed Lenore Maniaci (She/hers) as the new Director of Human Services for the County Health Council and discussed the importance of collaboration among service entities on the island. They also reviewed updates on Martha's Vineyard Hospital, the progress of the workforce housing program, and the implementation of the '4 Ms' initiative. Lastly, they discussed the creation of a new mental health committee, the importance of staff wellness, and the planning for upcoming surveys and an environmental justice committee. | |
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| **Next steps** | |
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| • The Health Council, through its Health Information Committee will facilitate a discussion to investigate how easy it is to coordinate surveys with different organizations to avoid redundancy and ensure comprehensive data collection. | |
| • Lisa Nagy offered to prepare and present an update on the Environmental Justice Committee's work of which she is a member, at a future Health Council meeting. This would include the impact of toxicity on different communities and potential solutions. | |
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| **Summary** | |
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| **Introducing New Director of Human Services** | |
| Leslie and Sarah Kuh welcomed Lenore Maniaci (She/hers) as the new Director of Human Services for the County Health Council. Sarah introduced Lenore, expressing confidence in her ability to elevate the program. Lenore, in turn, expressed her enthusiasm for the challenge and shared her background, emphasizing the importance of fostering courageous conversations about race and investing in cross-jurisdictional partnerships. She also highlighted the need to prepare for challenges in a rapidly changing world, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence and virtual interaction, and expressed her eagerness to collaborate with partners across various systems. | |
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| **Team Introduction and Healthcare Appreciation** | |
| Lenore Maniaci (She/hers) expressed her excitement at joining the team and the synergistic feeling she experienced. Martina thanked Sarah Kuh for her 24 years of exceptional service and the many programs, funding, and collaborations she brought to the island. Sarah reminded everyone that the healthcare access program was initiated by the Health Council to address unmet needs for uninsured islanders. Christine expressed that she will miss Sarah's advocacy for healthcare in the community  **Affordable Housing Legislation update** . Bob mentioned that Laura Silber was expected to be present but was working on getting enabling legislation through the Senate. Bob informed the team about the Health Council's support for a local transfer fee option and urged them to contact their senators to show their support. | |
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| **Martha's Vineyard Hospital Updates** | |
| Leslie then invited Amy Hougton to provide updates on Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Amy is, Community Outreach Coordination and Co-Chair of Patient Advisory Council of MV Hospital. Amy reported on various developments, including new hires, expanded services, and partnerships. These included the addition (return) of a new primary care physician; the reorganization of dermatology services, and the addition of per diem orthopedic surgeons. She highlighted the significant improvement in the emergency department's length of stay. She noted that the MGB “bed placement” resources have been very helpful in facilitating appropriate care for patients in the emergency department. Amy also noted successful translation services partnership with the Community Ambassador Program. Amy anticipates an increase in translation services due to a new program providing more than 30 hours a week for in-person translations. | |
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| Amy discussed the progress of the workforce housing program at the new Navigator Home site. She highlighted the successful implementation of the '4 Ms' initiative within the hospital. The 4 M’s stand for What Matters, Medication, Mentation and Mobility. She also mentioned the ongoing efforts to improve collaboration among service entities on the island, in response to the rural scholars' report. Amy proposed that the Health Council explore a planning grant through HRSA to further this collaboration and bring additional resources to the community. | |
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| An extensive discussion followed:   * Lenore Maniaci (She/hers) from DCHHS discussed the feedback received regarding the need for improved communication and collaboration among agencies. She proposed that future presentations should include opportunities for active work and the identification of shared priorities or next steps. Amy suggested that the upcoming triennial community health needs assessments by the hospital and island healthcare could be a chance for the community to come together and establish priorities. Lenore agreed with this idea and emphasized the value of compiling recent needs assessments. | |
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| * Dan Pesch emphasized the importance of people-dependent processes and the need for constructive and reproducible processes to address access issues on the island. Cindy Trish highlighted the success of collaborations focused on older adults, emphasizing the importance of shared commitment and strategic conversations. She suggested the need for a more strategic collaboration among agencies. Marina proposed developing a single survey to avoid survey fatigue and to enhance understanding and implementation of needs demonstrated by the survey results. She also suggested early involvement of the Brazilian community for cultural competence insights. | |
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| * Marina Lent proposed building a comprehensive survey to assess needs, while Amy highlighted the challengingly low completion rates for a recent state-wide public health survey. Lenore noted the value of the survey data, but also pointed out the need for targeted outreach to communities that were underrepresented. Christine Todd shared about the Nantucket Resource Partnership, a new initiative to centralize client data, which was encouraged as a potential model for the rest of the team. Lisa Nagy suggested incorporating questions about environmental factors, such as indoor air quality, into their own survey efforts to better understand and address local issues. | |
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| **Creating New Mental Health Committee** | |
| Bob Laskowski followed up from the previous Health Council Meeting with an updated Charter for a new standing Mental Health Committee. The aim of the committee is to address mental health within the community, without duplicating efforts already being made by other groups such as the substance use disorder coalition. The revised charter was approved by all attendees after a brief discussion. Members will be appointed by the Health Council Chair, Kathleen Samways. | |
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| **Public Health Update** | |
| Marina Lent discussed their summer plans which included a order of permethrin-treated socks for distribution to landscapers and other groups, as part of a tick borne illness prevention effort. Marina further offered the services of Fernando Lana, a public health education to conduct a class with hospice nurses and employees.  Marrin emphasized the importance of making public health services accessible to all communities.  Marina went on to highlight the need to focus on staff wellness and burnout prevention, She felt that this was particularly important given the fact that many of the towns’ Health Agents are new in their job. Lenore Maniaci (She/hers) supported Marina's ideas and proposed the creation of wellness guides for staff. Leslie added that preserving the institutional memory and partnerships of their experienced staff is crucial, as younger workers are not as easily recruited into the field. | |
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| **Other topics**  **Potential Coordination of Community Needs Surveys** | |
| Leslie opened the floor for suggestions on the agenda, and Martina proposed discussing the collaboration on upcoming surveys, suggesting that the Health Council could form a subcommittee for this task. Amy clarified that the surveys, aimed at developing a community health improvement plan, were scheduled to start next summer and would be implemented in 2026. Bob agreed to add this topic to the agenda for further discussion at the Health Information Committee  **Potential Presentation on work of Environmental Justice Group**  Lisa Nagy shared her work on an environmental justice committee and her desire to bring information about environmental medicine to the Health Council. Leslie agreed to have more conversations about this at as future meeting. | |
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