MEETING REPORT

Meeting: St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Advisory Committee

Date: January 18, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Webex

Members Present: Pam Kramer, Heather Kainz, Sally Koski, Kaitlin Erpestad, Gina Marsalla, Janet Kennedy, Loretta Bickford

Rose St. John, Nate Sandman, Timothy Nybo, Shannon Sweeney Jorgenson

Staff present: Linnea Mirsch, Amy Westbrook

Guests: Diane Seiloff-Yourczek, Steve Leslie

County Commissioners:

Ex Officio: Janelle Lambert (MN Dept of Health), Karen St. George (SLC Family Service Collaborative)

Members Absent: Terry Defoe (excused), Nathaniel Coward, Tracy Goulet, Alyssa Hopke, Brittany Nieters, Janet Purcell-Putikka

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow Through** |
| Introductions | 8 new members, all representing a select interest relevant to PHHS vision and work; Affiliations/area of interest: Pam (housing), Kaitlin (early childhood), Gina (aging adults), Janet (health equity), Loretta (overall support for social services for improving lives and managing challenges, housing), Timothy (environmental health – mining and community), Rose ?, Heather, Sally (access to clinical care and prevention services), Nate Sandman (tribal representation), Shannon. |  |
| Election of Chair, Co-Chair | Nate explained the role of Chair and Co-Chair – annual election, chair and vice chair cannot be county commissioners, supports the agenda and facilitates the meetings; Janet K. offering to be vice chair; Janet Kennedy nominates Nate Sandman, Janet K. also nominates Shannon Sweeney Jorgenson; Nate and Shannon both accept the nomination; only advisory board members are accepted to vote; Nate elected to Chair 7-1 (2 abstains and 1 “check”); Vice chair: Nate Sandman nominates Janet Kennedy, voice vote in favor of Janet K. |  |
| Approval of Minutes | Janet 1st and Pam 2nd - approved |  |
| By-Laws and Strategic Plan Discussion | (Also see PowerPoint slides) Highlights: 2 yr appointment with 3 terms allowed; decisions made by consensus or majority; mission: to advance a county where all are safe and healthy; composition: 22 members, 2 commissioners, tribal representatives; reviewed strategic priorities; members will serve as a conduit of information from their community and in select program areas; requirement of members to participate in a min of one related community or county committee and share that work with advisory committee  County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team: to be a welcoming, safe and vibrant community, committed to ensuring equitable outcomes and a sense of belonging for all people  Reviewed Dept engagement with advisory board  Dept works broadly and advisory committee members also brings their own lived experiences to the richness of the committee  Loretta – requesting more information about what the dept is asking of members; Nate – asking members to provide direction to Linnea and Amy about what is important to community members, asking members to expand knowledge of county services to support community; Linnea: topics relevant to work of dept and seeking input from members; Loretta most concerned about individuals experiencing disadvantages – how do we bring their concerns forward?, Nate – want to promote inclusive community communications; how do we advocate for those who can’t advocate for themselves; committee is more set up to have feedback shape the way our dept works in community – but we are not set up to have an immediate response; Karen – response to immediate issues may be impacted by funding cuts; Tim – it would be helpful to have affiliations known for each member, there is no us and them, want to see solutions (e.g. treatment centers) that are real and that are effective; Janet – what is the history of the committee for taking action | Request for a list of members and contact, district, but not for affiliation |
| Infectious Disease Update | Diane Seiloff-Yourczek, Public Health Program Coordinator, presented Infectious Disease update:  COVID level is low, transmission level remains high, but morbidity/mortality is low; CDC updates data on a daily basis; positive test results increased 8% from previous week; overall rate is 8% positivity rate; 3 different variants; DECC is still test to treat site – about 120 tests per week, with 14% positivity rate; PH continues with mobile clinics for COVID and in partnership with community partners to target populations most at risk, cutting back to approx. 2 clinics per month; continue to do partner letters everyone two week (to childcare, congregate care, etc.); continue to send test kits to partners: gift card incentives by AICHO are still provided; Health Equity Northland – distributing test kits and sponsoring clinics  Influenza: activity is decreasing, spike in Nov., anticipate that we will see another; NE region - 10 hospitalizations last week 13% of statewide; notification of Influenza like Illness outbreaks, schools were experiencing outbreaks, not so much long term care outbreaks; not providing mass clinics but providing vaccine to jail, AICHO, CHUM, warming center  Respiratory Scyncital virus (RSV): young infants and older adults are most at risk of complications; significant decrease in cases since late Fall;  Legionnaires disease: recent cases – 2 positives associated with an apartment building for aging adults, spread through waterborne systems; MDH worked with facilities management of building to improve water systems  HIV outbreak in Duluth-area: within 30 mile radius, declared in March of 2019 – 32 cases, 29 in SLC; a significant rise in cases; outreach events, providing resources and education for pre-exposure and post exposure, working on communication – general pop and at risk pops, connecting with healthcare providers; highest risk factors include men having sex with men and use of IV drugs  Syphillis outbreak: 118 cases – began around the same time as HIV outbreak; doubling of cases; easily treatable, but can affect heart, brain other organs if left untreated; distributing condoms, education; also seeing chlamydia and gonorrhea increasing; transmitted by unprotected sex but not predominately through IV drug use; Is this related to HIV increase – co-infections do happen  Mpox: viral illness causing blisters – fewer than 5 cases since June 2022, getting vaccine out to targeted population  Hep C is still increasing in SLC; RAAN and Harm Reduction Sisters has been offering services: testing - providing condoms, Narcan, syringe exchange, health education  Is disease transmission more in urban setting rather than rural? Yes, more urban. | Share the COVID dashboard survey link  Number of co-infections with syphillis and HIV  Looking for locations for RAAN and Harm Reduction Sisters and what services they provide |
| Preview of Legislative Priorities | Linnea shared AMC HHS 2022 priorities: see handout; behavioral health continuum of care, ph infrastructure, childcare  Intersections of HS and other AMC priorities: housing, substance abuse (Safety)  Link to SLC priorities within handout (PHHS priorities are not included) | Linnea to provide PH Infrastructure report |
| Next Meeting Dates (tentative) | 4/19/23  7/19/23  10/18/23 |  |
| Request for topics? | Discussion about the history of the committee and the evolution of its purpose and activities, etc.  Info on statewide discussion about housing revenue – suggestions include a dedicated revenue source for housing, recognition that there is not enough money for housing (Janet??)  Lack of childcare and transportation; access to long term care (Sally, specifically in Ely and rural area)  Reparations to African American communities; one example about money going to communities for home improvements; Linnea hasn’t heard about conversations at state level; related to red-lining in housing industry (past and present) (Janet)  Staffing shortage of PCAs – forcing individuals who are disabled to be forced into congregate care settings rather than remaining in their homes (Heather)  How does SLC lobby, prioritize? – team that writes – surrounds land use, revenue, road and bridge funding, etc., robust; public safety, health, and human services prioritize active engagement in statewide associations (LPHA, MCSSA (Linnea is MCSSA chair this year)  Make it OK – every two year there is an impact survey, Shannon could share the information about the 2023 plans (Shannon)  More information on how to encourage children to develop fully and support them in mental health (Karen) and destigmatization in schools (Rose)  Committee members can share updates ahead of the next meeting in written form and send to Mara Litman (she requests this with the send out of the agenda)  Opioid remediation funds and explore how to connect committee to this work (e.g., Tim and syringe exchange programs) |  |