MEETING REPORT

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

Date: July 19, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Webex

Members Present: Gina Marsalla, Heather Kainz, Pam Kramer, Shannon Sweeney Jorgenson, Sally Koski, Kaitlin Erpestad, Janet Kennedy, Terry Defoe, Timothy Nybo

Staff present: Linnea Mirsch, Amy Westbrook

Guests: Gena Bossert, Steve Leslie, Terry McCabe

County Commissioners:

Ex Officio: Susan Michels (CHB)

Members Absent: Nate Sandman (excused), Nathaniel Coward, Alyssa Hopke, Janet Purcell-Putikka, Loretta Bickford, Rose St. John, Mike Lindgren, Brittany Nieters

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow Through** |
| Approval of Minutes | Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Kennedy  Approval of Minutes, moved by Pam Kramer, second by Heather Kainz; approved. |  |
| Introduction | No new members present |  |
| Local Mental Health Advisory Council  Gena Bossert, Behavioral Health Division Director | Purpose of Council is to bring together diverse perspectives on mental health; all counties are required to have these (Chapter 245 MN Statute) – for children and adults; SLC has two councils (geographically-specific) representing both children and adults; 10-12 members; make recommendations to County annually; intentional composition of council to prioritize lived experiences, only one person from the County – staff who supports the needs of the council;  values: hope, prevention, recovery, dignity, inclusion, wisdom;  Council recommendations to County: diverse mental health services, increase access;  northern group focused on elderly services currently; 2024 to host first ever “elected officials forum”; DHS provides Guidebook for LACs  Heather Kainz (PPHS Advisory Committee member) is a member on LAC in north  Recommendations from north include (with many specific activities suggested):   * Increase older adult access to supportive services and programs * Increase public and professional educational opportunities in aging   Recommendations from the south LAC (council currently in transition with membership – turnover, etc.): No real concrete recommendations came from the annual report; in the last years focus has been on inclusivity  How broad is representation?: very broad, made up of primarily lived experience, 1-2 providers; 16 people in north and only 1 rep from the county  Pam – aging of those who are unhoused seems to be becoming an issue |  |
| Aging and Adult Health Unit  Steve Leslie, Public Health Supervisor | Focus has historically been on individual services (Care coordination) through health plan contracts for MN Senior Health Options and MN Senior Care (MSHO an MSC+); historically 1500 clients managed through SLC through these medical assistance programs – including meals, transportation, etc. and coordination of services; current contract is only with BluePlus health plan; during pandemic and currently performing services via telecommunications; current about 600 clients managed; adopting MnCHOICES as assessment process;  currently restructuring to dedicate staffing resources to population-based prevention – within the framework of the PH foundational responsibilities; dedicated to working with community partners; looking to work across PHHS as well as with community partners; currently hiring a Program Coordinator to coordinate work with community partners and will be reassigning two positions to work directly work with community partners;  through AAAA Georgia Lane works on Age Friendly, Gina Marsalla is looking forward to partnering;  Shannon Sweeney Jorgenson through Rural Health Resource Center – focus on care coordination – not just in MN, but across the country- <https://www.ruralcenter.org/events/community-care-coordination-how-effectively-identify-engage-and-sustain-community-partners>;  the Ely Community Care Team could be considered a hub for all mental health and elderly care work in Ely and surrounding community;  Home and Community Based Services Division – moving through a restructure through Waiver Reimagined (DHS driven), specially re: aging – 2019 began working with contracted case management partners and they manage elderly, looking to shift case management for elderly as they ready to move onto Managed Care so to streamline process (fewer hand offs); aging in place is key to focus on in both HS and PH – how to improve chore services (especially north) so people can feel safe and stay in their home;  Economic Services and Supports – also are having shift to aging focus, a lot of coordination in public assistance is required for shifting aging adults out of home;  Is shared housing a strategy given shortage of affordable housing?: in PHHS focus is supportive housing and addressing homelessness; current legislative session – increases for waiver services for elderly |  |
| Department Updates | Luncheon to support the COVID response clinical work on June 20; volunteers and staff appreciated and recognized with a plaque for their time and effort  Budget for 2024 is fairly stable; to increase 2 FTEs for MnCHOICES/waiver  Policy analysis for legislation impacting PHHS budget and resources; as a county we are an extension of the state but also report to the county board  Two new departments (Direct Care and Treatment; and Children, Youth, and Families);  Changes in rates for non-emergency transportation;  Movement to simplify programs – impetus was changes that were put into place during pandemic  Sunset of Diversionary Work Program  Changes for access to childcare program (structural gap is significant for SLC)  Changes to timelines for cash assistance  48 hr rule change for those who are being held at jail – stuck there awaiting a bed for their mental health needs– this Rule will be waived for the next two years; elimination of county cost share for those individuals who need to move locations for mental health care, but are stuck in a current location  Family Resource Centers- new policy direction for states (others are moving this way); locally doing research to assess needs  $10 million to be provided to Community Health Boards (CHBs) in MN to focus on infrastructure capabilities and areas of ph practice  Paradigm shift in Public Services - MACSSA focus on resident services, technology, workforce, partnerships, governance [White paper and handout attached]  Health and Human Service Conference – Oct 11-13; Courageous Connections: Leading with Curiosity and Compassion – please consider hosting sessions and reach out to Juli Lattner: [lattnerj@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:lattnerj@stlouiscountymn.gov) |  |
| Next Meeting Dates | 10/18/23 |  |
| Member Comments, Announcements, Discussion/Request for topics | Health Equity Northland – to host resource event during Spirit Valley days with vendors, large event; Second Harvest will be there to provide food (5-8 pm); vaccinations to be provided with incentives  Current list for ideas for future meetings:   * + Children’s Mental Health   + Childcare   + Housing   + Clarity Regional Crisis Center |  |