

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR HUMAN SERVICES (CHS)

MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

Present were Council Members: Claudia Valle, Brooke Mohr, Vanessa Rendeiro, Athalyn Sweeney

Absent: Sindy Rivera, Joseline Ramirez

Staff Present: Jerico Mele, Ann Medina

Member of Public: Matt Haffenreffer, Kelly Steffen and Sue Mynttinen

This meeting is being held remotely via ZOOM because of COVID-19 and the suspension of all public gatherings. All members of the public are encouraged to watch the video conference.

Brooke confirmed that all were present and that they could hear her. Each vote will be done by a roll call. If any members of the public are present who would like to participate please state name.

A quorum was established. A motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2021 was made and seconded: Claudia, Brooke, Vanessa and Athalyn yes.

Motion to approve agenda: Claudia, Brooke, Vanessa, Athalyn, yes.

Sue is with us tonight because she has applied to become a member of CHS.

Update from HS director Jerico Mele: there are a variety of places to get the COVID-19 vaccine, Health Imperatives, ACK Dental, Dan's Pharmacy, Wednesday 5:00 to 7:00 at the Saltmarsh Senior Center hopefully to do J&J, small clinics at the public school and at businesses. Looking for minors to get vaccine, right now Jerico and Heather Francis (town nurse) can do that. We are making partnerships where we can, cover outreach

assistance. Brooke announced that the agenda will be taken out of order, Kelly Steffen and Matt Heffner will talk about the food security program they are developing. It is a social impact firm for health and the environment, food access and improving the local community, it is a program that fills in the gaps. Overview: based on Pip & Anchor food hub buying food from local farmers, doing right by community and increasing the quality of food. They screen and refer people to get them into the program, they are working with Health Imperatives on identifying people with food security issues. Folks are enrolled in the program and they receive a box of healthy food that they like and know how to cook. We need the right organization that can screen folks, we want to find the right non-profit partners to work with, get feedback on organizations that could do referrals. Brooke: who are you working with already? Health Imperatives, The Community School, and Family Resource Center (FRC), will check with Boys and Girls Club to see if they could be another partner, The process is fully dignified, a person who is going there to pay for and pick up food goes through the same door as people in the program. Athalyn: Does it have to be a non-profit? What about the school cafeteria? They work with kids and they know who gets free lunches. Vanessa: Matt are you going to work with Nantucket Food Assistance? We will work in partnership, Kelly works in the food pantry and they work with a similar program, we are speaking to the Interfaith Council as a whole. Athalyn: maybe summer camps would be a good resource too. Brooke: Rising Tides day care and Small Friends good resource too. Social Services department at the hospital would be a good source also. Brooke could put them together with Deb Dubois. Sue Mynttinen: suggests A Safe Place, they would have clientele that could use service. Athalyn: Maybe some of these agencies use the Family Resource Center. Matt: coordination becomes the extra work we want, bring a group together. What group would take the lead? Find out how program fits into their organization, you don't want to put in too many places for them to go to. How to improve the rate of successful screening. FRC does a good screening, that is a good place to start and be referred out to the different agencies. What is their charter?

Brooke: I do not know, Elise Norton would be the one to ask. We are looking to balance to make this sustainable for the future.

Vaccines: With translators and interpreters, reach more in the community for vaccinations, Brooke works with community access outreach efforts on a video in native languages about vaccines. A big component will be the block party model, on-site education on why people should get the vaccine, give them good solid reasons for getting it, we have volunteers but could always use more. Do larger scale clinics on Wednesday night and 12 noon to 2:00 pm on Sundays, hopefully will have something by the 27<sup>th</sup>, two permanent places to get vaccines, but they are not geared to have high volume. Working on a video project, have conversation with Claudia and Roberto in Spanish, pre-plan what the conversation looks like. Heather will speak to Sunny Daily, pregnant women and moms. We need a "What are the concerns" video, anything you are hearing would be great. Athalyn: next fall will people who had vaccine get booster? Jerico: update, immunity is 12 to 18 months, we don't know how long it will take, serum testing is not in body but tissue, get through this flu season without getting booster, don't think we will work on booster until summer 2022. As to the length of time for getting the second vaccine, it is the third or fourth week after first shot. The last CDC guidance is up to a month leeway, is still the CDC operating procedure, Nantucket is the only one giving Pfizer right now. The hospital had a large portion of now shows for their second dose. The sewage test after Memorial /Figawi weekend on Thursday did not detect COVID in the sewage. Claudia: how many people have been vaccinated? 10,000 first dose, report will be out on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Future projects: what we might focus on? 1. Request I&M to stop publishing police log, 2. Bullying in the schools. Who would we invite to meet with stakeholders at a future meeting? Police blog: Athalyn has had lots of opportunity to talk to folks that have been in the police log and there is a lot shame and embarrassment associated with that, as a therapist she doesn't read it, one more thing, the question is what purpose does it serve? Are there any questions or comments?

Jason Graziadei, (N Magazine The Current), made a point of saying that he wasn't going to print names, just crimes. Brooke: take this on as a topic. What action should we take to bring topic out there? Vanessa: Could we invite someone from the I&M to talk about it? Why do they make this information available to the public? Brooke: invite media to a meeting to talk about it, put it out there that it will be on an agenda so that the public could come also. Move to collaborate with schools on bullying, what is your motivation? Claudia: was talking to parents about what is happening at school, kids don't tell their parents, they are afraid. In the Spanish speaking community parents are concerned, kids say 'you can't do anything', the issue seems to be in the middle school. Within the town would it be the school committee that should be contacted? What do we envision for Council for Human Services?

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann Medina