

PATH
July 9, 2013, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm
City Council Chambers, City of Radford Public Safety Bldg

Present:

Kate Baker, Smart Beginnings NRV
Susan Baker, NRV Community Services
Harvey Barker, Mental Health Counselor
Michelle Brauns, Free Clinic of NRV
Kevin Byrd, NRV Planning District Commission
Vicky Collins, Radford City Department of Social Services
Amy Epperley, Carilion NRV Medical Center
Deena Flinchum, RSVP/NRV Agency on Aging
Patrick Halpern, Mental Health Association NRV
Dionne Harrison, NRV CARES
Bob Hendrickson, Beans & Rice/NR Community Action
Tina King, NRV Agency on Aging
Holly Lesko, VT Institute for Policy and Governance
Suzanne Lo, VT Institute for Policy and Governance
Marya McPherson, Mental Health Association NRV
David Moore, Smart Beginnings NRV
Beth O'Connor, VA Rural Health Association
Molly O'Dell, NR Health District
Rhonda Seltz, RU School of Social Work/Every Child Matters
Melanie Smith, Healthy Kids Campaign
Amy Sorensen, CHIP of NRV
Madison Stephens, Free Clinic of NRV
Wanda Wylam, NR Health District

Introductions, Minutes

Vicky Collins, Co-Convener, thanked David Ridpath, Radford City Manager, for hosting PATH and providing the summer cookout. Vicky introduced Mr. Ridpath who welcomed everyone. He noted that this is the second year in the Public Safety Building which offers versatile space including a multi-purpose room and council chambers. Vicky also thanked members of the Radford Police and Fire Departments for serving as “grill masters” today. The PATH attendees introduced themselves. The minutes were approved.

Community Coalition Leadership Initiative – Holly Lesko reported that as a result of Robert Wood Johnson funding for the Community Health component of the NRV Livability Initiative, a team of four (Harvey Barker, Cathy Callahan, Molly O'Dell, Charlotte Ramsey) and a coach (Holly Lesko) were invited to participate in the Community Coalition Leadership Program (CCLP). The CCLP focuses on developing leadership capability among coalitions that are addressing factors that influence community health capacity. The training provided an opportunity to focus directly on leadership styles and techniques in the context of work already underway in the New River Valley (NRV). The CCLP takes place over a one-year timeframe and included an intensive training session at the Center for Creative Leadership in San Diego during the week of June 24. At Holly's suggestion and because of PATH's commitment to better community health, the CCLP team approached Vicky and Beth, PATH Co-Conveners, about using this opportunity to reorganize/restructure PATH to better address key strategies and

policies. Holly voiced that the coaching training she received can be helpful to PATH and that she is willing and committed.

Molly O'Dell discussed the intensive training that the CCLP team, along with seven other teams, received in San Diego. They came back with many leadership and community process tools. The NRV team focused on driving PATH to a new level and moving from networking to deeper institutionalized forms of interdependence. The CCLP team is committed to stay at the table for one year.

Harvey Barker reported that most teams came to the CCLP without projects. One of the topics the NRV CCLP team wanted to look at is a substance abuse topic that impacts all of our organizations. One specific project that involves many PATH organizations is "how to have babies born clean." Suzanne Lo reported that in the Community Health Working Group, substance abuse ranked #2. She mentioned that another theme that came out of the Community Health Working Group was a social campaign educating to our own culture.

PATH members were asked to vote on whether they are supportive of allowing the CCLP team to work on PATH's reorganization/restructure and bring a plan back to the group. Members voted and concurred. Those interested in giving input were asked to contact Molly, Harvey, Cathy, Charlotte or Holly.

New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) Reorganization – Susan Baker, Executive Director of New River Valley Community Services, explained that she walked into an organization that was not broken but because of her different style of management she did some reorganizing. She discussed some cost saving and program changes that were implemented. With all of the cutbacks made, the year was finished on budget. She noted that the substance abuse program needs expansion. Susan is confident in the NRVCS team and is looking for good things to happen.

Vicky noted that NRVCS has the management contract for Radford Transit. In the first year, Radford Transit won an award and is used as a model in the state. She noted that Harvey began a powerful legacy—instead of asking "why," asking "why not."

Data (County Health Rankings and New River Community Health Digest) – Holly discussed the Robert Wood Johnson *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*. Researchers measured counties/cities on 25 factors affecting health. Data can be used by leaders in government, business, and health care to work together to create a culture of health in their community. A document was distributed comparing various health indicators for Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski counties and Radford city, and Virginia. Holly posed the question, "Is there a way to create a repository of data?"

Molly reported that the *New River Community Health Digest* (which was distributed to PATH members) has been updated for the second time and posted on the New River Health District website. Hepatitis was added as a section under Communicable, Notifiable and Foodborne Illness. New River has the second highest rate in the state. Risk factors include IV drug use, >10 sex partners and tattoos from non-licensed tattoo artists.

Feasibility of 4th Planning District Commission Data Tracking – One strategy discussed at the last PATH meeting was working with the 4th PDC to track community health data points not captured elsewhere. Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the New River Valley Planning District Commission, was asked to explore this with PATH members at this meeting. Kevin noted that the Commission Board is comprised of one elected official and one appointed representative from each member organization. The PDC collects secondary data. Every two years a *Regional Data Book* is published (see www.nrvpdc.org). Inclusion of community health is planned for the next *Regional Data Book*. Kevin would like to see the Commission go into the data and provide stories as a conduit for communications. The PDC also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter which reaches 2,000 people. Kevin noted that the PDC can fill requests for data.

Molly asked whether the PDC has access to hospital discharge data. Kevin said that although this hasn't been looked at, it's not outside the realm of possibility. He said that it's a good time to get the subject of community health data on PDC's plate in support of PATH.

Vicky noted that when Molly came to New River Health District, she gave the localities a report card. PATH could provide a report card to them on what we are doing. Suzanne Lo reminded PATH members that five community health topics resulted from the work of the Community Health Working Group: Healthcare, Built Environment, Natural Environment, Behaviors and Chronic Conditions. Data points are included for each. Holly suggested data points on which we can show movement be included in the report card. Suzanne suggested including how we are doing toward meeting Healthy People goals. Marya suggested being intentional about when to share and tying into goals.

PATHways Sharing – Beth O'Connor explained that instead of going around the room, a sign-up sheet for PATHways sharing was provided at the beginning of the meeting for people to indicate their interest in sharing information. Those who signed up shared updates about their agencies/organizations.

Upcoming meetings:

January 7, 2014

April 1, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Wylam
New River Health District