

PATH Minutes
October 7, 2014, 11:30 noon – 2:00 pm
Radford City Council Chambers

Present:

Maggie Bassett, RU School of Nursing
Michelle Brauns, Community Health Center
Cathy Callahan, VCOM
Vicky Collins, Radford City DSS
Erin Cruise, RU School of Nursing
Amy Epperley, VT
Deena Flinchum, RSVP/NRV Agency on Aging
Tina King, NRV Agency on Aging
Holly Lesko, VT ICAT/IPG
Suzanne Lo, VT IPG
Marya McPherson, MHANRV
Dave Nutter, VHHA
Beth O'Connor, VRHA
Molly O'Dell, NR Health District
Titeana Oring, RU Student
Kyle Pollard, NRV Agency on Aging Intern
Trina Porterfield, NRCA
Pam Ray, VT/NRHD
Rhonda Seltz, VRHRC
Melanie Smith
Rosemary Sullivan, NRVCS
Terri-Ann Thompson, Yale School of Medicine
Bev Walters, NRV CARES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Beth and Vicky welcomed the group, provided logistical instructions and facilitated introductions. Thanks were extended to Carilion for providing lunch and the City of Radford for the meeting space.

WORK GROUP REPORTS:

Perinatal Substance Abuse: Rosemary reported that she and Molly had organized training for staff on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome presented by Drs. Bradford, Durica and Simcox. The engagement was high and staff all appreciated this opportunity very much. She believes we are now in a good position to apply for significant funding for a service delivery to pregnant women who are addicted.

Advocacy: Rhonda reported on the success of the forum held for candidates in the 38th district of Va Special Election. This forum hosted 70 participants and 2/3 of the candidates who were very appreciative of the opportunity to interact with NRV citizens. A Google Docs orientation training was provided by Suzanne so that all members can access the advocacy related docs set up by the committee for relevant topics on health advocacy in NRV.

Healthy Kids NRV: Pulaski School grant still pending. Due to small engagement of workgroup, the idea was floated by Pam Ray to consider developing a specific 3-5 year strategic plan of action to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in NRV. This work can use much of the data from Livability to drive the plan. There was no discussion.

One Care Legislative and Local Government Forum: Dave Nutter and Vicky explained that One Care is a regional board serving PDs 1-4 in an effort to address all aspects of substance abuse as they impact our communities in SW Va. Two legislative forums are planned to educate legislators and local government officials on the issues we all deal with every day. One of the forums will be in NRV on Oct 24 from 8-10 am and Rosemary is the primary

organizer and has recruited a diverse representation for comments including a judge, county administrator, health director, etc., to make brief statements about the impact of substance abuse on our community life. Additionally, Dave is drafting the 2015 One Care legislative agenda and invites PATH to attend the forum on Oct 24 and to suggest legislative agenda items pertinent to NRV. Dave also shared a new publication from the Va. Hospital and Healthcare Association which publishes metrics around all aspects affecting healthcare in communities across Virginia. There is a new publication pending that addresses rural Virginia, specifically. Dave is to send link of reports to Wanda!

Beth facilitated a conversation about the consequences in our communities since Medicaid was not expanded: Michelle stated that luckily, the NRV Community Health Center had NOT built its budget on Medicaid expansion dollars so they are still serving the intended persons in Christiansburg and Pearisburg. Patients are not expressing concerns about not having Medicaid. CHC has four staff dedicated to assist patients to enroll in Medicaid or sign up on the exchange. The CHC is definitely picking up patients who were dropped by older policies that do not comply with the requirements under ACA. Vicky encouraged local agencies to send patients who may be eligible for Medicaid to the local DSS to apply to Medicaid INSTEAD of the exchange to avoid the bottleneck created between the exchange and local DSS agencies across the country.

Rosemary reported their numbers are not less and the Governor's waiver will benefit a subset of the CSB served population. Beth and Dave stated that Virginia hospitals took a hit in reimbursement rates but hoped to have more insured on Medicaid and since that did not occur, the revenues are below sustainability. An example was given of Carilion who realized only a 1/3% profit margin this year. Hospitals are cutting back on staff, services and considering mergers. Dave reminded us that 50% of new jobs in the U.S. over the past 5 years have been part time without benefits. Not expanding Medicaid has a tremendous economic impact on Va communities, especially communities with hospitals as employers. He believes we all can talk about Medicaid expansion in terms of financial viability in communities as opposed to entitlements and expanded government. Given the poor health outcomes in SW Va, it is critical to work together to improve health and access to care in order to improve health outcomes. Molly asked whether we should consider writing an op-ed thanking our regional health care systems (HCA/Carilion) for their contributions to the economic viability of our communities and the health of our communities. Dave has examples he can cite as well as number of employed in the region by health systems to demonstrate the value of our regional systems. Rhonda, Dave agreed to work on this. Beth and Molly agreed to help.

CAPE: Suzanne reported on the stakeholder meeting from Sept 15 where highlights of the CAPE survey were revealed to community members with the four priority areas that emerged: Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy, Child Abuse and Access to Healthcare. On Oct 29 a follow-up meeting will be held from 8:30-11:30 with focus on networking, funding opportunities (there is CAPE 2) and how to address the four priority areas. A NRV specific CAPE brochure is forthcoming.

VIRGINIA CONSUMER VOICES PROJECT: Rhonda announced that she has been asked to contact all certified application counselors and navigators in SW Va to bring them together to discuss best practices in enrollment, stumbling blocks, PR, and use of volunteers for enrolling new citizens on the exchange or Medicaid.

STEERING COMMITTEE ROLLOVER: Cathy thanked Beth O'Conner for co-convening PATH for 8 years and serving on the steering committee. She presented Beth with flowers and a card. Cathy reminded members that the leadership steering committee plans the agenda for meetings, reviews membership and tracks progress of work groups. She asked for nominations of members to fill Beth's vacancy. Any interest or nomination can be sent to Wanda.

PATHWAYS SHARING:

1. Pam provided grant application updates: IPG, CPHPR, 4th PD and NRHD submitted a CDC grant for tobacco and improved nutrition which was recommended for funding but not funded; NRHD received Community Health Worker Funding to train CHW to work one on one with patients with chronic disease; NRHD applied for an ACOG-National WIC Association fund which would strengthen referrals of patients by private OB-GYNs to community based services for chronic disease prevention; and CPHPR is assisting 4th PD, City of Christiansburg to apply for Obesity impact funding from CDC focused on coalition building and built environment changes.

2. Deena shared that Medicare Advantage will now be requiring patients to meet a deductible before the plan kicks in. This will pose further hardship for elderly persons with fixed incomes to be able to follow through with care plans by their physicians.
3. Melanie is fund raising for To Our House by selling tickets to a John Cowan music event on Sat, Nov 8. \$20/ticket.
4. Maureen reminded people that her organization is now called Mental Health America of NRV and the office has moved to Elm St in Christiansburg which means they have had to change their phone number! On Oct 29, they will host a ribbon cutting in the new office at noon. Spread the word. There is a small training space that community groups can use. On Sat, Nov 22, at the Jessie Peterman Library in Floyd, they'll host an international Suicide event to honor those who have experienced loss to suicide.
5. Rhonda reported that Dental Aid Partners Adult Dental Day served 169 adults this year. Rhonda's new job is a DMAS FAMIS Outreach Coordinator. She sees new money trickling down to support health homes for behavioral health, child health, state workers can now access FAMIS, outreach, dental for pregnant women, enhanced website, acceleration of Veteran access, substance abuse response and state innovation model grant.
6. Titeana Oring reported that the local Virginia Organizing has three projects: Penny Wars to increase food for Radford food banks, host an RU Town Hall meeting and a community needs assessment.
7. Michelle reported from the NRV CHC that the first HRSA site visit is slated next week. Please refer patients. They received \$900,000 dental clinic money for Giles which should be up and running by January. A private donor is enabling them to expand reproductive healthcare for women in NRV. More to follow.

The meeting was adjourned by 2 pm.

The meetings for 2015 will be: January 6, April 7, July 7, October 6