MEETING REPORT

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

Date: April 19, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Webex

Members Present: Heather Kainz, Sally Koski, Kaitlin Erpestad, Janet Kennedy, Nate Sandman, Terry Defoe, Gina Marsalla, Mike Lindgren, Shannon Sweeney Jorgenson, Brittany Nieters

Staff present: Linnea Mirsch

Guests: Dusty Letica, Amanda Yates, Steve Leslie, Melissa Cekalla, Tracy Onchwari

County Commissioners: Ashley Grimm

Ex Officio: Susan Michels (CHB), Janelle Lambert (MDH)

Members Absent: Timothy Nybo (excused), Pam Kramer (excused), Nathaniel Coward, Alyssa Hopke, Janet Purcell-Putikka, Loretta Bickford, Rose St. John

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Follow Through** |
| Approval of Minutes | Meeting called to order by Chair Sandman Approval of Minutes, moved by Janet, second by Gina; approved.  |  |
| Introduction of new Members | New members – Brittany Nieters, Mike Lindgren Brittany introduced herself – lives in Virginia MN, works for Range Mental HealthMike from Toivola-Meadowlands, owns the Hummingbird facility, been in long-term care for 60 years  |  |
| MA Renewals |  Dusty Letica and Amanda Yates presented about MA Renewals coming with the unwinding of the Public Health Emergency and the healthcare continuous coverage resuming. 28% of population in St. Louis County receives medical assistance and over $700 million in Federal/State MA funds are disbursed annually for SLC individuals receiving MA – impacts to enrollees and providers.Q & A from members: * Could letters go to facility administrators vs the family? These letters can’t be changed if a facility isn’t an authorized representative on a case. The state (feds) determine what can be an auto-renewal – the asset test for people in facilities the county wouldn’t have that information. DHS is working through ex parte language as well, many unknowns for facilities.
* Dusty shared there is an ability to backdate eligibility 4 months.
* Renewals based upon the date an individual applied for Medical Assistance
* Will people potentially personally liable financially? Yes, and/or not eligible for services.
* What would people do then? If they are closed for not completing their renewal, hopefully they will promptly complete their paperwork and become eligible. If not eligible, they would need to seek health insurance through the marketplace or MnSure.
* Could we show people what the envelope actually looks like? That could be helpful.
* Members asked for materials to share with partners; DHS has developed media toolkits, partner toolkits see: <https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/communications-toolkits/>
 | Contact Dusty and Amanda for ideas about community events and outreach: leticad@stlouiscountymn.gov, yatesa@stlouiscountymn.gov Please review and share the documents available in the toolkit: <https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage/communications-toolkits/>  |
| Health Equity & Person-Centered Overviews | * Linnea introduced the Bylaws reference to Advisory Committee Roles including “understanding and promoting the principles of health equity and person-centered practice” and introduced two speakers Tracy Onchwari and Melissa Cekalla from PHHS to provide an overview
* Health Equity Overview – equity and equality from an individual and systemic lens;
	+ Where does health equity need to be considered in your work as advisory committee members? Feedback-
		- Health, and equity in all practice, procedures, programs – individual focus and systemic
		- Person-centered focus on needs and wants
		- Look at every group and individual through a lens of equity, equity means different things to different groups and different people
	+ How can we reduce barriers to health equity in St. Louis County? (video from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) – increase conversations, formalize tribal engagement/ consultation ahead of decisions as a policy/practice/change, review who is at the table to guide/advise on the systems we live in to influence and improve, think out 7 generations when we work at a systemic level, refocusing on experience of individuals
	+ Tracy shared about her role in Health Equity in Public Health for St. Louis County
* Person-Centered Practice Overview –
	+ Person Centered one-page profile and how we use it in our work
	+ History – about giving people positive control over the lives they have chosen
	+ This is a way of being and thinking to support (vs fix), works for all people (not ability disability)
	+ Works at all levels of an organization and affirms the belief that all people can learn
	+ Person Centered plans are required by CMS for people receiving residential services
	+ And, it is the right thing to do and it makes a difference for people
	+ Core concept – balance between what is important to and important for people
	+ Importance of feeling valued and contributing
	+ How we apply this in our work? Discussion
		- Makes a huge difference to people and caregivers
		- strength based focus makes a difference
		- Examples are helpful to understand
		- How can advocates work with the school more broadly about impacts to kids with disabilities and/or grades and what is impacted that might be “important to”
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| Department Updates | See slides – Community Impact Report provided, Public Health Week and Achievement Awards, future topics and meeting dates | Remember to send a summary of your background/expertise to Mara to share with members |
| Next Meeting Dates  | 7/19/2310/18/23 |  |
| Member Comments, Announcements, Discussion | Is there any concern for Public Health preparedness with spring flooding updates? There is an active team through Emergency Management that includes Public Health; ongoing efforts. Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging asking for public comment on the Inter-State Funding formula – how Older American Act funds are distributed through the State. There is a public comment opportunity – asking for input. Gina will provide the email to the group for suggested comments.  |  |