

# MEETING REPORT

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

Date: **Sept 18, 2019**

Time: **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Place: **Pike Lake Public Works**

Members Present: Nate Sandman, John Soghigian, Frank Jewell, Pat Ives, Cindy Lustig, Mary Zupancich, Dawn Lamping, Sarah Priest, Cynthia Kafut-Hagen

Staff present: Linnea Mirsch, Amy Westbrook

County Commissioners: Frank Jewell

Members Absent: Tina Welsh (excused), Kathy Heltzer (excused) Cathy Chavers (excused), Janet Kennedy (excused), Tony Kuznik (excused), Jerald Burnes (excused), Deb Smith

Guests Present: Sarah Lehrke, PH Program Coordinator; Sara Baumgartner, VISTA volunteer; Josh Gorham, PH Program Coordinator

Topic	Discussion	Follow Through
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pat Ives called the meeting to order, requested update on missed members</li> <li>• Approval of minutes; Cynthia Kafut-Hagen moved, John S. seconded</li> </ul>	
HHS conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct 9-11 (half day on Oct 9); 1500 people registered; Pat Ives encouraged participation and hosting; Pat Ives shared how valuable the conference is and the committee's presence</li> </ul>	Linnea will follow up with how to register and host a conference
Condolences to Kevin Walsh's family	Kevin was a member of the committee and a very active member of the community and a great advocate for individuals experiencing inequities and marginalization	

<p>Staff updates</p>	<p>Linnea spent time with Commissioners and legislators regarding bonding request and shared information re: regional crisis center (St. Luke's and Essentia partners present for conversation/presentation); strategic planning for Community Health Board – discussing current governance structure and assuring the structure is working for SLC; CHB Director is leaving so good timing or reassessment; reviewing aging population interaction in PH and HS and how we are working with them; reviewing sustainability of managed care</p> <p>Cynthia Kafut-Hagan: how to respond to concerns about Assisted Living Facilities; Assisted Living facilities, MDH will be regulating these; can also connect with Omsbudman for complaints and concerns</p> <p>Families First legislation: a fellow from Foster America will be coming on board to SLC to assist with implementation</p> <p>Waiver audit will be soon; concerns across the State about changes to SNAP benefit: Federal rule change is open for comment; asset requirements will be put into place, no longer will be assumed; will create a lot of road blocks to accessing emergency food services; amount of paperwork will be a big barrier; SNAP is basis for free and reduced lunch eligibility; all SNAP will be affected - not just emergency; Frank Jewell: board is also not supported of these proposed changes</p> <p>Linnea left at 11:00am for a required meeting with a Federal representative</p>	<p>Linnea to send Ombudsman contact information</p>
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<p>Family Home Visiting Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Sarah Lehrke, PH Program Coordinator- purpose: requirement for Healthy Families America and Nurse Family Partnership programming; objs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ improve pregnancy outcomes and improve economic self-sufficiency and healthy beginnings for children and families</li> <li>✓ to provide strategic guidance and recommendations for FHV programs across the four county CHB</li> <li>✓ committee make-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ key stakeholders (SW, pediatrics, women’s care center, early childhood education, MDH, SafeHaven, CSS, (community members)</li> <li>○ meet quarterly and rotate locations</li> <li>○ agenda includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ program spotlights</li> <li>▪ updates</li> <li>▪ build stronger programs</li> <li>▪ increase referrals</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ John and other members are interested in early childhood health issues, mental health, child development</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Birth and Baby fair is coming up (Oct 26 from 10-2 pm); free event; Duluth-focused</li> <li>✓ Pat suggested that there may be transportation resources from AEOA or others</li> <li>✓ John: advisory committee is valuable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ seeing value in increase of referrals</li> <li>○ recognizing that resources are scarce in Northern SLC</li> <li>○ learning about new resources</li> <li>○ status of FHV programming through the County</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Sarah to connect Stacy with Pat Ives regarding transportation resources</li> <li>✓ John encourages PH and HS to consider citizen review boards and committees that involve more client interaction</li> </ul> <p>Amy shared that PH Division is looking at other areas of public health practice to engage more community partners and clients in strategic direction</p>	<p>Sarah to provide Stacy Holden-organizer (715-364-8509) or Sarah  <a href="mailto:lehrkes@stlouiscountymn.gov">lehrkes@stlouiscountymn.gov</a></p> <p>Amy to send the SLC program guide</p>
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Aging population focus group discussion

Amy reviewed aging population document highlighting certain key data indicators describing SLC pop 65+; Sara Baumgartner led the focus group discussion, Josh Gorham assisting

**What does an ideal aging experience look like?:**

- cultures value elders
- need for aging in place
- socialization (connectedness)
- available, accessible, affordable transportation
- prepared population
- healthy food is available, accessible, and affordable
- accessible technology and that the population understand how to use it
- handyman-ness is available
- self-pride is maintained
- mental well-being
- support is there and planning
- care coordination is available and support for attending health care appt
- holistic approach is there
- financial resources are there

**What are the concerns and challenges associated with aging in SLC?**

- Transportation
  - distance and access to services
- physical accessibility especially for those with disability
  - Duluth is difficult to maneuver for older individuals and especially for those with disabilities
- accessible homes for aging in place (older homes – usually with stairs, etc.)
- good health improves mobility so it is not always about first floor buildings as walking is important
- SLC is so large geographically – makes accessibility to basic needs difficult
- grocery stores are closing, resources are being lost
- change in family structure and dynamics – not as accessible or prioritized
- growing isolation

- concerns about death and navigating resources that are needed to prepare for end of life concerns
- care giver support
- respite care
- adult day care (and knowledge of where these are located and how to access)
- churches are closing and/or getting smaller
  - younger generation is not as involved in religious groups
- child care center integrated with elderly care centers
- rural home delivered meals (offers daily interaction as well as nutrition, etc.)
- hospice partners
- aging population may not want to register for services or want to provide personal information
- stigma to aging and reticent to ask for help - culturally related
- landlord accountability
- affordable, accessible, and available housing

**What services does the County offer or do that makes aging easier?**

- Waiver services
- adult day care
- homemaker services
- publicizing free flu clinics
- financial services is back to case-loads so there is a specific contact for older adult population and knows the specific individual (County went away from case banking for financial support)
- if individuals don't need services than they don't know about them
- Floodwood residents have been told that Floodwood is in Itasca Co. by SLC employees
- Not a lot of resources and information is included on the website
- private sector could have better connections to PHHS
- general unawareness of services
- burial services

**What services do you wish were offered?**

- Home maintenance, cleaning, transportation, snow shoveling and removal, grass cutting
- some sort of reimbursement for needed services when waiver

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ eligibility falls off</li> <li>➤ easier process for service access</li> <li>➤ an inventory of services available to public and assurance that that list is widely available and easily found</li> <li>➤ streamlined paperwork is a gap and requirement of in-person signature is a barrier for continuity of services</li> <li>➤ technology services</li> <li>➤ integrated services between youth and aging pop. – intergenerational collaborations</li> <li>➤ clarify on website what services are offered after MnCHOICES assessment for aging population</li> <li>➤ high medically complex clients’ needs are not understood by social workers - preference is to do these assessments by PHNs</li> <li>➤ the assessments are done by a team not a specific person – with preference to those with medical background</li> </ul> <p><b>What are key takeaways?</b> Centralized resources; people want to age in place</p>	
Committee updates	NA	
Next meeting	Potential topics: Term expirations and open seats	Next meeting dates: 10 am – 12 pm 11- 20-19 1-15-20