

Meeting Summary: Healthy Minnesota Partnership

Date: March 18, 2019

Attendance

Members and Alternates

Ken Bence, Barbara Burandt, Kathleen Call, Jenna Carter, Amber Dallman, Linda Davis-Johnson, Julia Dreier, Kate Elwell, Brett Grant, Sarah Grosshuesch, Tim Henkel, Mary Hertel, Jan Malcolm, Gretchen Musicant, Joan Pennington, Sarah Sanchez, Veronica Svetaz, DeDee Varner

Guests

Cristine Flood-Urdangarin, Samantha Holte, Tiffany Kovaleski, Jean Lee, Katherine Miller, Karen NikolaiAngela Schoffelman (phone), Richard Scott, Tim Sexton, Allison Alstrin, Yi Li Xou

MDH Staff

Liz Arita, Dorothy Bliss, Denise McCabe, Jeannette Raymond, Frieda vonQualen

Welcome and Introductions

Jan Malcolm welcomed everyone. She recognized the contributions of Barb Sporlein and welcomed new member Sarah Sanchez, representing the American Heart Association. All those present then introduced themselves.

Approval of the December 13, 2018 Meeting Summary

Ken Bence moved approval of the December 13, 2018 meeting summary; Joan Pennington seconded. The Partnership approved the summary on a voice vote.

Partnership Updates

Mary Hertel announced that the Department of Human Services (DHS) has created a new equity coordinator position in the Communities of Care division. She also noted that the Minnesota Board on Aging 2019-2022 state plan includes housing and health, which means that the Area Agencies on Aging will be working on this issue (among others) for the next three years. Issues include home modifications, housing for older adults, staying in the community, and remaining in place with services.

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Linda Davis-Johnson said that new DHS commissioner Tony Lourey has affirmed the DHS strategic plan, equity, and health in all policies. She also noted that the administration is doing an equity survey of employees, focused on DHS internal culture and external interactions.

Jean Lee commented that the health department should stay away from enforcement of housing code/ conditions because the unintended consequence could be that people lose their homes. She also reflected on the challenge of getting individuals and patients get information they need but usually don't get until they are hospitalized. Informal caregivers need knowledge for prevention.

Karen Nikolai reported on the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) of Hennepin County, which is a cross sectional partnership that includes Minneapolis and Bloomington as health department partners. CHIP works at the intersection of housing and mental well-being as its two priorities.

CHIP has an oversight group called the CHIP Executive Committee, and two action teams. The first action team works on community mental well-being by 1) working to become trauma informed/responsive organizations, and 2) leveraging the work that spiritual and faith communities/leaders already are doing. The second team is working on housing stability 1) exploring/developing a single tenant application system and 2) building "community" in rental communities. Recently, the executive committee wrote a letter of support for [Homes for All](#) to state commissioners of housing, health and human services as well as the Met Council chair. Partnership members might also consider endorsing this important coalition.

Gretchen Musicant said Minneapolis has been dealing with the issue of "conduct on premises," e.g., loud parties late into the night. This concern has resulted over time with people being told to leave their rented dwellings. A panel of "helpers" has been created to consult on issues with tenants to help people stay in their homes, while decreasing problematic behaviors. She also said that the University of Minnesota is looking at the health impact of Minneapolis' minimum wage policy. The community is helping to select indicators and strategies for following the people affected by the increase in the minimum wage. She thought it might be possible to have them come to a Partnership meeting to share findings and ideas.

Joan Pennington shared that she participates in the effort called "Silos to Circles," a group started five years ago, composed of "thought leaders," on how to remove barriers across sectors (including health care) to make a difference in health outcomes. This new opportunity to look at how to authentically engage the community is part of a national effort. Jeannette Raymond added that this effort envisions a future of health and well-being for all communities, especially those most affected by inequities. This effort, spearheaded by the Rippel Foundation, has identified 15 communities around the U.S., including Minneapolis, with involvement by the Minneapolis Foundation.

Jeannette shared that a group of African-American leaders worked with MDH to develop a narrative on infant mortality in the African-American community. She said that Helen Jackson Lockett-El of MDH presented this narrative to the Healthy Start Coalition in Minneapolis, and this led to two more invitations to share the narrative.

Gretchen commented that the Partnership started with just a few narratives five years ago, and with tentative policy ideas and conversation, and today these efforts are much more robust and actually headed somewhere.

Approval of the 2018 Annual Report

Gretchen Musicant asked for comments or questions on the draft Annual Report that staff sent ahead of time to Partnership members. Jeannette reminded the group that the Annual Report of the Partnership is one of the requirements of national accreditation for MDH.

Linda Davis-Johnson commented that seeing all the information about Partnership activities gathered in one report is powerful and feels optimistic for the future.

Ken Bence noted that the summary provide in the Annual Report underscores the importance of the sharing that Partnership members and others do at each meeting. He suggested that the “Looking Ahead” section of the report could state more explicitly that the Partnership will be more assets-focused in the coming year.

Jean Lee asked about who was listed as attending Partnership meetings; staff agreed that the names of all those who attended meetings during the year could be added to the report.

Veronica Svetaz suggested noting additional narratives that need to be done, including mental health and crises in schools for children of color.

Ken Bence moved to approve the 2018 Annual Report with the noted changes; Barbara Burandt seconded. The report was approved on a voice vote.

Veronica suggested that the report and the work of the Partnership be announced and celebrated; Jeannette said staff would send the link out to the full Partnership listserv, and follow up with suggestions for Twitter and Facebook posts for members and others.

Discussion of the 2019-2020 Work Plan

Review of Member Survey Results: Brett Grant reminded members that a survey went out to all members and alternate, as well as some regular attenders, asking about the value of the Partnership and the membership structure. He said that several people also reached out to those members who have not attended regularly to get feedback on why they are not coming. (See summary attached.)

Brett noted that most respondents felt a defined membership was important for continuity, organizational accountability, and ensuring cross-sector, cross-population and cross-geography representation. The membership question did, however, raise some concerns about who is mission, especially representatives from small community organizations, some health care sectors, and the populations experiencing health inequities. He said the Partnership would discuss the issue of membership more fully at the June meeting. The discussion of the work plan today will focus more on the value and future direction of the Partnership.

Discussion of Future Partnership Work: Jeannette Raymond led participants in a process of small group discussion and affinity mapping. Notes from those discussions will be analyzed and brought to the June meeting for further discussion. Four people volunteered to work with Jeannette and Dorothy on this: Tiffany Kovaleski, Jenna Carter, Gretchen Musicant, and Veronica Svetaz.

Update on the Narrative Web Pages

Dorothy Bliss shared the table of contents and provided an update on progress putting all the narratives developed through the leadership of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership. She said the web pages and narrative frames are anticipated to be available by mid- to late April.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Gretchen said that between now and the next meeting, Partnership staff will: finalize the web pages and send the link to the listserv; summarize and analyze the notes from the work plan discussion; potentially solicit some ideas for strategic opportunities and narrative framing; and organize some conversations around the state using the housing, home and health narrative frames developed last fall. Jeannette also noted that at the June meeting the Partnership would have an opportunity to review and decide on some suggested edits to the “emerging narrative” of the Partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. The next meeting of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership will be **Thursday, June 27, 2019, 1-3 p.m. at the Wilder Foundation.**

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