Meeting summary: Healthy Minnesota Partnership

Date: December 4, 2019

Attendance

Members and alternates

Barbara Burandt, Jenna Carter, Linda Davis-Johnson, Courtney Jordan Baechler, Sarah Grosshuesch, Kenza Hadj-Moussa, Mary Hertel, Warren Larson, Gretchen Musicant, Joan Pennington, Sarah Sanchez, Siri Simmons, DeDee Varner

Guests

Bill Adams, Kate Grannon, Roger Green, Cana Karatekin, Nancy Jost, Kita Lewis, Paula Newinski, Reenae Oswald-Anderson, Danielle Seraphine

MDH staff

Liz Arita, Dorothy Bliss, Deb Burns, Blaine Harrison, Denise McCabe, Jeannette Raymond, Alyssa Wetzel-Moore

Welcome and introductions

Assistant Commissioner Courtney Jordan Baechler welcomed everyone. All those present then introduced themselves and shared a reason they come to these meetings.

Approval of the September 25, 2019 meeting summary

Joan Pennington moved approval of the September 25, 2019 meeting summary; DeDee Varner seconded. The Partnership approved the summary on a voice vote.

Partnership updates

A representative from the Minnesota Housing Finance agency said she has encountered the Partnership work on narrative at the Black Birth Summit and elsewhere and really likes the way the narrative frames the relationship of housing and health.

Joan Pennington noted that Dorothy Bliss and Jeannette Raymond will be coming to do some narrative training with the Fairview Health Community Advancement team to give an overview of narratives, such as how they are developed and how this approach can be used in our work with

community. She said they are hoping to help this group think about how to talk about their own work and to reframe narratives both inside and outside the organization.

Linda Davis-Johnson shared the evolution and growth of equity work within the Department of Human Services: three years ago, they implemented a policy on equity, then they hired an equity coordinator, and recently they announced that they will be appointing an assistant commissioner of equity and inclusion, so that there will be executive leadership on equity.

Canan Karatekin said that she has been reviewing literature on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and met with Dorothy and Jeannette to discuss how to use an expanded narrative to search and code the literature on ACEs. She said this expanded approach will shape how they talk about ACEs, what questions they ask, and what they discover.

Jeannette Raymond commented that she and Dorothy Bliss had a one-hour conversation with a team from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services about Minnesota's approach to our Statewide Health Assessments (2012 and 2017). She said they asked if they could use our framing of opportunity, nature, and belonging, and noted that that is a way to continue to amplify this expanded understanding of what creates health. Dorothy noted that she and Jeannette went to Wisconsin in November and provided a narrative training to about 120 people that Jeanne Ayers gathered.

Warren Larson said that the Rural Health Association used an expanded narrative about health in the development of strategies going forward, and that it really helped to focus the conversation and direct the strategies. He said that in a conversation about determinants of health with small rural hospitals and the challenges they face, they were asked "what is the dominant narrative about workforce in your communities?" which helped shape the conversation.

Gretchen Musicant shared that the City of Minneapolis Wellness Executive Committee meeting were discussing the new limitations coming from their finance committee and attorney regarding the good use of funds to support the health of employees. She said they were speaking totally out of a health=health care frame. So she pointed out how this narrative was dominating, and suggested they approach the issue with a wider lens.

Debra Burns noted that this would be Courtney Jordan Baechler's last Partnership meeting as she is leaving MDH at the end of the year. Deb thanked her on behalf of MDH for providing leadership to the Partnership and at MDH. Courtney said she definitely will bring the narrative work of the Partnership to her new position.

Asset-focused approaches

Dorothy Bliss walked the Partnership through the handout on asset-focused approaches that was sent to them before the meeting. She noted some challenges of taking an asset-focused approach,

and then reviewed three ways that the Partnership could move forward with this approach. Those present then had the opportunity to discuss this approach at their tables and to share ways they have already implemented an asset-based focus.

Warren Larson said that the Bemidji area has the second-largest proportion of babies born addicted to drugs (after Hennepin County). So the community created First Steps to Healthy Babies (https://www.crcinform.org/directory/listing/first-steps-to-healthy-babies), a collaborative effort that includes his organization, Sanford Health. Among other things, including more training for staff to know how to handle addiction in moms and babies, they made policy changes to focus attention on the health of the mothers (rather than on their drug-related behavior). The goal is to assure that babies can go home with their mothers, instead of moms entering the criminal justice system and babies going into foster care. The program addresses *all* the issues the mothers are dealing with, not just their drug addiction; i.e., a focus on parenthood (the asset) and not the drugs (deficit). For more information, see this article in MinnPost: First Steps to Healthy Babies: Program aims to reduce opioid-affected births at rural hospitals (https://www.minnpost.com/mental-health-addiction/2018/11/first-steps-to-healthy-babies-program-aims-to-reduce-opioid-affected-births-at-rural-hospitals/).

Jenna Carter shared that during her campaign for Bloomington City Council (she won, congratulations!) she talked about affordable housing, transportation, safe streets and their role health, while 'telling the truth" about the challenges and inequities being faced by the residents of Bloomington. She said this work motivates her even more now as she starts her term. She commented that personal stories also help policy makers as they confront the challenges of their communities and try to make good decisions. Dorothy commented that even personal stories can reinforce the dominant narrative, and to be aware what narratives are operating when choosing which anecdotes to share.

Sarah Grosshuesch said that in the Rural Cancer Initiative, their partners would "lift them up" and take every opportunity to talk about how great they are. She said they collaborated better because they were so positive. She said they did their planning based on assets such as community growth, per capita income comparisons, and thinking about "the next ten years."

At the end of this discussion, Gretchen noted that this is Dorothy Bliss' last Partnership meeting (as staff), as she is retiring at the end of December. Gretchen called it "the end of an era" and thanked Dorothy for her many contributions to the work of the Partnership, especially her framing of the 2017 Statewide Health Assessment and the themes of "opportunity," "nature," and "belonging. Dorothy thanked the Partnership for having made the last eight years of her career at MDH so rich and meaningful.

Measurement framework

Gretchen provided an overview of the ongoing work to develop a measurement framework for health. She noted that since 2008, Minnesota has been measuring a set of health care quality indicators. These indicators are reported to the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System. During its 2017 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to develop a new measurement framework in collaboration with a broad group of stakeholders.

During the initial work on framework development in 2018, MDH had rich conversations with a wide range of stakeholders that helped lay the groundwork for a new vision of health measurement in Minnesota. Gretchen said this phase of the project uncovered widespread enthusiasm for evolving our current quality measurement system and creating a stronger focus on improvement, as well as for widening the scope of measurement beyond health care to health broadly. She noted that since July 2019, an expanded measurement framework steering committee has been coming to consensus on a measurement model for Minnesota.

Gretchen Musicant, Bill Adams and Courtney Jordan Baechler all serve on the current steering committee. Jeannette has been providing some of the staff support. This group looked at four national models which informed the Minnesota model, clarified values and principles that should guide the framework, and considered how the framework might be used. They are now developing a governance model to guide the use of the framework in the future.

Measurement framework exercise

Jeannette introduced an exercise for the Partnership. She asked those present to think about the kind of things that might be measured and the cross sectoral partnership needed to work on improvements. She presented three topics – alcohol related deaths, healthy years of life after 65, and infant mortality – for the Partnership to think about, as well as an example related to mental health. The examples are filled in with some data from the 2017 statewide health assessment. She asked everyone to circulate to the various sheets and add ideas for indicators and partners to address each health outcome.

She also asked members to think about the implications of this measurement model for the work of the Partnership, e.g., are there any implications for further narrative work? For the next statewide health assessment?

Discussion

Reactions to the framework were generally positive.

- Members could see how the framework reflected the Partnership emerging narrative about health as it included conditions that impact health outcomes and the policy environment.
- Mary Hertel saw the potential of the Framework to help frame statewide planning the Board on Aging is doing. She asked for the results on healthy years of life after 65 chart.
- Nancy Jost reflected that the numbers of indicators on any one framework should be limited so that people could take in the whole and not be overwhelmed.
- Sarah Grosshuesch noted that when she shared this with her staff, they noticed that indicators of structural racism were missing and that these should be added.
- Jeannette reflected that during the last statewide assessment process, Partnership members asked for a deep dive into a small set of health issues. We were not able to do this, but the framework would provide a basis for doing this in future health assessment.
- Bill Adams shared that in the process of developing the framework, that he had had some changes in his understanding of measurement beyond health care cost, quality and access.

2020 Partnership meeting dates

Partnership meeting dates for 2020 are:

- Thursday, February 20, 2020
- Tuesday, June 23, 2020
- Thursday, October 15, 2020
- Tuesday, December 15, 2020

All meetings will be at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55104, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Next steps and adjourn

Gretchen Musicant and Courtney Jordan Baechler adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

Minnesota Department of Health
Healthy Minnesota Partnership
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-3880
health.ophp@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us/healthymnpartnership/