



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES ~ January 11, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Teams Meeting

Attendance:

Commissioners present: Donna Mears (Vice Chair), Gabe Garcia, Gerry York, Stephanie Berglund

Commissioners absent: Shawn Degler (E), Sarah Slater (U), Matthew Thomas (E)

Staff: Judy Atkins, Administrative Support, Kimberly Rash, Acting Director, Dylan Pearce, Public Health Division Manager

Guests: Dr. Amana Mbise, Dr. Rei Shimizu, UAA

Call to Order

Vice Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with a quorum.

Roll Call - Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair called for approval of the agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner York, seconded by Commissioner Berglund. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve the July 13, 2022 minutes as presented, Commissioner York; seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Presentation – Dr. Rei Shimizu, Dr. Amana Mbise – Black Alaskan Health Needs Assessment

Dr. Mbise and Dr. Shimizu with UAA presented on the results of the Black Alaskan Health Needs Assessment. This project was a joint partnership with the UAA School of Social Work and the Alaska Black Caucus through a grant awarded by the Anchorage Health Dept. This analysis serves to establish the health needs for Alaska's Black-Identifying/African American population to assess the community's overall health status. Demographics: 674 participants from all age groups (majority aged 35-44) 60% male. Using multiple data sources, surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, findings indicated that the Black community reported more days on average where physical and mental health was not good. Findings on morbidity rates among Black Alaskans were discussed along with the leading causes for deaths. Topics touched on were sleep, health check-ups, vaccinations, Diabetes, substance use i.e. cigarettes/alcohol, and dietary behaviors around consumption

of fruits and vegetables. Commissioner Berglund asked if there are some action steps or specific recommendations for the commission or the municipality. There are many questions for future consideration however it was suggested that we start talking about specific projects addressing public health issues affecting Black Alaskans. What sort of programs can come out of this to improve the health of the Black community? How can funding be obtained for programs?

Public Comment

AHD Staff Report – Dylan Pearce, Public Health Division Manager

Mr. Pearce provided updates and information on AHD Community Health Nursing programs, November statistics – Immunizations, TB, the Sexual Health Clinic, substance abuse, HIV prevention and TUPP (teen unintended pregnancy prevention). No areas of concern have been identified at this time.

Acting Director Rash commented on the ongoing work to establish the Opioid Task Force. Planning meetings have been held resulting in the development of vision goals. SOA settlement funds have been received, \$400,000 to date. Looking forward to this exciting initiative in 2023.

Old Business

Identify action items for HHSC. No movement on this topic yet (opportunities listed in the July 13, 2022 minutes, Planning Session)

New Business

Election of Officers. Vice Chair Mears called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. She nominated Gabe Garcia for Chair position who graciously declined, however indicated he would be open to the Vice Chair position. Commissioner York was nominated for the Chair position. He initially declined however reconsidered and after discussion, accepted the nomination. Vice Chair Mears polled the commission members for their votes individually to appoint Commissioner York as Chair and Commissioner Garcia as Vice Chair; all responded AYE. **Motion passed.**

Committees. The topic is tabled at this time.

Board Member Recruitment. There are two vacant positions. Vice Chair recommends reviewing the attendance of commissioners to determine if replacements are needed.

Commissioner Comments

For consideration: Vice Chair Mears commented that she appreciates the desire for the Commission to hold the meeting in person however we should consider making it a Teams meeting only.

Next Meeting

No motion made however the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm; the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 8, 2023.