Summary/Action Minutes

I. Persons with Disabilities in Alameda County

Attachment

Dr. Muntu Davis, Public Health Director and County Health Officer, Public Health Department and Sandi Soliday, Developmental Disabilities Council Coordinator, Public Health Department presented a PowerPoint presentation on Persons with Disabilities in Alameda County.

Disability is part of the human condition. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired or disabled at some point in life, and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. Every epoch has faced the moral and political issue of how best to include and support people with disabilities. Policy has now shifted towards community and educational inclusion, and given way to more interactive approaches recognizing that people are disabled by environmental factors as well as by their bodies.

The Public Health Department’s desired outcomes are to better understand disability in Alameda County and to understand what works to 1) overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services and 2) create the environments which will enable people with disabilities to flourish.

Disability Definition for Public Health Surveillance

Ambulatory – Serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs
Cognitive – Serious difficulty in concentrating, remembering, or making decisions because of physical, mental or emotional conditions.
Hearing – Deafness or serious difficulty hearing
Independent Living – Difficulty doing errands alone because of physical, mental or emotional condition.
Self-Care – Difficulty dressing or bathing
Vision – Blindness or serious difficulty seeing

The Public Health Department has determined that the majority of Alameda County’s disabled population are 65 years of age or older and that the number of persons with a disability increases after age 50. There are more women than men with a disability and the highest percentages are African American, Native American, Alaskan Natives. In addition there are economic and health inequities with persons with disabilities. The Health Care Services Agency has several programs to assist persons with disabilities.

The Public Health Department recommends a focused efforts to improve health for persons with disabilities, including:

• Access to health care and human services*
• Data for decision-making*
• Health and human services workforce capacity*
• Explicit inclusion in program design*
• Preparation for emergencies – County AFN coordinator position?*
• Intersection of disability and aging populations and services
Purpose:
☐ Report progress
☒ Advocacy or Education
☐ Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
☐ Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

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