

PRESS RELEASE

The Bermuda Health Council Launches a Series of Meetings

(Hamilton, Bermuda 8th February 2019) - The Bermuda Health Council will be continuing a series of meetings with stakeholders and groups within our communities for the purpose of supporting the improvement of how we deliver care, pay for care, and the results we receive from our health system. These series of meetings with diverse stakeholder groups are essential to combat gaps in collaborative understanding and to review any issues we are experiencing in today's health system. These meetings are also to underscore and to expand on the great work that is being done by so many here in Bermuda.

While we are moving towards a healthier Bermuda, there is still much work to be done and lessons to learn. The goal of this series is to, with intention, promote the inclusion of systems thinking and individual empowerment in healthcare; and provide ways in which more collaboration and integration of care can help transform health.

Dr Ricky Brathwaite, Acting CEO and Director, Health Economics states, "As an organisation, we are committed to having the innovative, hard and even complex conversations. We find that even within some of those complicated talks, so much is learned on both sides. We may not always agree, but learning why a perspective may exist is often more important than the perspective itself. That learning then leads to better policies, better approaches, and better outcomes. Over the last year, we have heard a common theme that there are provider and patient groups that have not been given a chance to share their voices regarding the priorities of our health system. For example, it was really constructive a few weeks ago to discuss ways to improve the efficiency of practice and manage the cost of prescription medications with the pharmacists. Before that, the nurses were excited to provide their perspectives on how they can contribute more to improving community care and population health."

The Health Council supports and encourages the public to ask questions about their healthcare. Discussing the needs of the community, and having the conversation is necessary to improve the quality of care in Bermuda.

"The truth is that there are opportunities to become less fragmented and create more fundamental cohesion. We all must empower each other's voices, and start to think from a systems view and not as individual stakeholders. We have to start believing in this as an integrated community of health in which everyone's role is important to maximising our wellness. We must hear from the seasoned and the upcoming, the workers and the currently unemployed, the fully-abled and those with limitations. Everyone has a stake in the outcomes, and the Health Council is intent on hearing and sharing those ideas."

A calendar of meetings and the thoughts generated within these sessions will be shared on our website and on social media platforms in the coming weeks. We look forward to talking to Bermuda.

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About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda's community, and staffed by a team of committed professionals, the Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.