



Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee			
Date	April 18, 2017	Location	JWO Transit Center 12 Olive St Greenfield, MA Room 104
Time	4:30-6:00 p.m.	Duration	1.5 Hours
Facilitator:	Nicole Zabko, Co-Chair Carolyn Shores Ness, Co-Chair		

ATTENDEES:	
Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH	Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield BOH
Nicole Zabko, Greenfield Health Director	Gina McNeely, Montague Health Director
Deb Coutinho, Shelburne BOH	Norene Pease, Shutesbury BOH
John Hillman, Leverett BOH	Donna Gibson, Williamsburg BOH
ABSENT:	
Doug Telling, Charlemont BOH	Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH
Flora Sadri, Northfield BOH	Betsy Kovacs, Heath BOH
FRCOG STAFF:	GUESTS:
Greg Lewis	Michael Nelson, MDPH

Agenda Items	
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Called to order at 4:33 p.m.
2. Review/approval of March 20, 2017 minutes.	Mike moved to accept the March 20, 2017 minutes. Carolyn seconded. Passed, John abstained.
3. Old business a) Staff and Local PHEP report b) HMCC update c) WAG and LSAC updates d) Q4 Deliverables e) Minigrant updates	a) Greg briefly updated the Steering Committee on his work during April. MAPHCO Annual Meeting is on June 21 st . The NACCHO Preparedness Summit begins in Atlanta the following week. b) No update. c) Greg provided news regarding regional and statewide planning for the next Budget Period. d) Greg quickly listed the remaining deliverables for Q4. e) Greg is working with Williamsburg re the AED request. Montague and Greenfield have remaining funds to claim.
4. New business a) MAPHCO Programming in BP1. b) Hard Knox 2017: FEMA	a. The Steering Committee discussed possibilities for projects in BP1 and beyond. Greg proposed building a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Program (MYTEP). By planning ahead over five years, more goals are attainable and all MAPHCO programming

Exercise

will follow a coordinated direction. Generally, the group supported a multi-year plan. Below are preparedness ideas offered by members for inclusion in a MYTEP:

Carolyn

- improve resiliency to climate change which may increase risks of emerging infectious diseases, water quality and septic issues.
- effective risk communication to the public.

Gina

- novel influenza strains are emerging in Asia.
- trainings for local animal inspectors re biosecurity.
- protection of public health staff and volunteers during response, specifically fit-testing of PPE (e.g., N95 masks).
- trainings and exercises for flooding events.

Donna

- effective risk communication to the public. 2015/16 HPAI notices to local, backyard chicken owners showed the challenge of changing public behavior.
- trainings that invite public health, public safety, and other municipal officials whom often do not work with each other.

Nicole

- effective risk communication for the public, including posters and outreach materials with tips for household preparedness.
- training for PPE fit-testing, perhaps by Cheryl Volpe using the N95 fit machine kept at the Greenfield Health Department.
- trainings and exercises for excessive heat events.

Greg summarized that each of these ideas can fit within the 15 CDC PHEP Capabilities and would work with a MYTEP. At the May meeting, the Steering Committee can review his suggestions and make decisions about the content of a MYTEP and also choose a BP1 MAPHCO Coalition Project. Greg offered the idea of an asset inventory project that better informs our needs for supplies, including larger, shared ones.

Carolyn asked if development of the MYTEP itself could satisfy the Coalition Project for BP1. Greg expressed doubt, but the Coalition Project could support the first phase of the MYTEP. The group discussed using the social media suggestion from OPEM. Greg suggested that we could use it to also be more broadly used as a Risk Communication project.

Greg will bring proposals for the Coalition Project to the May 15 meeting. The Steering Committee will need to also decide BP1 budget issues, including minigrants since OPEM requires purchases to be identified at the beginning of the year.

Nicole requested an updated budget, which was inadvertently excluded from the April meeting packets.

- b. The group discussed a major November exercise along the Deerfield River, sponsored by FEMA. Hurricane event is to be simulated on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Dennis Annear (NWIMT) discussing Nov. 16 (Thursday) for involvement of local public health to assist with recovery. Norene asked if local public safety will be involved and Carolyn said that they are being

	<p>recruited. Carolyn requested ideas from the group about how to build in scenario features that would include public health. Local participation will likely have to be self-generated; not much outreach is being given by FEMA to local emergency management.</p> <p>State Conservationist has agreed to Carolyn's request to participate in the drill. Such personnel can aid in assessing damages caused by flooding.</p> <p>Greg suggested testing local capabilities to request and receive resources from state and federal entities. Administrative preparedness issues are recognized as a common gap in the U.S. Carolyn said that when federal personnel arrive for large scale exercises or actual events, there is often a misfit with resources and procedures.</p> <p>Carolyn suggested that scenario ideas be submitted via their EMDs to the Franklin Co. REPC.</p>
5. DPH Update	a. None.
6. Roundtable updates	a. None.
7. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting	a. None.
8. Adjourned	a) Mike moved to adjourn the meeting, Deb seconded, passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:12 p.m.