



Region 1 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition Quarterly Newsletter

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News and Updates

Please take our [Follow-Up Survey](#) from the Kick-Off Meeting!

What is the HMCC?

Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCCs) are being formed across the Commonwealth as two federal agencies (Center for Disease Control and Asst. Secretary for Preparedness and Response) integrate emergency preparedness and response for public health and hospitals.

Both hospital and public health grant guidance suggests healthcare coalitions.

The [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) has decided to implement this new mandate with the HMCCs.

The HMCC includes five disciplines: public health, hospitals, long-term care, community health centers, and emergency medical services. Region 1 consists of the four counties of western Massachusetts (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire).

What will the HMCC do?

- Conduct regional planning and develop regional plans addressing all phases of the disaster cycle.
- Participate in cooperative training and exercising of regional plans.
- Develop and maintain an emergency response structure with required regional roles filled by paid personnel.
- Maintain up-to-date local contact lists for all five disciplines of western Massachusetts.

During an event, the HMCC will:

- Coordinate a cohesive regional response with a single, 24/7 point of contact for communication in the region and with the MA Department of Public Health.
- Gather pertinent information to maintain and communicate situational awareness.

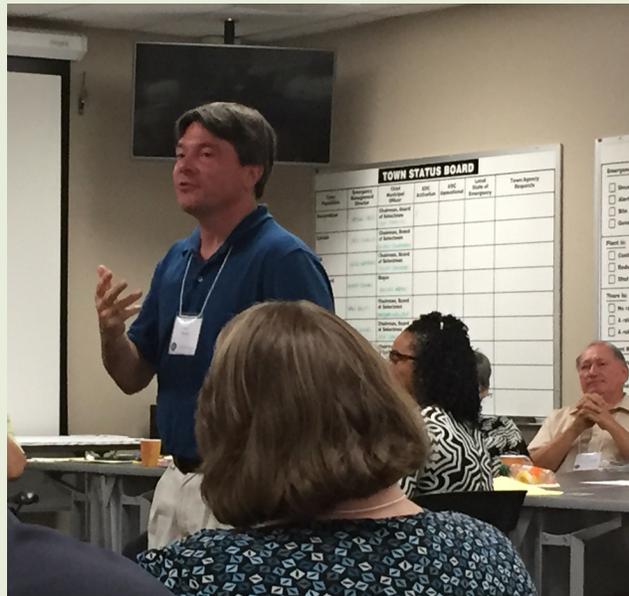
- Coordinate requests for assets and resources.
- Assist with recovery and mitigation efforts.

Who will be doing the HMCC's work?

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has been selected to act as the sponsoring organization. A governing board will be formed with all disciplines represented. Planning for the governing board began in early September (see the Kickoff Meeting below). The FRCOG will subcontract work, as allowed by DPH, to current public health coalitions and hospitals. All funded staff will share expertise and responsibilities across counties.

Kickoff Meeting!

The kickoff planning meeting for the Region 1 HMCC was held on Tuesday, September 8th. The meeting was used as an introduction to the FRCOG, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the numerous coalitions, committees, and organizations involved in the planning of the HMCC. The Mediation and Training Collaborative was hired to facilitate the planning process, which will continue until March, 2016. Updates, meeting agendas and minutes, and presentations from the planning process will be available on the HMCC page of the FRCOG website.



Themes from Kickoff Meeting Evaluation

- Many people felt that it was helpful to hear and learn from others at the meeting.
- Several people said that the alphabet soup of organizations and missions was confusing and overwhelming (many of these were ones who were glad to hear about what others were doing).
- Some people felt strongly that there had been some bases laid for this work already and they wanted to "get going".
- Several people expressed concern with the timeline and how much needed to be done in a very short period of time.
- There were several specific requests, including an acronym list, chart of the organizations and groups involved, rotating the meetings to different

locations, and clear goals or questions to be answered at each meeting.

Meet the staff!



Tracy Rogers is the Regional Preparedness Program Manager at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). She has been at the FRCOG for five years. Before that Tracy worked as the town administrator in the towns of Northfield and Gill. She is a resident of Northfield and a member of the Northfield Selectboard.



Mark Maloni has been a Public Health Planner at the FRCOG for the past 2 years, and will now serve as the Coalition's Planning and Operations Coordinator. Before joining the FRCOG, Mark worked with several public health primary prevention coalitions throughout western mass. Mark resides in Greenfield and is a member of the Greenfield City Council.



Ted Harvey is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the FRCOG. He has worked as the Regional Project Planner at the FRCOG for the last five years. Ted lives in Easthampton.



Greg Lewis is the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner at the FRCOG. Greg will be working primarily with the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, as well as the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition. Greg hails from Northampton.



Brenda Codella is the Administrative Services Assistant at the FRCOG. She will be providing administrative services for the HMCC. Brenda hails from Turners Falls.

Member Profile

Each quarter we will profile one organization that is involved with the HMCC. First up is the [Berkshire Public Health Alliance!](#)

The [Berkshire Public Health Alliance](#) is collaboration among 22 Berkshire Communities who have signed an Inter-Municipal Agreement to provide professional public health services and programs for the Member communities. The mission of the Alliance is to improve the delivery of public health services and thereby improve the overall health and well-being of Berkshire County residents. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission serves as the Host Agency (fiduciary agent) for the alliance.

What does the Berkshire Public Health Alliance do?

Public Health Nursing Services: The Nursing program seeks to provide member communities with access to comprehensive, professional Public Health Nursing services. The Public Health Nursing provides wellness programming, flu clinics, disease screenings and disease investigations for those who are challenged by location, mobility, and income.

Public Health Inspectional Services: The Inspectional Service program seeks to provide member communities with access to trained, qualified Health Inspectors. Services include Title V (on-site septic) inspections, food establishment inspections, camp inspections, swimming pool inspections and housing inspections.

Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative: The Berkshire Public Health Alliance is coordinating the Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative. The Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative will develop and implement local policies, practices, systems and environmental changes to prevent the misuse or abuse of opioids, prevent or reduce unintentional deaths and non-fatal hospital events associated with opioid poisonings and increase the capacity of municipalities to deal with the growing problem.

HMCC Planning Meeting Group

Future Meetings and Participation

The goal of the HMCC is to effectively serve health and public health entities in western Massachusetts. With that in mind, we are looking for as much stakeholder feedback as possible and hoping to have as many people as possible at our upcoming planning meetings. The input from stakeholders is extremely important as we put this Coalition together.

The HMCC Planning meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month through March, from 9am-12pm, at locations rotating throughout the region.

Next Meeting

Date and Time: October 13th from 9am-12:00pm

Location: Elms Classroom in the Hillcrest Campus of the Berkshire Medical Center, 165 Tor Court, Pittsfield, MA.

Attendees can enter the building through the mansion entrance. Parking is available in the main parking lot in front of the building.

Notes From September 8th Meeting

[Notes from September 8th Kickoff Meeting](#)

[Goals, Tasks and Homework for October meeting](#)

Trainings and Workshops

ESF-8 training

Presented by DPH OPEM

Date and Time: Friday, November 6; 9am - 12noon

Location: MEMA Office, 1002 Suffield St, Agawam, MA 01001

This training is a requirement for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) deliverables. At least one person from each Public Health coalition must attend this training for the Quarter 2 deliverable to be met.

[Ted Harvey](#), Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

[Franklin Regional Council of Governments](#)