



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

04049 Meeting: Cooperative Public Health Service Oversight Board

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2019	Location: Buckland Town Hall	Facilitator: Mike Friedlander, Co-Chair
Time: 5:00- 7:00 PM	Room: Second Floor Meeting Room	# to call with problems:

Present:	Guests:	Regrets:
Beth Kuzdeba/Leyden	Greg Lewis, Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District	Lisa White, Regional Public Health
Betsy Kovacs/Heath		Terry Narkewicz/Shelburne
Armand Clavette/Heath	Staff:	Michele Giarusso/Leyden
Doug Telling/Charlemont	Phoebe Walker, FRCOG	Absent:
Cass Nawrocki/Hawley	Randy Crochier, Food Safety Agent and Gill Board of Health (Voting only for non food safety issues)	Conway
Maggie Rice/Rowe		Monroe
Terry Estes/Buckland		Deerfield
Mike Friedlander/Colrain		Erving

Agenda Item	Discussion and Action
Minutes	August Minutes were passed unanimously with one correction.
Emergency Preparedness Integration	<p>We discussed what level of emergency preparedness planning goes on in each of our towns, and how integrated into it the Board of Health is.</p> <p>With the exception of the Town of Heath, all of our towns reported that their boards of health are not part of any town-level emergency preparedness team meetings. One reported using WebEOC, a few reported that involvement in the Municipal Vulnerability Plan Grants had sparked a renewed interest in collaboration. A few reported that when the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant was in place they were integrated into response systems, but with the plant closure and the loss of structure and resources for response planning, those connections disappeared. Hawley shared that they conducted a needs survey of all residents to help protect the vulnerable during power outages and other emergencies. They are still figuring out how to use the data. Cass will share a copy with the rest of the group. Heath has used their annual flu clinic as an Emergency Dispensing Site Drill, and has had great participation. This made it easier to work together during the EEE emergency recently, whereas other towns had a hard time connecting with EMDs and others around the outbreak.</p> <p>A clear need for town-level integrated emergency planning meetings was identified.</p>
Public Health Nursing Report	<p>Lisa was busy at a flu clinic at the Hawlemont School, but sent a report on the current status of EEE – the state is continuing its testing in three sites in the region. Greg Lewis, guest at the meeting, and Board member of the PVMCD, described the way the disease is spread, which includes two species of mosquitos. Betsy shared the high level of anxiety and skepticism in Heath, one of the two Critical towns. The BOH has sent a letter to every</p>

	<p>resident. Maggie reported that she had recently worked with the BOS to approve joining the PVMCD, and the vote will be taken at an upcoming Special Town Meeting. Terry wondered about the efficacy of increasing bat habitat to counter mosquitos. More research needed. Greg shared that mosquitos, because they are so small, form only 2% of the diet of a bat, compared to 98% moths.</p> <p>Lisa also had sent a packet of flu information for each town, with requests to send out the flu calendar. Members offered to deliver the posters and information in newsletters, bulletin boards, and town events.</p> <p>A member asked if Lisa thought the tick removal tools would be good to hand out to residents.</p>
<p>Training Discussion for Workshops and Annual Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEE -- Phoebe reported that Greg, Carolyn, and Matt Osborne would be presenting at a workshop for municipal officials currently scheduled for 11/14. The group requested that the speakers address the chemicals that the PVMCD uses and their impact on pollinators. Also to clarify the role that Town Meeting plays in joining the District, and how much different options cost. They also wondered who is reading the test results and what is done on the basis of them. • Vaping – members felt that we could cancel the 12/12 scheduled vaping workshop given the ban, and wait to see what the revised regulatory framework might be. • Age-Friendly Planning – Lisa and LifePath and AARP are putting together a workshop tentatively scheduled for 12/10 during the day. • Agreed to delay the Annual Meeting to 4/2 (to avoid both Flu Season and Town Meeting Season!) – Doug to check in on Warfield House availability on that day. So far, we know we would like to hear the Community Health Needs Assessment data for our towns at that meeting. More TBD.
<p>Food Safety Program Report</p>	<p>Randy, fresh from the New England FDA Food Safety conference, shared that he had learned quite a bit at this one, and was bringing some news ideas back to the district. He also recently acted as a mentor for a new inspector from Lowell, taking him on multiple inspections one Friday (and blowing his mind with how rural we are – Lowell is 7 square miles!).</p> <p>All in attendance congratulated Randy on his recent selection to be our new Regional Health Agent! He reported that he would be starting full time on October 7, and asked for information on what days and times each town BOH meets. We identified a challenge with Wednesday nights! Randy will work with the towns to figure out new compatible meeting schedules.</p>
<p>Member Updates</p>	<p>Buckland Terry reported that the BOH is beginning to use the Abandoned Property Toolkit to get a handle on the distressed and abandoned houses in town prior to their next meeting with the AGO’s office. Leyden: Beth asked if other towns’ Polic Depts take the BOH along to evict people. Everyone replied that they do not, and recommended against such a step. Heath described a painful housing condemnation process that is underway now. This sparked a larger conversation about how to get more people to sign up for CDBG housing rehab funds before their houses go into disrepair – this also helps the HRA get grant funds. Staff will invite the new HRA CDBG person to an upcoming meeting, or connect with them personally. Doug reported that in Charlemont, the owner of the Inn is appealing the receivership order from housing court. Mike shared some developments about short term rental in Colrain, including a cedase and desist for one operating with far</p>

	<p>too small a septic system, and that the Round House is up for sale, as the requirement for a sprinkler system was too expensive for the owner.</p>
<p>FRCOG Report</p>	<p>Hiring Process: So excited to have Randy join us in this new role! Doug, Mike, and Betsy thanked for being part of interviews.</p> <p>Budgets: All is well.</p> <p>Bernardston: The district was approached by Bernardston about joining as a shared services member for all but Title 5 services. Members were enthusiastically in support, as having them join would make the entire district contiguous, and both Leyden and Gill have various levels of connection already with Bernardston. The BOH and BOS are both meeting on this issue in the near future, and we will be back with news. Staff and Board members were clear that any addition of Bernardston would mean that we would definitely need to add another part-time agent, as our Title 5 Agent, Nicole Zabko, only works seasonally, between April and the end of October.</p>
<p>Vaping Emergency and Ban on Sales</p>	<p>Phoebe and Randy shared documents from DPH with information about the ban, and the group identified all possible vendors that needed visiting. So far all are in compliance.</p>