



Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee			
Date April 7, 2020	Location CONFERENCE CALL ONLY!	Facilitator: Carolyn Shores Ness & Norene Pease, Co-Chairs	
	Call-In Number (425) 436-6370		
	Access Code 372022		
Time 4:30-6:30 p.m.			

<p>ATTENDEES: <i>Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH</i> <i>John Hillman, Leverett BOH</i> <i>Betsy Kovacs, Heath BOH</i> <i>Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield BOH</i> <i>Norene Pease, Shutesbury BOH</i> <i>Deb Coutinho, Shelburne BOH</i></p> <p>ABSENT: <i>Valerie Bird, Greenfield Health Director</i> <i>Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH</i> <i>Donna Gibson, Williamsburg BOH</i> <i>Doug Telling, Charlemont BOH</i> <i>Dan Wasiuk, Montague Health Director</i></p>	<p>GUESTS: <i>Dennis Annear, Franklin County Multi-Agency Coordinating Center (MACC)</i> <i>Veronique Blanchard, Conway BOH</i> <i>Randy Crochier, Montague BOH</i> <i>Marie Iken, Conway BOH</i> <i>Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Colrain BOH</i> <i>Carl Nelke, Conway BOH</i> <i>Phil Wonkka, Erving Fire/EMD/ERC</i></p> <p>FRCOG STAFF: <i>Tracy Rogers; Liz Jacobson-Carroll</i></p>
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Agenda Items	
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Called to order by Norene at 4:30 p.m. The order of items in the agenda was modified to allow Dennis Annear to speak before having to leave the meeting.
2. Review/approval of March 31, 2020 minutes	Carolyn Shores Ness moved to accept the March 31, 2020 minutes, John Hillman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously 4:32 p.m.
3. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting	Dennis Annear and Tracy Rogers announced the 4/6/20 opening of the Franklin County Multi-Agency Coordinating Center (FC-MACC), now fully operational. It is located at the Greenfield Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the John Zon Community Center, and will receive and distribute situational awareness reports to towns throughout the

	<p>County. It will be staffed by FRCOG’s Emergency Preparedness Program team, including Dan Nietsche. They have contracted with the Northwest MA Incident Management Team for a public information officer to help write the situation reports. The EOC will direct all non-Greenfield calls (currently 20% of those received) to the FC-MACC.</p> <p>T. Rogers indicated that FC-MACC reports will go out Tuesdays and Fridays; these will list and map the number of test-positive cases (by range) recorded in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN.) D. Annear noted that maps containing other information – such as the locations of testing or vaccination sites – may be produced by FRCOG’s GIS department and added in the future. After some discussion, it was determined that messaging identified in MAPHCO Steering Committee meetings will be incorporated into the FC-MACC reports.</p> <p>Nina Martin-Anzuoni asked for ideas on how to spread messages to Colrain residents lacking internet service. D. Annear suggested including positive reports on efforts to “flatten the curve.” T. Rogers offered a list of media resources and promised widespread distribution of MACC messages. Suggestions for additional media outlets should be sent to her.</p>
<p>4. New business a) Situation report from each EDS b) This week’s messaging</p>	<p>a) Deb Coutinho, of the Mohawk EDS, reported that the Town of Shelburne has launched a COVID-19 website with information from the Board of Health, the COVID-19 Task Force, the Select Board, and the Emergency Management Committee. They are now working on coordinating volunteer efforts.</p> <p>Betsy Kovacs, of the Hawlemont EDS, indicated that Heath may use campaign-style signs along roadways, and will be sending an emphatic reverse 911 message containing warnings from the Surgeon General. In response to her expression of concern regarding communicating with people from out-of-state quarantining locally, members offered to share relevant text from Shutesbury, Heath, Buckland, and Colrain (which will be delivering letters to second homes.)</p> <p>Randy Crochier reported that the Montague EDS has not met, but that acting Health Director Gina McNeely is getting started with old volunteer lists.</p> <p>Noreen Pease and John Hillman reported for the Shutesbury/Leverett EDS, noting that the towns’ differing approaches to the release of information on positive cases has prompted discussion on social media. Nonetheless, things are going well, and they have received supplies from MEMA. Leverett has set up a volunteer program utilizing a dedicated phone number, and has begun receiving calls.</p>

	<p>For the South County EDS, Carolyn Shores Ness indicated that their messaging has been successful – people have been staying home. The EDS is getting food to seniors and students, and with the possible exception of gowns, they have adequate PPE. Carl Nelke cautiously expressed optimism regarding their preparation for the surge ahead.</p> <p>Additional discussion touched on volunteer management and the increasing availability of testing in the region. Colrain is concerned about liability issues, so is directing volunteers to the Medical Reserve Corps while relying on Town employees. Phil Wonkka noted that the Big E fairgrounds will soon be a testing site for medical personnel and first responders.</p> <p>b) Messaging for this week will aim to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the importance of continued social distancing, its positive effect on flattening the curve, and the need for patience during a lengthy epidemiological event • Warn residents of the coming surge of cases, but without specific dates, as Franklin County’s peak may be later than that of eastern MA and Berkshire County • Direct residents to the FC-MACC for information regarding available resources, including maps.
5. Old business, additional business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior	a. None.
6. Wrap up and adjourn	a. Deb Coutinho moved to adjourn the meeting, Nina Martin-Anzuoni seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.