# Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<td>June 2, 2020</td>
<td>CONFERENCE CALL ONLY!</td>
<td>Carolyn Shores Ness &amp; Norene Pease, Co-Chairs</td>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Call-In Number</th>
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<td>4:30-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>(425) 436-6370</td>
<td>372022</td>
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## ATTENDEES:
Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield BOH  
Norene Pease, Shutesbury BOH  
Donna Gibson, Williamsburg BOH  
Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH  
Betsy Kovacs, Heath BOH  
John Hillman, Leverett BOH

## GUESTS:
Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Colrain BOH  
Rebecca Jones, Whately BOH

## ABSENT:
Valerie Bird, Greenfield Health Director  
Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH  
Doug Telling, Charlemont BOH  
Deb Coutinho, Shelburne  
Dan Wasiuk, Montague Health Director

## FRCOG STAFF:
Mark Maloni  
Xander Sylvain  
Lisa White

## Agenda Items

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| 1.   | Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions  
      Called to order by Norene at 4:30 PM. |
| 2.   | Review/approval of May 19, 2020 minutes  
      Norene moved to accept the May 19, 2020 minutes. Donna seconded the motion, John abstained, the rest voted to pass the motion. Motion passed at 4:37 p.m. |
| 3.   | Old business  
      a. CTC Update MAPHCO request for free flu vaccine through MA DPH  
      a. Norene and Carolyn sent a letter to DPH requesting free flu vaccine to run a clinics. This request was rejected by DPH. This is an ongoing request that DPH has rejected in the past. After discussion, Carolyn will wrap this ask into the migrant farm worker conversation with Jo Comerford (see unanticipated business). |
| 4. New business | a. Lisa invited John Welch of CTC to present to MAPHCO about the program. A date has yet to be set. Mark will resend a list of draft questions from MAPHCO to CTC for review.  
  
b. BOH + EDS reports: all report regular meetings and a steady state.  
  
  • Mohawk - discussing the possibility of a drive through flu clinic later this year.  
  
  • Leverett – John working with emergency management team to plan for town meeting and procuring PPE.  
  
  • Shutesbury – Norene planning for town meeting and asked group how people are planning for restocking EDS supplies.  
  
  • The groups discussed resupply of depleted PPE using a combination of PHEP funding, CARES Act, town money, and WRHSAC funding to restock EDS’ in the region. Group discussion on how to properly restock EDS supplies and acknowledged the difficulty of knowing which items to purchase. Lisa will work with EPP staff to create a supply list as a starting point for restocking EDS for COVID19.  
  
  • As HMCC response work decreases, with no immediate preparedness efforts beyond COVID-19 surge management, Mark will have more time available to allocate towards MAPHCO and EDS planning. Mark is available to sit in on EDS meetings. EDS teams encouraged to invite Mark to sit in on meetings to benefit common operating picture for the committee and the region.  
  
c. Risk Communication Messaging:  
  
  • Upcoming messaging aimed at **harm reduction** – this summer people will become more lax with social distancing as society reopens and people adjust to the new normal. There are inherent risks in doing this.  
  
  • Harm Reduction Messaging will help individuals evaluate the risk of different activities. This messaging will also include ways to engage in activities as safely as possible. SC unanimously agrees that they want this type of messaging. |
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<td>b. Mark had been asked on a previous meeting to follow up on questions for specific cost eligibilities under the CARES Act reimbursements. Specific questions are best answered directly by DOR/DLS – email them at <a href="mailto:LocalGovCaresAct@dor.state.ma.us">LocalGovCaresAct@dor.state.ma.us</a></td>
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to next week’s agenda for further discussion. Carolyn will follow up with Jo Comerford’s office to discuss collaboration and coordination within the region.

b. Brief discussion of hiring status for vacant PHEP planner position. General consensus that this is a difficult time to hire a new staff member. The specific job description is subject to change based on MAPCHO strategic planning and possible integration with other county-based preparedness groups (specifically, the Regional Emergency Preparedness Committee). Nina spoke as someone who has held position in the past that the best PHEP work she has seen was with the work done by FRCOG/EPP as a planning team, as opposed to each staff member “holding” a specific initiative. This aligns with the strategic with MAPCHO and EPP strategic planning. Consensus agreement on delaying the hire of a staff member until further consideration by MAPHCO SC and FRCOG on what the scope and role of this hire will be,

| 6. Wrap up and adjourn | a. Norene moved to adjourn the meeting, Carolyn seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m. |