

Minutes April 23 Meeting of CPHS Oversight Board via Conference Call -- Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Marti Taft-Ferguson/Buckland, Doug Telling/Charlemont, Trevor McDaniel/Deerfield, Carolyn Ness/Deerfield, Cass Nawrocki/Hawley, Betsy Kovacs/Heath, Beth Kuzdeba/Leyden, Maggie Rice/Rowe, Jody Stetson/Shelburne, Ron Kelter/Shelburne, Brian Keir/Bernardston.

Staff: Lisa White, Lisa Danek Burke, Phoebe Walker, Randy Crochier, Melanie Zamojski, Meg Burch

Absent: Monroe, Gill, Colrain

1. **COG Update:** Phoebe -- continue to work on statewide stuff like the grants, contact tracing.
 - Forgot to put the finance reports up. It is all a little higgledy-piggledy right now, but will try to have a clear picture for all by May meeting.
 - Note: MACC is doing great work connecting folks to meet local needs. Last report just went out. Tell Phoebe if you are not getting emails.
 - Third round of funds coming to the towns -- will include more kinds of municipal costs, like police, fire, EMD, etc. Still not likely to include food.
 - Trail Sign and PPE distribution went well. Please get those signs out! More PPE has been ordered for district members.
 - Ads in the paper running on the back page every day for the next 6 weeks. Will hope to make them into social media posts as well. Subjects: going to ER if sick, Using Buoy, Safe outdoor exercise, socializing online, wearing masks.

Carolyn/Deerfield said MEMA said food is ok with federal money, including the CARES Act.

Leyden – Beth/Leyden asked about testing capacity increase in the region. Phoebe reported that right now it is still only the BFMC drive-through, for those with symptoms.

2. **Nursing:** Summary from nurse current cases: 35 case events not including travellers or other self quarantines. These can include people who are contacts of people from other towns, and people who have converted from quarantine to isolation. 27 confirmed cases : 15 have recovered, 9 are active, 3 deceased

Lisa gave a reminder about the first two things that the public health nursing team does when we learn of a new case: Notification to LBOH and Shelburne Control. A description of how that works was written in a memo released in MACC report and in municipal leader mailings last week.

Investigation and Contact Tracing process:

- Contact affected resident, their care provider, hospital, facility
- Notification of close contacts
- Issuing orders for isolation and quarantine
- Monitoring through course of illness, monitoring symptoms to release

Contact Tracing Collaborative: Lisa thanked members for the needed patience as we all learn about the State's CTC onboarding contact tracing initiative. She reported that after April 30 we still can opt to hold on to cases we feel a reason to do so. While wanting to make use of this service as it may free up our time to do other important work, we want to do so in a way that assures quality of response that our LBOH and residents deserve. If and when we send a case to the CTC, as with other illnesses for which we do not do the actual case investigation (Hepatitis C is one example) we will still receive notification in MAVEN of the positive lab result and will still follow the case to resolution. In collaboration with CTC staff we will trouble shoot particular issues that arise and will assist any needed additional public health response if there is a cluster of cases identified. The nurses will continue informing the LBOH when there is a confirmed case and informing emergency communications via Shelburne Control of addresses associated with confirmed cases. And may

also continue to have CPHS staff completing the investigation and initiating isolation and quarantine orders. Where we decide to use CTC or in times of surge CTC picks up cases for us, CPHS staff will still oversee CTC's investigation of each case.

At this point, we are working to encourage the many skilled volunteers that have willingly stepped up in our region to apply to Partners In Health, the organization heading up the CTC initiative. That way we can be hopeful that case management will occur with the assistance of local and capable folks.

Questions on Nursing Report:

- Buckland - Marti asked about sorting out the zip code issues? PW said this is being worked on. PW sent an email to the State about the issue. LW has found all the addresses in question and sent a request to ISIS to correct in MAVEN. It is now being corrected as we go.
- Charlemont - - Doug T. Asked if a contact is quarantined, are others in house also Q'd. = No. But they are given instructions on maintaining distance from quarantined person(s), etc.
- (Conway/Deerfield/Erving) - Carolyn NS thinks we should use CTC so that the arduous work of contact tracing is done by them. It frees up our nurse to do some regular public health.
- Heath - Betsy K stated LWhite and crew are doing "bang-up" job. Betsy is confused about CTC. PW clarified that every town is served by CTC program - Town has to mark to "keep" the case. Betsy heard that our Nurse can only talk to the CTC supervisor. PW - Yes. Partners in Health are professionals and have a very strict script they are following. BK commented about upcoming flu season and vaccine work.
- Leyden - Beth said she is going to reach out to her contacts at large pharmacies to see if they have thought about planning how to administer the flu clinics as drive-throughs.
- Shelburne - - Joanne asked about case RE: obituary stating person was from Shelburne. Are they on our town list?- No
- Meg Burch commented on her plans in her hat as Frontier Nurse Leader to coordinate flu vaccination clinics in the schools

6. Health Agent Reports

Agents reported that they are doing regular work, using appropriate distancing. This has included 3 Perc Tests, 7 Title 5 Inspections, 2 Final Septic Inspections for installation. Pretty normal season -- busier than expected, given the circumstances. Upcoming 7 more percs and Title 5s scheduled.

Abandoned housing inventories are ongoing, with a focus recently in Gill, doing 3 full inventories & 3 additional (not abandoned or no access, maybe housing issues). Planning four (4) additional inspections in Buckland next week.

Randy reported on the Agents work on enforcing the Governor's Orders. They continue to visit locations that are both open to public as well as those we have received a complaint on to review compliance of Executive Orders and local orders. They also continue to support permitting software users and homeowners via online, email, or telephone contact and working through discovered functional and user issues and making incremental improvements. Recently Agents sent an update to those BOH members that are active to inform them about the new status changes and their intended uses and meanings.

Both Recreational Camps for Children and Recreational Campground will be preparing for opening based on what the State chooses as the seasons roles closer. We have had one camp reach out to ask about opening early as child care issues will arise as people returning to work look for child care.

Members weighed in on having the district enforce a possible Mask Order (as it turned out the state took executive action the next day):

Bernardston - Brian thinks a good idea. Likes idea of creating a poster and try to get 80% compliance.

Buckland - Marti - Buckland met as a Board and discussed and wanted to do something in conjunction with SF & Charlemont, so fine with order, but is asking about enforcement? Marti discussed the places that d/n get regular customers (like lawn mower repair), PW discussed the addition of some language that helps clarify.

Charlemont - Doug likes idea (brought to Randy) Has not discussed as a Board. Has been in touch with Orange, who said the stores are going to enforce. Doug will talk to Orange HA next week. Doug added that it's better than just signage.

Deerfield - Trevor shared that they haven't addressed as a board but have asked businesses, through visits by Health Agent to implement, but w/o enforcement. RE: Camps Not allowing any camps. Carolyn said they are asking stores to enforce the compliance.

Erving - Bryan - personally think it is the right call, but BOH hasn't met. Enforcement is a challenge. Social pressure is probably best.

Hawley - Cass - no businesses, but feels that the enforcement left alone

Heath - Betsy - No stores, but generally in favor. Doesn't like the idea of worrying about where people get masks, CDC recc. "face covering" and it can be a bandana, shirt, or rag.

Leyden - Beth -- Problem is in the Town offices. Thinks a notice on the door to town hall would solve concerns. Randy clarified that in a town building it needs to be done in conjunction with the Selectmen. Beth said she works at Baker Pharmacy and they have a sign on the door asking to wear a face covering, but there are still some that do not comply. Having an order helps reinforce.

Rowe - Maggie - No stores but thinks its a good idea and supports.

Shelburne - Jodie - has a problem putting something out without any enforcement. Thinks stores should put a notice on the door requiring face covering (like needing a shirt, shoes, etc). Ron - leaning more toward the Buckland and Orange letters/orders bc it helps those residents that are afraid.

PW - we can leave to the Boards (except Buckland/Shelburne collectively), or Randy can order as the regional health agent. Confirmed that no one wants ticketing enforcement.

RC - Goal is to raise the compliance level, so maybe instead of 50% compliance, we may get 80% compliance. Final outcome: posters and road signs created, governor's order precluded the need for local order.

7. Town Reports:

- Bernardston - continuing the same as last month. EOC is open. Calls have dropped by 3-%. Continued their senior lunches 25- 30 a day. They have sent out a questionnaire to everyone over 60 to reach people in need. Tech school is providing lunches and has been brought to 3 places in Town - Serving ~80/day(?) K-12. Randy added Kiwanis is planning another drive through chicken dinner to support local church.
- Buckland - Town is rel. Quiet. Same number of cases. Do have an active task force that has put out a mailing to towns people with lots of information about resources, who is open, etc. Buckland has a volunteer corp. that are getting CORI'd and trained to help townspeople in need. Has had an issue at the transfer station. They have a homemade mask group that is making hundreds of masks - donating to local people & groups. Brought up issue of public restrooms. PW - FEMA will reimburse up to 75% for porta potties & hand washing stations
- Charlemont - trying to get people to use masks. Feels about 1% compliance right now
- Deerfield-- Trevor - been lucky they don't have a lot of cases. Still running meals for seniors - expanded to 5 days, and includes a breakfast for next day - ~180 meals/week, Frontier is doing lunches

for kids. Super thankful for the signs - putting around town. Struggling with how to hold an election and Town Mtg. Been working hard to start planning this. Carolyn added - continually worried Town may not be reaching everyone in town. Also nervous it's been so quiet. Trevor added that a local private facebook group has over 1300 members - Trevor shares Deerfield news to this group. Betsy asked Deerfield how they Moved Town Mtg to June 1, Election June 8th. They are planning an outdoor town mtg at high school to space people out. Focus on financials only and budgeting.

Elections - planning a huge campaign for mail-in ballots. Really want to discourage in person voting, and will be adding safety measures.

- Gill - Planning a drive through election stations, and pushing absentee ballots like crazy.
- Heath - Thank you for PPE, gave extra to Rowe. Do a reverse 911 every Friday. Has a task force as part of BOH and are starting to draft a process on how to soften/relax social distancing - even though months off.
- Leyden - Got food delivery for K-12, using reverse 911 and coordinating a message once a week. Has a Message Board on the main road out of town. Concerned about the elections and town mtg. She is very concerned about B&Bs and retreat ctrs (pushing to open).
- Rowe - Maggie thanked Heath for the Gowns. Nurse still working three days/wk. Doing appointments over the phone. Have a second nurse that is heading up the volunteer program. Only doing p/u of medications and groceries. Super thankful for all the signs. Emergency Task Force has been meeting weekly and then a Robo-call follows to all townspeople.
- Shelburne - Jody - Emergency Task force meets twice a week. Has done one reverse 911 call. Does weekly messaging to post around town and post on websites, etc. Does Not have numbers on meals. Concerned about the election and town meeting. Ron - Town clerk is asking them about messaging for masks. Ron picked up the signs today and gave them to the OpenSpace Committee who started putting them out.

Meeting closed 7 PM