Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee

Date: June 23, 2020  
Location: CONFERENCE CALL ONLY!  
Call-In Number: (425) 436-6370  
Access Code: 372022  
Facilitator: Carolyn Shores Ness & Norene Pease, Co-Chairs

**Time:** 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**ATTENDEES:**
- Valerie Bird, Greenfield Health Director
- Donna Gibson, Williamsburg BOH
- John Hillman, Leverett BOH
- Betsy Kovacs, Heath BOH
- Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield BOH
- Norene Pease, Shutesbury BOH
- Deb Coutinho, Shelburne

**GUESTS:**
- Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Colrain BOH
- Michael Nelson, MDPH OPEM
- Arlene Read, Shutesbury BOH
- Marjorie Wilke, CTC Resource Coordinator Team 6
- Sandra Aronson, CTC Supervisor Team 6
- Amanda Kearns, Contact Tracing Team Manager
- Gabriella Marrone, Contact Tracing Team Manager
- Jhana Wallace, Resource Coordinator Manager

**ABSENT:**
- Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH
- Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH
- Deb Coutinho, Shelburne
- Dan Wasiuk, Montague Health Director

**FRCOG STAFF:**
- Mark Maloni; Lisa White; Liz Jacobson-Carroll

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### Agenda Items

1) **Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions**
   - Called to order by Shores Ness at 4:35 PM

2) **Review/approval of June 16, 2020 minutes**
   - Kovacs moved to accept the June 16, 2020 minutes, Pease seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3) **Old business**
   a) WRHSAC funding request updates
      1. Moving mobile supplies acquisition
         - Maloni reported on WHRSAC Program Manager Raine Brown advice that MAPHCO seek the recommendation of the Pan Flu Planning subcommittee before submitting its request for funding for a trailer or tents during the current fiscal year. Maloni will
| forward more quickly than FFY21 plan.  
| ii.) EDS fiscal support based on Region 1A TTX support. | request that this be an agenda item for the July subcommittee meeting.  
| ii. Brown explained to Maloni that MAPHCO members can join their Berkshire PHEP counterparts in the planned training at no cost to MAPHCO, he reported. Further, MAPHCO has until fall to submit its own request, if needed, for additional funds to meaningfully impact its work. Maloni will put this on the agenda for the next meeting. |

4) New business  
| a) Community Tracing Collaborative staff discussion | a. White articulated the goals of the partnership, and welcomed CTC staff members, each of whom explained her role. Aronson referred to CTC’s Standard Operating Procedures document, and members of her staff addressed concerns previously identified by MAPHCO regarding staffing levels, turnaround time, dropped cases, ongoing improvement, and ongoing communication. MAPHCO cannot request specific contact tracers, as CTC must be able to scale staffing levels up and down quickly, and because it aims to avoid tracers working on the cases of people they know, she said. CTC aims for turnaround time within the window of clinical exposure, and recognized that DPH’s retention of several types of cases has prevented them from achieving this consistently. To prevent cases being dropped, Kearns urged members to avoid sending those in the categories (congregate settings, health care workers, clusters, and hospitalizations) that will be blocked by DPH; to stay in close contact with Aaronson about current cases; and to call the LBOH help line at 857-305-2828 for help troubleshooting. Kearns will investigate whether MAVEN can generate notification to the specific LBOH whenever a case is dropped. Also, Kearns echoed Shores Ness’s concerns regarding the potential surge following the reopening of schools, and indicated that she will seek and send information about additional resources that may be available to towns with volunteer BOHs and no BOH budget. Wallace explained that general improvement will continue as teams of resource managers in 10 regions further learn about and coordinate with local organizations. Kearns asked LBOHs to make sure that CTC knows who/how to contact when they have questions or information to share, and agreed to join MAPHCO meetings regularly. Kearns promised to follow up with a link and list of CTC staff contacts and roles; information regarding back-to-school planning; and DPH’s routing of special cases. |
| b) Budget Period 2 workplan refinement |  |
| c) Funding allocation and what constitutes sufficient participation to be eligible for MAPHCO supply funds. |  |
| d) EDS Inventory: needs and funding  
  i.) Staff recommendations  
  ii.) EDS Team Next Steps |  |
| e) Ongoing risk communication messaging need and strategy | b. Maloni reminded members that MAPHCO will need to decide between holding a tabletop exercise or a series of clinics by the end of September; to finish planning for that event or series of events by the end of December; and to hold the event(s) by the end of March. Further, he noted that the Spring ’20 after-action report will need to be reviewed by July 3rd, and that MAPHCO will need to decide on whether or not to articulate two specific improvements for each EDS plan, or two improvements across EDSs and facilitated by FRCOG staff. |
|  | c. Maloni indicated his understanding that recent increases in participation qualify the Greenfield and Montague EDSs for  |
MAPHCO funding, but that a lack of participation may disqualify the Pioneer EDS, and recommended that support be contingent on proven/ongoing participation. He shared a chart indicating allocations with and without Pioneer included. While the Pioneer EDS is not participating, he indicated that two of its communities have recently joined the CPHS.

Shores Ness moved to allocate MAPHCO funds, according to existing requirements for participation, to the following local EDS groups: Montague, Greenfield, Mohawk, Hawlemont, Frontier, Shutesbury, Leverett, and Williamsburg/Goshen.

d) EDS Inventory: needs and funding
   i. Maloni recommended that members use the “Purchasing Considerations for MAPHCO and EDS teams” document (which he will update with examples) as they plan their requests.
   ii. EDS teams will meet individually to prepare requests.

e) Maloni proposed the creation of a bank of messages which staff could draw from for weekly messaging throughout the summer. There was discussion on the need to counter the media’s emphasis on re-opening, and the lack of good example-setting by governmental leaders. Maloni will send a draft of the bank of messages to members. This week’s messaging will include 1.) a reminder for compassion/patience as neighbors and LBOH members struggle to promote safety, and 2.) cautions specific to the upcoming holiday weekend.

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<th>iii. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</th>
<th>Bird reported that the Greenfield Health Department is having a difficult time keeping up with their heavy workload of restaurant (re-opening) inspections and investigating housing complaints. There was a sharing of experiences about non-compliant individual(s), and mention of the State recognizing the need for emotional support for health department staff and LBOH members.</th>
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<td>iv. Wrap up and adjourn</td>
<td>The next meeting will be on July 7th. Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting, Bird seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.</td>
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