Meeting Minutes: Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition Steering Committee

Date: August 4, 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
Dan Wasiuk, Montague Health Director

GUESTS:
Gail Bienvenue, MA DPH OPEM
Meg Burch; Nurse Lead, Frontier Regional School Union
Marie Iken, Conway BOH
Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Colrain BOH

ABSENT:
Duncan Colter, Ashfield BOH
Mike Friedlander, Colrain BOH
Deb Coutinho, Shelburne

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

Agenda Items

1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions
Shores Ness called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., then introduced Burch, whose work for FRSU #38 may serve as a model for other districts in the MAPHCO region.

2. Review/approval of July 21, 2020 minutes
Pease moved to accept the July 21, 2020 minutes, Hillman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Guest presentations/discussions
   a. Updates on school opening criteria
   b. CTC updates
   a. Burch reviewed they key points of FRSU #38’s draft COVID-19 response document, developed upon request of the School Committee. These include:
      1. Responsibility to close schools rests with the LBOHs
      2. Pre-determined data points measuring community spread will be used as criteria for closing
      3. Specific procedures to be followed upon the identification of a positive case within the school community
4. Procedures for contact tracing to be conducted with the partnership between LBOHs, public health nurses/agents, and the school district
She noted that further guidance from the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Dept. of Public Health are forthcoming and may spur revision of the plan. Burch foresees reciprocal sharing of plans with nurse leaders of other area school districts, aiming for consistency in the region. In response to a question from Hillman, Burch indicated her willingness to research the justification for the closure benchmark of 50/100,000 cases rather than the 25/100,000 seven-day rolling average proposed by CT.

With the goals of collaboration and consistency of policies and procedures for the start of the semester, Maloni will facilitate discussion between MAPHCO staff and chairs, CPHS staff, public health nurses, school nurses and school leaders prior to the next meeting.

b. Aaronson updated attendees on recent restructuring and staff changes within the CTC. These enable closer contact with LBOHs, and include the establishment of an epidemic intelligence unit to better identify emerging clusters, and the formation of team focused on K-12 and higher education. Lewis explained the Care Resource Coordination team’s goal of facilitating the comfortable quarantine of individuals, thus relieving some pressure on local public health nurses. White and Aaronson expressed their mutual confidence in CTC’s ability to scale-up their staffing and response in a surge following the opening of schools and return of college students to the region. Lewis noted dramatic investment and improvement in CTC’s preparedness since the launch in April.

4. Old business

After noting that he is awaiting guidance and an update regarding funds from the MA Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science – so has no further information to share – he updated members on the EDS equipment/supplies allocation process for MAPHCO BP2:
- applications for funding are due August 14th
- allowable expenses are for EDS planning purposes only: clinic drills and supplies, including directional signs for drive-through clinic drills.
Maloni will distribute Pioneer EDS’s sign inventory and prototypes, and will re-send the memo/application form and the EDS clinic planning guide.

5. New business

After discussion regarding the risks presented by out-of-state vacationers, and of the MA travel order, Maloni indicated that he will craft a flyer to de-mystify the latter. An additional piece will affirm that vigilance should be maintained as cases rise in the Commonwealth.

6. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting

None.
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<th>7. Wrap up and adjourn</th>
<th>Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting, Hillman seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.</th>
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| **Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:** | • Agenda  
• DRAFT Minutes of July 21, 2020 Meeting  
• Managing COVID-19 Response in Schools_Draft language from FRSU #38 |