



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## CPHS Oversight Board Minutes June 25, 2020 Online Board Meeting

**Present:**

- Buckland - Marti Taft-Ferguson
- Charlemont - Doug Telling
- Deerfield - Carolyn Ness
- Erving - Bryan Smith
- Hawley - Cass Nawrocki
- Heath - Betsy Kovacs

- Leyden - Beth Kuzdeba
- Rowe - Maggie Rice

**Absent:** Gill, Monroe, Shelburne, Conway, Colrain, Bernardston

**Staff:** Phoebe Walker, Lisa White, Randy Crochier, Lisa Danek Burke

Agenda Item	Discussion, Action
Approval of past Minutes	Motion by Marti, 2nd by Cass, Unanimous approval
Public Health Nurse Report	<p><u>Flu Season update</u> - anticipating that b/c of Covid &amp; recent recommendations, we anticipate there will be more people attending clinics, The issue will be conducting them safely. Districts are investigating drive-thru clinics. Frontier is planning drive thru clinics, Hawlemont also, Mohawk has shown some interest but not yet planning. The CPHS Plan is to have about 1500 adult doses available, increased senior doses to 500(?), and several high conc. Doses (Lisa W please confirm). Also have Pioneer with the addition of Bernardston &amp; Erving. Hopefully we will also have options for obtaining additional doses later in the season. Carolyn brought up concerns about clinic timing, testing, etc. - Phoebe will follow-up. Beth - Spoke to a person who is a pharmacist at CVS - CVS is doing no vaccines and has no guidance from main offices.</p> <p><u>Coronavirus update</u> – including CTC status - Reviewed last months #s, 51 cases. Now at 60 total cases in district,, but most of the 9 ones are serology tests, indicating an infection but not sick. Out of the 60, 33 are healthcare workers, first responders, or their families; 8 are facility related-long term care or their families; 4 travel related; 5 unidentified. Most of the acutely ill did have underlying health conditions are were older. Lisa reported on her work improving communication with CTC/PIH, had them as guests at recent MAPHCO mtg. (Carolyn - The CTC/PIH were very nice and assured us they will help work cases during the school year). Lisa will continue to use Nurses Melanie &amp; Meg, as needed. (Marti- Do you think the State is going to start having antibody testing available for public?- Lisa W, there are still alot of questions at epidemiologist level on how the serology results can be interpreted. At this point, basically hoping more testing will open up, both serology and generally more testing. Phoebe: Baystate Health conducted 1300 tests of large gathering attendees.. 14 tested positive.</p>

	<p><u>Arbovirus Activity</u> - EEE had a very active year last year and there were a number of deaths. Very rare, but 50% result in death, and 80% with lasting neurological issues. LW is the arbovirus coordinator for the CPHS District (except Deerfield handles their own). State has a new EEE website with fact sheets, videos, posters, etc. Discussed minimizing the risk, also consider joining the mosquito control district. (Requested input from Carolyn; thinks Bernardston and Leyden are considering, Rowe recently joined the district, Heath and Colrain are interested - she is trying to secure funds from the state to include funding for towns to join. They have started testing this month, 52 mosquito varieties, but only 2-3 types are of main concern for EEE. The dry weather and cold spring may prove a benefit. Goal is to gather as much info. as possible ). Betsy -Heath is set to vote to join the District on July 11th. Beth - Joining is on Leyden's warrant.</p> <p><u>Tick Test Report</u> - Been in touch with Paul at Umass test lab. They been testing ticks, but they had a furlough which paused testing. Most of our towns that pay into program to have subsidy, Rowe has 4 remaining, Leyden 3 remaining, Lyme cases so far this season have been about the same as last year. 17 Anaplasmosis cases in the district, 30 lyme cases, 1 case of babesiosis (very rare).</p>
<p>Short Term Rental</p>	<p>Randy reviewed the list of short term rentals for MassDOR, there are currently 88 in the District on the DOR list. Reviewed the presentation from February (84, at the time). Can we permit and inspect - Yes, no law requires inspection, but these owners are in business of "selling safe housing"</p> <p>Phoebe conducted a quick zoom poll for those who were on the meeting on computers: Poll results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require Permit &amp; inspect annually: 50%</li> <li>● Require Permit &amp; inspect every two years: 25%</li> <li>● Permit, inspect only on complaint -- 0</li> <li>● Optional permit w/ inspection -- 0</li> <li>● No Permit, Inspect only on Complaint - 25%</li> </ul> <p>(Doug- comment-. There are alot of people doing this we don't know about. Feels thats an issue, w/o a solution). Randy confirmed, there are people who are not on airBnB, VRBO, etc., Cass - comment that her town in past has not been interested in getting involved, but agrees it should be brought back to our town BOH to discuss.</p> <p>Randy asked that each town please take back to their individual boards to get a sense of how we should permit -- we will vote at our next meeting.</p>
<p>Health Agents Reports</p>	<p><u>Abandoned Housing Initiative Meeting 7/9</u> -- AGO abandoned housing initiative: We catalog abandoned houses and then utilize the AGO to get house(s) into receivership.Randy discussed upcoming meeting with AGO presentation on July 9th. Each Board of Health needs to post a meeting for this event. (Bryan Smith commented this has been extremely successful in Erving. Marti - Buckland has been part of the program but nothing has been happening on the AGs end, but would be excited to see things re-energized.). Note: There is NO cost to join this program.</p> <p><u>BOH Binders under development</u> - Large tabbed binders will contain lots of good information on BOH roles and responsibilities, training opportunities, pertinent regulations and policies, contact information, etc. Each member will get binder. Paid for</p>

	<p>by Local Public Health Grant for training.</p> <p><u>Updates from Agents</u> - Field work is continuing to increase. Unique situations continue to arise, like hand pumps and decommissioning part of a septic system not on property, and property with septic flowing onto an abutting property.</p>
<p>FRCOG Update</p>	<p><u>Budget Reports</u>: Phoebe shared the nearly-end of year budget reports. Despite the massive shutdown, the district was only 7K short of its \$57K fee revenue estimate for FY 20 on June 18, when the reports were run. We have a healthy fund balance, and the FRCOG Finance Committee will be supportive of our using it if needed at the end of the year, since the reason for the less than ideal revenues is clear.</p> <p><u>Federal Funds to Support COVID work in district</u>: Phoebe thanked those whose towns added the district in their CARES ACT funds. She had confirmation from Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Rowe, Shelburne. Remains to be seen if the requests are approved by the state. If so, they will assist with staffing for nursing and agents for work relate to COVID.</p> <p><u>Long Term Investment in MA Local Public Health System</u>: Phoebe will be presenting to the State Senate next week on the real need for sustained local public health funding.</p> <p>She also discussed that the re-opening board is no longer meeting, and decisions are being made by the Governor.</p> <p>Beth - asked - if someone on BOH is sued, how are we protected? - Bryan answered that BOH members should be covered under town insurance policy as long as you are doing job of the board.</p>
	<p>Adjourned - at 7:00 pm</p>