



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

CPHS Oversight Board - Online Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

Present

Bernardston - Jean Page, Barbara Killeen
Buckland - Marti Taft-Ferguson
Charlemont - Doug Telling, Rob Lingle
Colrain - Nina Martin-Anzouni
Conway - Devon Whitney-Deal
Deerfield - Trevor McDaniel, Carolyn Shores Ness
Erving - Cyd Scott
Gill - Ray Purington
Hawley - Cass Nawrocki, Hussain Hamdan
Leyden - Beth Kuzdeba, Carol Kuzdeba
Shelburne - Jody Stetson, Ron Kelter

Absent

Heath, Northfield, Monroe, Rowe

Staff

Phoebe Walker, Lisa White,
Randy Crochier, Meg Burch
Melanie Zamojski

Approve Minutes - Motion by Jean Page, second by Trevor McDaniel to approve both the 11-19-2020 and 12-30-2020 minutes. 11-19-2020 : Approved unanimously with Colrain, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Shelburne, Abstaining. 12-30-2020: Edits – Page 1 mid 1st paragraph, change of too off, Page 2 delete “fairgrounds” Change “1.a., 1.c.,” to 1.c., 1.a.,”. Approved with edits unanimously with Colrain, Deerfield, Gill, Hawley, Leyden, Shelburne, abstaining.

Public Health Nursing Report

Meg Burch reported that she is the MAVEN point person on staff this week. Case numbers have been up and down this week with 1 case going through the CTC due to being a higher education student.

She presented slides that JV had prepared that show a drastic increase in cases from October to the present as a district and by town.

Scott asked why Erving and Deerfield appear to be so much higher than other communities. McDaniel reports that for Deerfield the increase is that there is an increase in testing that is attributed to the 3 private schools in Town as well a cluster that was attributed to local “Social Club” in town. D/A returned from winter break on 1/9 and 1/10/2021, as of today that had return had 16 positive tests. Increased numbers often include large households related to workplace. Burch reported tmst present Erving cases attach to single household. Conway and Sunderland had similar situations.

Walker reminded all members that now is the time to “double-down” via increased messaging, robo calls, mailings, etc to remind people of the need to mask, wash hands, social distance, etc.

Zamojski reported that many cases are multiple homes by families socializing. She shared that her favorite case to date is one that included needed to consider a way to provide for grain to feed a horse owned by a case that she was tracing

PW told the members how proud she is of the group and the work they are doing. The team is working together and in contact from early AM to late PM, working together to ensure all needs are met.

Whitney-Deal would like to know a number of active cases daily or at least weekly for the website. Taft-Ferguson described her process for others. She suggests each town call tracer. The staff that are tracing are always helpful and provide the information she wants Walker reminds all the number of active cases is not truly important as we all know COVID is around us everywhere. If the numbers that are being provided on Mondays isn't helpful, let us know why and we will try to make it more useful for all

White remarked that it is very valuable to have a single contact in each town for when we need help to identify concerns on a grass route effort. That contact can notify other BOH members of new positives in their town as they occur

Scott wants to start a weekly “task force” – it was suggest the he reach out to Jodi Stetson and Maggie Rice as they are very involved in task forces in their towns.

Vaccine

Members discussed current phase definitions and local vaccine options. Page reports the CVS is vaccinating anyone that wants one. The attestation is used, but not being verified. Walker reports this is true across the state. Only birthdate ID is checked, mostly.

White reviewed the ways that vaccine clinics will look very different from flu clinics:

- PrepMod requirements, spacing and the use of appointments are just a few of the changes.
- Moderna vaccine, each vile has 10 doses. Once a vile is open it must be used within 6 hours.
- We are working on 3 clinic “zones” South County, North County and West County
- Weekly, or bi weekly at each site (zone) is planned
- LW, MB, Barbara W and others met at Frontier yesterday to review for possible use for South County
- West County – Cowell Gym, Fellowship Hall and The Community Center are all under consideration.
- North County – Kringle Candle and Thomas Aquinas Colllege are being reviewed
- We will need LBOH and other volunteers to do these clinics – members should join Medical Reserve Corps to volunteer.
- When we get to the larger drive-thru models ICS will be used and the MRC will be critical.
- PrepMod clinics can be set on “private” or “public” for clinics, private is the preferred option and provide a link to select eligible groups
- LifePath is setting up to assist people w/ computer and/or transportation concerns

Lisa participated in the recent Greenfield First Responders clinic and learned a lot about the process and PrepMod.

- Greenfield has a staff member on the phone all day to backfill no shows/cancellations
- There is a need to design a map of movement including spacing as needed
- Issues of people visiting while in the location

Shores Ness: How does Sunderland and Whately get brought into clinics in South County. Their schools are part of the Frontier District along with CPHS member towns Deerfield and Conway. Walker: They will be served, we just haven't worked out the details yet.

Page: how long does it take the MRC to respond to an application? RK – Signed up last week, hasn't heard back. LW – in contact daily with MRC, she will check into it. RK – Carmela sent out a group of CORI checks today

McDaniel: Question re Phases and the rollout plans and whether we are prepared enough to get this done, and whether there will be state or federal funding. "I have fears of this taking "7 years" to complete" Walker: FRCOG is working on it – we are planning very large drive-thru clinics and private sector **must** be involved. There are meetings in place designing multiday/multi week clinics. White and Wroblewski are working on planning, others are doing the contact tracing.

Walker asked all members to consider what they want to happen from these options:

1. Stop all local contact tracing and give that responsibility to the CTC. This would allow all CPHS staff to concentrate efforts on planning upcoming clinics.
2. Stay the course as we have been

Overwhelming support to stay the course, there was no interest in allowing CTC to trace our cases.

Martin-Anzuoni – 1. How are we communication to people when and where they can get a vaccine? FRCOG sending weekly email, will soon set up a phone hotline, with a recorded message, provides info and sends to a website for latest AND send to the get my vaccine website

2. Request that PW asks Life Path to release nurses to respond to clinics. I.e. nurses that are not doing patient care, allow them time off to work the clinics. Walker will do.

McDaniel likes the FRCOG messaging to BOH and Select Boards. He runs a Deerfield FB page with 2k followers, copies and pastes these right to it.

Walker reminds all of COVID Roundtables every other Monday – these are a good way to be caught up.

BUDGET FOR FY22

Walker presented a slide show describing the budget process and known numbers, factors we do not know yet, as well as estimates. Tonight is the last chance we have to approve a budget. (See PDF of slides). Current proposed budget is a 20% increase to town assessments to add 13 hours of staff time, to be clarified by the end of the fiscal year, based on what state and federal funds become available and the need for both contact tracing and vaccine clinics in the next fiscal year. We will review in April 2021 based on what Fed funds are being released, and reduce the budget in time for Town Meetings if we believe we can.

Lingle: In a pandemic it makes sense to pay for public health

McDaniel: where would this 13hrs go? We are only a nursing town. Is 20% enough? Walker reported that the need is clearly primarily nursing. What is coming from Fed is the big question, but it is clear we need more nursing.

Purington: Question in regards to software cost increase. It was explained that those costs came out of the FDA grant – we no longer have that grant. RP suggests adding a \$1 fee per permit to absorb that cost.

McDaniel moved to approve the budget as presented, Whitney-Deal second. Vote was unanimous by roll call. Assessment information will go to the towns after the COG Council Meeting

Walker: turning over every stone looking for monies. Explained if there is a huge Fed bailout, we would be back in April to decrease. Reminded all that she is available for Town Meetings, Select Board Meetings, FinCom meetings etc as needed. Hamdan stated he would welcome her to the Hawley Town Meeting. He was assured, Phoebe or Randy will be at the meeting

CARES Act MOU Amendments:

Walker shared a chart of covid contact tracing costs YTD expended through the CARES funds from towns. She explained that cares act monies only goes to unbudgeted covid case work.. Emails were sent to towns to extend from 12/30/2020 to 12/31/2021 due to change in CARES fund allowable dates. Along with the extended dates will be a request for additional funds representing those dates

Health Agent Updates

- COVID Enforcement: Covid complaint follow up persists, small but steady stream of concerns. Slow but steady number of covid related guidance to businesses' including towns continues
- Food permits, almost all are issued for 2021. Unlike the nation, the district appears to have had two restaurants presently close, however we licensed at least six new operations during the pandemic.
- Other Inspection and permitting work: Title 5 and related work has slowed, but definitely not stopped. Housing cases a large number with many being severe. Short term rental permits started – continue to come in on a steady basis

Member Updates

Colrain – Couple of active cases per week. So glad to be part of CPHS. Was on board in the past and would not have rejoined without a Health District.

Shelburne – BOH is late on messaging. Hoping for info on vaccines. Cases are up, but compliance seems good. Messaging will include who can get vaccine when.

Bernardston – doing ok. Six cases in the past 2 weeks. JP & BK are trying to increase messaging while BOH chair focuses on Title 5 work. Had a couple of complaints at a local place, reached out and found the Randy and Lisa Danek-Burke have both separately already visited the location

Gill – Newsletter deadline is next week. Please contact Ray for Code Red call when useful vaccine information is available.

Charlemont – Not much new – housing concerns. Nurses have been fantastic with case management

Leyden – Doing pretty well. Questions are coming fast and furious “when and where is that vaccines coming”

Deerfield – can't thank the nurses enough. Has a FB Deerfield Residents page w 2k followers, I put all the messaging I can on there. Anxious about setting up for vaccinators. Predicts questions from FinCom about a 20% increase, reminder that keeping COVID expense separated very important.

Erving – Dealing with COVID / wants to increase dialogue w/ EMD. This seems to be happening, but need it to continue. Couple of housing concerns. Board has been reactionary, working on that now.

Hawley – Reverse 911 is used only in Major emergency. US Mail used for notices. Sent out updates emergency needs notifications. Strictly voluntary, but provides a data base on residents needs during emergencies.

Buckland – After the holidays we got up to five cases then it fell off. Current is 1 cases and hoping it stays that way. Board continues to push hard on washing hands / wear a face mask / distance. Transfer station is dealing with continued compliance issues for face masks. Follow up being done. Suggests a postcard with QR code for places to post. QR Code would send people to the vaccine website for locations, etc. (Universally agreed on by others in the meeting)

Walker – Reminded all the MEMA has food boxes available for people in Isolation/Quarantine and concerned about food supplies. Working on getting some to be stored in Franklin County.

Messaging/Newsletter info spoken about during meeting

- Rowe does a weekly Robo call on Tuesdays after DPH call followed by their Task Force meeting
- Colrain – has a monthly newsletter
- Leyden – Leyden Life delivered via email as well as volunteers deliver in town. People that have moved away can have it mailed for a fee
- Hawley – Emails a newsletter
- Shelburne – puts messaging on website / transfer station / Highland Village (Senior Housing) and Meals on Wheels