

CPHS Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021 - Online Board Meeting

Attendees: Marti Taft-Ferguson/Buckland, Doug Telling/Charlemont, Nina Martin-Anzuoni/Colrain, Trevor McDaniel/Deerfield, Cass Nawrocki/Hawley, Betsy Kovacs/Heath, Beth Kuzdeba/Leyden, Carol Kuzdeba/Leyden, Maggie Rice/Rowe, Jean Page/Bernardston, Devon Whitney-Deal/Conway, Bryan Smith/Erving **Regrets:** Fred Vohr/Shelburne

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

Absent: Monroe, Gill, Shelburne, Northfield

<p>Icebreaker, Intros and approval of Meeting Business: Minutes for April meeting, in-person meetings:</p>
<p>Members shared a story about their relationship with any sport at all. Approved April 2021 Minutes. March minutes will be on the next agenda. Phoebe led a discussion about future CPHS Oversight Board Meetings. Updated that the Transit Center will be open soon, so meetings could be held there. General discussion; majority who spoke expressed interest in keeping meeting online, at least until masks are not required in Transit Center. Will continue with Zoom for the June meeting and re-evaluate.</p>
<p>Public Health Nursing Report:</p>

COVID cases: Lisa reported that Melanie Z. is lead nurse/contact tracer this week, and cases are down from 20 to 16 cases. Generally cases continue to decline. Many are related to school but we have not identified school-related spread. Still adult cases with some very sick individuals. The number of contacts is much higher than previously, as society re-opens. **Homebound vaccinations** - LW is working with Jackie Choate on Homebound administering 61 home bound vaccinations so far. The State of MA has changed the rules for the state homebound vaccination program to include anyone who has trouble getting to a clinic. **Wrap up of regional vaccine clinics** - Finished last clinic at GCC this week. 27 Clinic Events total, serving over 10,000 vaccines, and fully vaccinating 6,000 individuals. The drive through clinic at GCC went very well. There will be a drive through clinic at Charlemont Fairgrounds on June 13th in partnership with the Hawlemont Emergency Dispensing Site Planning Group. Several members commented and gave kudos on the excellent work done on the vaccine clinics

Phoebe briefly discussed After Action Report work that has started related to the Covid Pandemic. Will be a fairly large undertaking and will require participation from the Oversight Board. Nina asked if the State of MA is having an AAR. PW - Yes, and there will be a legislative report. Public Hearings are being planned in June for local HMCCs to give input to the Joint Committee on COVID 19 and Emergency Preparedness

State Arbovirus Contact (AC)- Lisa W. explained the AC does not do prevention strategies, but the AC position is responsible for disseminating and explaining pertinent information presented to the towns. Unless a town requests otherwise, Lisa W. will continue in the role of Arbovirus Contact as she does every year.

Flu Vaccine Planning Initial Discussion AKA so you thought we were done clinics...

Phoebe shared a list of early assumptions for discussion:

1. Prep Mod will be required in the future. This means:
 - a. Pre-registration will be the norm (but walk-ins can happen)
 - b. IT capacity will be required at each site --Wifi internet, chrome books.
 - c. Volunteers who can be scribes and do registration, and are vetted by the MRC will be needed (not true before this year)
 - d. Keeping the system similar to how COVID worked will be helpful for our emergency preparedness as a region -- people do well when they understand how things will work.
2. Flu clinics are not an emergency, so (while we do not need to waste time and money) the same urgency for efficiency is not required.

3. Thanks to COVID, we have all had a lot of exercising our plans, and full EDS plans do not need to be drilled in 2021. They are not an FY22 MAPHCO deliverable, and EPP staff will not be available to help with the planning, implementation, or evaluation this year..
4. Flu clinic intended audience is different than COVID – priority is people for whom transportation is an issue, not the general public -- especially elders and children.
5. People will still appreciate attention to social distancing, so crowded indoor clinics are not a good idea.
6. Much is still unknown about boosters...
 - a. They may not be needed until a year or more out from vaccination
 - b. They may be combined with flu vaccines in the future (not this year)
 - c. We do know that each vaccine will be different in terms of its booster, so it will be nothing like the need to COVID vax the whole country.

Lisa White shared initial thoughts about approach to flu clinics based on these assumptions:

- We will use much of what we learned about how to organize and implement vaccination clinics -- one of the main changes is our recognition that we need a good logistics plan and someone in that role in all future clinics. Having the FRCOG Emer. Resp. folks involved was a great asset and we want to know how to preserve that function in flu clinics, whether it is an Emergency Preparedness Program staff person, an IMAT member, or a health district staff person other than Lisa W.
- We will look for funding/staffing for the logistics role for the clinics. Insurance reimbursement may work for this, depending on the cost and the revenues -- we still have no idea how much is coming in from all the COVID vaccines or even all of our flu shots in the fall.
- Pre-registration will be the main way people sign up, which will allow the clinics to move more quickly, addressing an issue identified in the fall drills, and allow us to have the right kinds of vaccine on hand -- mist, high dose, etc.
- We will work closely with the Medical Reserve Corps for volunteers, but work to identify roles that could be easily filled by local Council on Aging volunteers, for example.

Lisa W said that we have learned how well we can handle a lot of people, and so should probably plan to do less than the dozen flu clinics we did last year, but enough that we can still make it easy for fragile elders to get to the clinics.

EDS Planning Team Involvement: Trevor and Betsy expressed interest in flu clinics running like last fall with the EDS groups still very involved. Marti and Nina pointed out how much meeting time was required -- months of it -- for the Mohawk clinic, and how much work was generated by the clinic serving as an official drill, as opposed to just a clinic that serves the EDS subregion and involves the planning team in execution (like the Colrain clinic). Discussion of what an EDS-led clinic that does not serve as a drill of the plan would look like, and agreement that this should be an option. Will need additional discussion.

Increasing Access: Nina suggested that we partner with the FRTA to provide even more transportation access for residents by picking them up and bringing them to more centralized locations. Members interested in this idea.

Public Health Excellence Grant :

Phoebe W. - Celebrate!!! We got the grant from DPH - \$285K for 3 years. Doubling the district's funding. Kudos to the entire group for such dedication. Impact on Assessments: Assessments are going back down to a 2% increase. Revised numbers are listed on FRCOG website Calendar for this meeting. Conway is joining for Food Protection and Community Sanitation programs -- their assessment will stay the same.

Hiring process for new staff - Looking for volunteers to be part of the hiring process. Those volunteers will see the resumes and provide input and can be involved in the interview committee. Have 3-4 applicants already. Interviews planned for June, either the 15th, 16th, or 17th in the afternoon. Let Phoebe know if you are interested in volunteering.

Health Agents Report:

Randy reported that there are many permits coming in - 90 applications since last meeting. The recent changes with COVID reqmts. have resulted in multiple phone calls from local businesses. Much work was done this week doing recreational camps for children physical inspections & plan reviews. There are three new restaurants that have/will be applying for permits, 1 in Charlemont & 2 in Shelburne. Along with the abundance of permit work, the Health Agents have also been busy with beaver permits & mosquito control meetings and research. Members thanked the Agents for their work on this.

ServeSafe Training -Sign-Ups available now. Training will be virtual in three parts, June 15, 17, and 22nd. And the test, in person, on June 24th. The participants will receive three certifications: ServeSafe, Allergen Awareness, & First Aid/Choke Saver, as well as Narcan administration training. Registration is limited to 32 participants. Priority will be given to residents and food service workers in the Cooperative Public Health Services member towns: Ashfield (welcome!), Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Northfield, Rowe, and Shelburne.

Mosquito Spraying Opt Outs - Notes from Towns opting out in Member updates below.

Members are interested in having the PVMCD come to a future meeting.

FRCOG Fiscal Report:

PW - Budget is looking good. Fee revenue has been what was expected. CARES MOUs goes until Dec. 31, 2021. The percent spent, as well as all financial data, can be seen in financial reporting on FRCOG website in the Calendar for this meeting. Deerfield is overspent due to high volume of cases. Phoebe attending 6/16 BOS meeting to discuss.

Member Updates: Re-Opening In Your Town – How is it going? What questions do you have? What is the plan for Town Hall, Senior Center, Library?

- **Bernardston** - Jean Page - Town hall is still closed, not sure of plans. Senior Center is opening in the summer, library remains closed but the director has a lot of events going to get books out to people.
- **Buckland** - Marti Taft-Ferguson - BOH voted for BOS to Opt out of MC Spraying. Town looking to vote at Town Meeting on 6/5 join the PVMCD. Town is currently considering to open town hall on limited days/times. Library has been open by appointment only. Buckland Rec. Program has decided to not operate this year due to lack of sign-ups, but has gotten a big increase in pavilion rentals. The Bridge of Flowers is opening in June.
- **Charlemont** - Doug Telling - Is FRCOG going to make Mask vs. COVID Vaccine? - PW stated any sign the group wants can be made. Suggestions were provided. PW will have some markups made with some various styles. DTelling added to town report they are opening town hall slowly.
- **Colrain** - Nina Martin-Anzuoni- Struggling with Mosquito issue and town is looking at joining the PVMCD. Town is looking at opening town hall, which will work well with the flow of people through the building and adding plexiglass in areas. Nina is interested in furthering other public health issues that haven't been addressed in the last year due to COVID.
- **Conway** - Devon Whitney-Deal - Town opted out MC district and out of spraying. Town meeting is next week and will require masks. She is eager to work with Randy on Food. Town office is opening.
- **Deerfield** - Trevor McDaniel- Town has had a stubbornly high number of cases and is very concerned about cases in children and the contact tracing is very difficult on budget. Library is going to open but will require masks. Probably will open town hall in June, but have been busy getting ready for town mtg. Will likely do by appointment for most offices. Town decided to not opt out of State spraying.
- **Erving** - Bryan Smith - Doing ok, case counts still exist, but have slowed. Otherwise stable. Many businesses are trying to figure out how to open and dont feel there is much guidance. Erving Library is opening without appointments on June 1st and the Senior Center is resuming in person programs on July 7th. UV filters are being installed in the HVAC systems at all Town buildings
- **Hawley** - Cass Nawrocki reminded us she is retiring on June 30 (we will sure miss you, Cass!). Town Hall re-opening with masks, meetings will stay hybrid.
- **Heath** - Betsy Kovacs - Town voted to opt out of aerial spraying only. BOH is recommending to BOS to open town buildings and require masks but left the decision to BOS.

- **Leyden** - Beth Kuzdeba - Town office have been opened. People in town are asking about using facilities. BOH voted to require masks for town meeting and elections.
- **Rowe** - Maggie Rice - Library is fully opened, but is one family at a time, town hall bldg will be open on June 15th, but appts. will be encouraged. Meetings will start being held in person but will have a Zoom option available. Transfer Station Swap Shed is opening after a year. Pelham Lake Park is opening. The Fitness Center inside Town Hall will not be opened until air quality & sanitation plan are received. School is still fully in person and is winding down - much use of outdoor classrooms.
- **Shelburne** - (thru Randy - Not opting out of aerial spraying)