



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

CPHS Oversight Board – 7/22/21, 5-7:00 PM Hybrid (Online and In-Person) Meeting Minutes

JWOTC, Greenfield MA & Zoom Meeting ID: 851 6793 6495

Member Attendance:

Bernardston-	Jean Page	Hawley-	Abigail Drew
Buckland-	Marti Taft-Ferguson, Peggy Hart	Heath-	Barbara Gordon
Charlemont-	Doug Telling	Leyden-	Beth Kuzdeba
Colrain-	absent	Monroe-	absent
Conway-	absent	Northfield-	Ali Wahlstrom, Karen Boudreau
Deerfield-	Carolyn Shores Ness	Rowe-	Maggie Rice
Erving-	Cyd Scott (joined during public health nursing report)	Shelburne-	Fritz Vohr, Ron Kelter (joined during public health nursing report)
Gill-	absent		

Staff Attendance: Phoebe Walker, Lisa Danek Burke, Randy Crochier, Meg Ryan (employment pending), Lisa White, Melanie Zamojski, Liz Jacobson-Carroll

Guest Attendance: Jeanne Galloway, Director of Public Health, City of Springfield

Meeting Minutes: Vohr moved to accept the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes, Rice seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

Public Health Nursing Report & Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

White welcomed and introduced Ryan, whose employment will begin 8/9/21, and summarized her qualifications and experience, including 10 years of nursing in a variety of settings. Ryan elaborated, and expressed enthusiasm for joining the FRCOG/CPHS team.

Walker reviewed the varied choices of CPHS member towns regarding aerial spraying, mosquito control plans, and membership in the PVMC District and the UMass tick testing program. Taft-Ferguson reported that Buckland opted in to the tick testing program the previous evening, and is starting with an allotment of 20 tests. Gordon requested additional information regarding the towns' options for different levels of spraying should they opt-out of the state program, and Walker promised to ask if that could be included in Jeanette's summary of the plans.

White, as arbovirus coordinator for all CPHS towns, is called by DPH when a positive mosquito test result is indicated, and keeps CPHS OB informed regarding the level of risk in the region – currently low -- she said.

The risk of contracting anaplasmosis and Lyme disease are relatively high, however. Gordon mentioned that many doctors are not testing for anaplasmosis (so it is likely more prevalent than DPH statistics indicate). White summarized Franklin County CoVID-19 statistics covering January – mid July 2021: 353 confirmed cases, 43 probably cases, 17 suspect cases, and 287 contacts identified. Walker noted that Jeannette Voas will be in touch with members to offer mosquito-borne disease education at upcoming community events.

Zamojski suggested that the CPHS nurses begin sending weekly reports of all diseases tracked in MAVEN (including hepatitis A-E and tuberculosis), and followed by the team, to the CPHS OB on a weekly basis; members approved the idea. Taft-Ferguson suggested discussion, at a subsequent meeting, of how to use this information responsibly to protect the privacy of affected individuals. Wahlstrom will be in touch with Zamojski regarding a particular family not yet contacted for tracing purposes.

White recommended the use of two resources: The CDC Weekly Report (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>) and the Public Health Institute of Western MA website (<https://www.publichealthwm.org/covid-19/data/Franklin>). She discussed variants of concern beyond Delta, which has been increasing exponentially in recent weeks, and noted which local organizations are currently providing CoVID-19 vaccines. Walker indicated that the county-wide vaccination information website has been scaled back, and that individuals are being directed to local pharmacies.

There was discussion regarding CoVID-19 and several subsets of the local population: First responders, who were vaccinated early, may need for booster shots, if approved, relatively soon; cancer patients' CoVID-19 antibodies are decimated by their treatment, so mask-wearing is imperative for that group; children under 12 will not be eligible for vaccination prior to the start of school, though in person attendance is required due to mental health concerns.

White indicated that she is planning fall flu clinics to inoculate 500 seniors (with high-dose jab), 400 adults, and 400 children, and wondered aloud how best to focus on the most vulnerable people at each end of the age spectrum. There was discussion regarding the involvement of EDSs, the MRC, and GCC in the clinics. A new vaccine scheduling software package, named Color, will replace PrepMod statewide.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District Presentation

Galloway and Shores Ness gave background on the genesis of the PVMC District: a few years ago, after a decade of effort, Greenfield, Northfield and Deerfield contracted with Vector Disease Control, Inc. for two traps to be set/tested weekly for \$11k. After the Zika virus surfaced and need increased, they secured \$25k in grant funding to form a district under Commonwealth purview, continue testing via a DPH lab, and hire employee Chris Craig to manage mosquito collection and promote prevention. Prior to these efforts, there had been no mosquito control for Hampshire, Hampden or Franklin counties. Currently, a town's highest elected officials must vote to allocate funds and to join to the district before the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB) will consider or certify its membership. The DPH determines sites for traps, reports results to towns, monitors incidence to set additional traps as needed; Craig sets and collects the traps, and works with highway departments to apply pesticide when necessary. There was some discussion regarding the status of Leyden's application to join the district last year; Shores Ness will follow-up to ensure that the necessary steps have been taken by the town and the district. Taft-Ferguson expressed frustration at the lack of transparency in the process to join the district; the Buckland BOH was not informed that it would be autumn before the town would be included in the program, despite its July vote/appropriation, nor was it informed that towns can join the district for less than the stated \$5000 fee. Galloway and Shores Ness

indicated that the SRMCB may soon prohibit the acceptance of lesser payments by individual districts. Walker noted that the turnaround time for the testing is 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays).

Health Agents Reports

Danek Burke and Crochier reported on a heavy permitting schedule in recent weeks; over 19 work days, they completed 15 Title 5 inspections, 11 perc tests, and 5 final inspections – in addition to housing, food and camp inspections. Local contractors are similarly busy. Crochier noted that this year, for the first time, White is joining health agents on camp inspections to include a medical review and enhance relationships. The team will soon transition to tracking public health inspection data on the software WimWam, and is looking forward to improved data analysis; training is to take place next week.

FRCOG Fiscal Report

Walker shared a spreadsheet indicating CARES funds spent and remaining, by town, noting that only Deerfield has gone over-budget, and a future meeting will include discussion on how towns might spend their balances on appropriate measures if it is not needed for contact tracing efforts, she said.

Walker provided a staffing update: Public Health Nurse Meg Ryan will start on 8/9/21; Health Agent Lisa Danek Burke is now a full-time employee; there is one internal candidate for the CPHS Program Manager position.

Member Updates

None, due to time constraints.

Wrap Up and Adjournment

Remote participants indicated that in-person “cross-talk” made it difficult for them to hear what was being said in the meeting room. The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Meeting materials:

- CPHSOvBrd Agenda_2021.07.22
- CPHSOvBrd Minutes_2021.06.24
- 7-22-21 CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT SLIDES
 - CURRENT DPH WEEKLY ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE REPORT 7/11-7/17
 - Key to Color Coding EEE Risk Map
 - MAVEN EVENTS IN CPHS TOWNS FROM JANUARY 1 TO JULY 15, 2021
 - WEEKLY MAVEN/CPHS REPORT - 7/18/21
 - COVID DATA RESOURCES
 - VACCINE RESOURCES CURRENTLY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY
 - BOOSTERS: WHAT WE DO AND DO NOT KNOW
 - SCHOOL IN THE FALL: WHAT DO WE KNOW?
 - THINGS TO CONSIDER
- Opt Outs and PVMCD and Tick Testing Program membership list
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district-pvmcd>
- Article text for town newsletters/websites on tick and mosquito bite prevention and insect repellent
- CARES COVID funds 04-152 by town as of July 1 2021
- What CARES Funds Can Be Used For: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/cares-attachment-a-potential-municipal-uses/download>
- CPHS budget report municipal funds as of June 30 2021
- FRCOG Public Health Excellence Budget in DPH Format