



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## CPHS Oversight Board – 8/26/21, 5-7:00 PM Online Meeting (Zoom ID 851 6793 6495) - Minutes

### Member Attendance:

Ashfield-	Caroline White (after 1 <sup>st</sup> vote)	Gill-	Randy Crochier
Bernardston-	Jean Page	Hawley-	absent
Buckland-	Marti Taft-Ferguson, Peggy Hart	Heath-	Barbara Gordon, Susan Gruen
Charlemont-	Doug Telling	Leyden-	Beth Kuzdeba
Colrain-	Nina Martin-Anzuoni	Monroe-	absent
Conway-	Jaqueline Choate, Devon Whitney-Deal	Northfield-	Ali Wahlstrom
Deerfield-	absent	Rowe-	Maggie Rice
Erving-	Cyd Scott	Shelburne-	absent

### Staff Attendance:

Phoebe Walker, Lisa Danek Burke, Randy Crochier, Meg Ryan, Lisa White, Melanie Zamojski, Liz Jacobson-Carroll

**Guest Attendance:** None.

**Meeting Minutes:** *Taft-Ferguson moved to accept the July 22, 2021 meeting minutes as amended, Kuzdeba seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.* Scott announced his resignation from the BOH (and thus the CPHS Oversight Board) as of October 1, noting that the Erving Board of Health membership is changing dramatically.

### Flu Clinic Draft Plan for locations/dates & COVID Vaccine Next Steps in our region

Walker recalled assumptions and decisions made last spring regarding the upcoming fall flu clinics – and the resulting need to revise plans significantly. Reflecting on an unexpected surge, reduced staff time available, the imminent availability of a COVID-19 vaccine booster, and the need to implement (new) on-site software prompted staff to determine that CPHS will:

- Run three big regional flu clinics focused on elders from health district towns (with COVID 3<sup>rd</sup> dose/boosters if approved by then) at South Deerfield Highway Garage, Mohawk Trail Regional School, and Pioneer Regional School.
- Honor the two commitments for senior only clinics that we already made this spring – one at South County Senior Center and one at Erving Senior Center. All district residents welcome at these as well.
- Supply nurses with both flu and COVID vaccines for walk-in wellness clinics scheduled as follows:
  - Deerfield: Weekly, Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Nurses' office, Town Offices.
  - Conway: 1st Friday 9 am to noon. Conway Town Hall, home visits following.
  - Erving: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 9-11. Erving Senior/Community Center.
  - Gill: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, 10 to noon, Stoughton Place Community room.
  - Bernardston: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 10-11. Senior Center.
  - Shelburne: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10:30 am to noon, The Senior Center.

- Charlemont: to be scheduled soon.
- Ashfield: under consideration.
- More clinics, if needed, potentially in partnership with private sector partners/pharmacies in November and December, as more flu vaccine is available and more people qualify for the COVID vaccine booster.

### **FRCOG Fiscal Report**

Crochier reviewed the Municipal Funds CPHS Budget Report for FY 22, noting that while the “Remaining Budget” column suggests that there will be money left over, that may not be the case, as estimates have not been included for the wages of the not-yet-hired health agent, or staff development/travel. He reviewed the CPHS Service Fee Revenue History, noting that the dramatic increase (from \$32k in FY16 to \$95k in FY21) reflects a growing district, increasing home values, and many more Title 5 inspections. Regarding the CPHS Reserve Fund Balance report, he noted that while the \$89,900 in reserve as FY22 began may sound high, and it is more than the 10% of the (\$595,639) total budget required by the FRCOG Finance Committee, it is less than the 20% target recommended by the Oversight Board at an earlier vote. The district is in good shape, fiscally, he concluded.

Regarding staffing, he welcomed Ryan to her first meeting since being hired, and noted the (official) full-time status of Danek Burke -- thanks to the PHE grant. Applications for a second full-time Health Agent continue to be accepted; members interested in being on the hiring committee should contact Crochier.

Crochier indicated that he has not heard back from the DEP on whether or not CPHS can apply (as a district) for their grant to provide air-quality sensing equipment to individual towns. The grant would provide 5-10 sensors, which would be difficult to place in any one town, but appropriate for the region. The application is due October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Health Agent Report**

Danek Burke reported that the department remains busy with field work. It has received 62 permit applications thus far in the fiscal year – for wells, perc tests, construction, temporary lodging and food establishments. She reported favorably on the new CPHS office space.

### **Public Health Nursing Report & Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District**

- **Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Community Planning:** Ryan said that she and Nour Elkhattaby-Strauch from Life Path will soon give a presentation on the topic, but are eager to re-start the effort after it’s pandemic-related postponement. The first step is to enlist support for a local assessment of the age- and dementia-friendliness of the community currently. Once an assessment is done, and goals are identified, work can begin toward making all public spaces comfortable for these populations. The goals will reflect active community engagement, she emphasized.
- **COVID Case Data and Using MAVEN Data:** Zamojski noted that she has begun sending the weekly reports, requested at the last meeting, on infectious disease counts. (There were 17 new COVID-19 cases last week; as of today, 10. She is noticing that younger, un-vaccinated children are becoming infected.) White made suggestions regarding how to convey information to the public without inadvertently compromising confidentiality; avoid mentioning household size or type, or any other information that could be linked to a family, individual or organization. A graph released by the state clearly indicates that while a very small number of vaccinated individuals test positive for the virus, they have a far lower fatality rate than the un-vaccinated who test positive. Walker noted that she had shared flawed datum at the previous roundtable meeting; the state had since realized that their difficulty in collecting data from the un-vaccinated had skewed it. Taft-Ferguson noted that Dr. Brown’s explanation of why the data was difficult to collect was unclear.

- **Community Health Worker Tick and Mosquito Education update:** Jeannette Voas, now working on her community health worker certification, will continue to be available through the fall for tabling at town transfer stations, fairs, libraries etc. – where she provides materials and in-person education on mosquito-borne illnesses. Gordon reported that Heath Fair attendees enjoyed searching the fake bagel for tick nymphs amid the poppy seeds.
- COVID Vaccine Next Steps in our region: see above.
- Flu Clinic Draft Plan for locations/dates: see above.

Crochier mentioned that Charlemont had voted last night to adopt the mask mandate, drafted by FRCOG (attached), and that Gill had also adopted a mandate, but did not have FRCOG’s draft at that time. Other towns are considering it; Crochier is hoping that the effective dates coincide to some degree. He noted the significant change from “enforcement” to “public notice”. Gordon suggested revisions to the text of the template:

- remove the reference to a specific season in order to increase utility
- add “including the wearing of masks.” to the section about the layering of protection strategies
- expand the mandate to include mask-wearing of employees who do not have direct contact with the public (in order to protect colleagues); to this, Taft-Ferguson suggested the addition of “unless alone in their private workspaces.”

Discussion attempted to delineate between the types of spaces relevant to the mandate: public, private, municipal, private open to the public, indoor public, public indoor, etc.

### **Member Updates**

Leyden – There have been a few cases of vaccinated individuals contracting COVID-19 in town, she said. There was one mosquito collected in town that tested positive for the West Nile virus, she added. The BOS would not put the BOH on their meeting agenda to discuss this news from the DPH, but Kuzdeba raised it as a private citizen -- and alerted The Recorder. Crochier offered to send a town-wide mailing. The BOS has still not appointed a third member to the BOH, Kuzdeba added.

Heath - Gordon noted that while Leyden residents did not, Heath residents *did* receive a robo-call about the presence of West Nile in Leyden. She is concerned that, at the Heath Fair last Saturday, there was some crowding of masked and un-masked people into tents. The event was not held on Sunday due to the threat of predicted Hurricane Henri. Gordon described the transitions in much of the membership of the Board of Health.

Ashfield – Caroline White announced that the Fall Festival Committee voted last night *not* to hold the event in October.

Bernardston – no report.

Buckland – There were no COVID-19 cases in town last week, Taft-Ferguson reported. CPHS staff has been conducting numerous inspections of various types in town, she said. The Mohawk School Committee’s vote to require masking in school preceded the state’s own mandate. Around town, there is a mix of people wearing and not wearing masks in public spaces and restaurants.

Colrain – The BOH will be monitoring adherence to the mask mandate in schools, Martin-Anzuoni reported.

Rowe – The BOH will vote on a mask mandate next week. It is hoping that the non-existence of COVID-19 cases at the Rowe School last academic year will continue into this year. Please send school nurse applicants her way, as theirs has recently left the position. At the transfer station, the swap shop has re-opened, and the compactor is running.

Northfield – Wahlstrom announced that the BOH is still seeking a secretary, and that members are voting on a mask mandate at their meeting taking place concurrently with this CPHS Oversight Board meeting.

### **Wrap Up and Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**Meeting materials:**

- CPHSOvBrd Agenda\_2021.08.26
- CPHSOvBrd Minutes\_2021.07.22 DRAFT
- MASK ORDER – REVISED Generic draft2
- Fee revenue report FY17 to 22
- Pub Health Excellence Grant Budget 2022\_08\_13
- Main CPHS Budget 2022\_08\_13
- District reserve fund balances FY15 to 22
- Contact Tracing Grant Requirements