



CPHS Oversight Board

Meeting Minutes - October 26, 2023

JWOTC, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield MA

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cooperative Public Health Service
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Member Attendance:

Ashfield	absent	Hawley-	absent
Bernardston-	Trisha Earl	Heath-	Susan Gruen
Buckland-	absent	Leyden-	Jerry Lund
Charlemont-	Doug Telling	Monroe-	Dave Nash
Colrain-	absent	Northfield-	Karen Boudreau , Ali Wahlstom
Conway-	Kat Llamas, Jackie Choate	Rowe-	absent
Erving-	absent	Shelburne-	Fritz Vohr
Gill-	Jeff Blomstedt		

Staff Attendance: Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Maureen O'Reilly, Meg Ryan, Phoebe Walker, Lisa White

Introductions, Updates, Icebreaker (“What was the best public health training you ever attended?”)

Trisha Earl, who has been on the Bernardston BOH for much of the year, introduced herself. Several members indicated that recent training on the administration of naloxone, arranged/provided by O'Reilly, was the best public health training they have received. Others mentioned food safety training, “sitting next to” Randy, tick prevention/spraying events, DPH OLRH’s racial justice training, and MA Assoc. of Health Board’s legal training. Jacobson-Carroll referenced LPHI on-line trainings, and the “Job Aid” summaries of each – available at: <https://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/training/on-your-time-trainings/>

Approve Meeting Minutes

With a motion by Gruen seconded by Choate, the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously, with one abstention (Lund).

Vaccine Report – O'Reilly gave an update on the fall series of DPH-funded vaccine clinics arranged for by FRCOG and run by Cataldo Ambulance. Typically, they are drawing approximately 50 people, and most have gone fairly well. Technical difficulties with scheduling/registering, which caused pre-registrants at Hawlemont to be turned away, as well as with the supply of doses, are being addressed. A clinic at Mohawk Regional School, held simultaneously with the Mary Lyon Educational Foundation Resource Fair, drew 215 people. Walker pointed out that while Cataldo does not run clinics as well as desired, FRCOG does not have the resources to run mass vaccination clinics as it did during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Staff will continue to press for more state support of these clinics, and better staffing of them on the day they happen.

Public Health Nursing Report – White explained that because each COVID-19 dose costs \$130, the nursing program can no longer order quantity in advance, but continues to vaccinate vulnerable people in the district, as needed, including homebound individuals, visitors to their drop-in-nursing, and residents of four public housing complexes. Most individuals have insurance, so CPHS is reimbursed, and has thus far been able to vaccinate the un-insured in these groups. Walker explained the means by which FRCOG has a revolving fund to allow for this, and to purchase of small batches of doses. CPHS has funding, as it has for many years, to purchase in advance the estimated number of doses of influenza vaccine (\$40 ea) that will be needed.

Ryan articulated the overarching goal of getting public health nursing out of the office and into the community to prevent illness and promote health – and that building relationships and trust within the community is paramount. Examples of ways CPHS aims to meet this goal include hosting drop-in-nursing hours (no longer referred to as walk-in-wellness “clinics”, as that word has a specific legal definition), tabling at community fairs, talking with people at food pantry distribution hours, etc. White welcomed suggestions.

White reviewed the the processes necessary for CPHS to complete every year in order to continue its vaccine work. She listed numerous tasks involving enrollments and registrations with the Dept. of Public Health, MA Immunization Information System, Controlled Substances Registry, MCAP Infusion, COLOR Health registration software, and Medicare; coordination with local site managers and a medical director; procurement and cold chain management of the vaccines themselves; regular training, and other activities.

O’Reilly described FRCOG’s Community Health Department’s approach to addressing the opioid epidemic through community education and the promotion of harm-reduction strategies. She explained goals of reducing stigma and enhancing neighbors’ ability to care for each other, and described recent efforts to provide direct and indirect training on the administration of naloxone as a means to accomplishing these.

Opioid Settlement Draft Budget – Walker referenced earlier conversations regarding the distribution and management of funds from the state, and the Oversight Board’s specific request for her to develop a proposal for it to aid their BOHs in utilizing these funds. Citing a requirement to solicit input from those affected by the epidemic, she offered to organize and host an on-line public forum on an early December evening. She would work with colleagues CONNECT and the Recover Project, among other direct service agencies, to encourage participation. After the forum, she’ll report back to the board on the data collected, and it would then be up to oversight board members to discuss the findings with their LBOHs, and for those LBOHs to make decisions regarding specific allocation of the funds. CPHS staff will remain available to help brainstorm possible projects (such as installing naloxone boxes in public locations, offering naloxone training to municipal first responders, funding a mailing to residents about available recovery resources), and to facilitate inter-town pooling of funds toward shared efforts. Board members agreed to help publicize and attend the online forum.

Dementia Awareness Training & Brainstorm – Ryan gave the Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness presentation she will soon deliver at an Alzheimer’s Association conference, and which she will continue to share with municipal and community groups throughout the district. She described the impact of the disease on communities and families, populations at particularly high risk, and the mission of the association, as well as the types of dementia, the importance of early detection, treatment options, and specific ways that individuals and organizations can help to increase awareness. She invited attendees to

learn about the Franklin County/North Quabbin Age and Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan, which will be launched by Life Path and the FRCOG at a luncheon on November 16.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm.

Documents Viewed or Referenced:

- [CPHS Oversight Board Agenda_2023.10.26](#), (PDF, 303KB)
- [2023.09.28 CPHS OB Meeting Minutes](#), (PDF, 513 KB)
- [Demential and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness presentation slide](#) (PDF, 2341 KB)
- [Fall 2023 Vaccine Availability in Franklin County](#) website: <https://frcog.org/project/vaccine-information/>

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