



SERVICES TO HEATH IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Held a workshop for communities involved in the Regional Pollinator Action Plan, including Heath, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding pollinator habitat in their towns.
- Assisted the town coordinator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted in to the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) administrators on results from 101 Mohawk students, representing 81% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Worked with MTRSD administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the district.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Worked with town officials to recruit residents to fill out the Massachusetts Community Health Survey, to better understand local needs and encourage state investment in improving health outcomes.
- Provided funding and facilitation support to the Mary Lyon Foundation for the creation of the West County People Supporting People Network, which hosted a resource fair to bring the county's healthcare and human service agencies to West County.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Heath contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; fire alarm services; elevator maintenance; school district fire extinguisher services; and dog tags and licenses. Staff facilitated a bid for the purchase of a used highway truck. Staff also conducted a collective 5-year bid for student transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections program issued 56 building permits, 31 electrical permits, 32 plumbing/gas permits and two certificates of inspection for Heath in 2023.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees.
- Heath is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a regional health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS staff:
 - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors, local schools and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine.
 - Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Heath residents received 27 vaccines, including 13 at home visits, coordinated with the town nurse.
 - Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state online disease tracking system daily and following up as required, including 10 Heath cases.

- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes exchanged.
- Provided guidance to the board of health and regularly attended meetings.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach with the board of health to provide prevention materials and seven permethrin “shoe-spraying” events districtwide, including one in Heath.
- Through a CPHS district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Heath residents sought 13 low-cost tick tests, a value of \$390. Of the tested ticks, 39% were Lyme pathogen positive, 8% were Anaplasmosis pathogen positive, and 8% were Babesiosis pathogen positive.
- Began hosting district “Train the Trainer” events: The first taught community members to train peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line permitting system. Reviewed and made determinations, following inspection where applicable, on a total of 52 Heath permit applications and 14 applications for regional permits. Among these were four food establishment and 13 temporary food vendors, requiring 19 inspections; two short-term rental units, and four new wells, determined to comply with water supply standards.
- To enforce the Title-5 septic code for the town, staff conducted 13 soil evaluations for septic systems, reviewed three septic system plans, reviewed and issued two local upgrade approvals, and witnessed six Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
- Responded to and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Heath public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

Selectboard 101 – 1

One-Stop Municipal Grants Information Session – 1

Public Health & Community Awareness

USDA Rural Development Grant Information Session – 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Began mapping and collecting GPS data to create a conceptual trail to connect Catamount State Forest in Colrain to Mohawk State Forest in Charlemont via Heath and Rowe.
- Completed a data request for a non-profit organization.