



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020**

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:05 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:55 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Thomas Hibert	Westfield & Montgomery
Erica Johnson	Principal Planner/Manager, PVPC
Angela Kramer	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Joshua Mathieu	City of Chicopee
Lorri McCool	Health Agent, Wilbraham, Monson & Hampden
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow Board of Health
Michael Nelson	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Health Director, Southwick

GUESTS:

Jonathan Miller	Director, Health & Wellness Ctr., Springfield Technical Community College
Marianne Moura	Registered Nurse, Ludlow
Maria Elsie Sanchez	MRC, Springfield

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of September 3, 2020 Hampden County Health Coalition Zoom meeting
- September 2020 HCHC Financial Statement

1. Meeting Called to Order

The October 1, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Jeanne Galloway.

2. Welcome & Attendance

Ms. Galloway took roll call and the following HCHC members responded that they were in attendance: Joshua Mathieu, Chicopee; Lorri McCool, Hampden, Monson and Wilbraham; Angela Kramer and Cheryl Messer, Ludlow; Thomas Hibert, Westfield and Montgomery; Tammy Spencer, Southwick; Jeanne Galloway, West Springfield. Ms. Galloway also noted that attendees included Michael Nelson from MDPH as well as Erica Johnson, Christopher Goshea and Lynn Shell from the PVPC. Guests included Jonathan Miller, Marianne Moura, and Maria Elsie Sanchez.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 HCHC Zoom meeting.

CHERYL MESSER MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 MINUTES AND TAMMY SPENCER SECONDED THE MOTION; THERE BEING NO COMMENTS, OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENSIONS, MS. GALLOWAY TOOK A ROLL CALL VOTE AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT WHO IN TURN RESPONDED "YES".

4. Financial Report: September 2020

Erica Johnson noted that the financial report for September 2020 reflects a balance of \$168,809.37 and she reported that the only payments made thus far have been for Verizon. There being no questions, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the HCHC Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Statement for the Month of September 2020.

CHERYL MESSER MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FY21 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020 AND ANGELA KRAMER SECONDED THE MOTION; THERE BEING NO COMMENTS, OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENSIONS, MS. GALLOWAY TOOK A ROLL CALL VOTE AND THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT WHO IN TURN RESPONDED “YES”.

Ms. Johnson stated that the next time she can submit a formal request for supplies is November 13th and she is taking requests on a first-come, first-serve basis by November 13th. Ms. Johnson also encouraged HCHC members to use their COVID funding noting that those funds need to be spent by December 31, 2020.

5. Business At Hand

a) Public Health Issues & Opportunities

Ms. Galloway reported that West Springfield held their drive-through flu clinic on September 26th and the next one will take place on October 17th. Ms. Messer stated that Ludlow’s town nurses will be administering drive-through clinics on October 17th and October 24th and she noted that volunteers will assist. Ms. Spencer reported that Southwick’s flu clinic took place two weeks ago and she noted that the head of school nursing had been arranging some community-wide flu clinics at the schools. Mr. Mathieu stated that there are no flu clinics planned for Chicopee noting that they rely on Walgreen’s and CVS. Mr. Hibert reported that Westfield will have their senior flu clinic next week and the following week there will be a flu clinic for city employees, police, fire, etc. Mr. Miller also noted that STCC was approved for the state flu vaccine so they will be able to administer it themselves. He explained that in the past they had to purchase and charge for it or they would bring in third party vendors who would do their own billing. Mr. Miller also stated that STCC is doing COVID testing on site. He noted that they are hosting so they are paying a third party to PCR test on campus. He also stated that STCC hosted *Stop the Spread* for the month of September in their parking lot off campus however it was discontinued due to low attendance.

Ms. Galloway stated that the new guidance on COVID was just released. Ms. Kramer pointed out that Monson was in the high risk category for COVID at one point however she explained that this was because one family accounted for 7 cases. She underscored that just one family can increase the numbers for a community but that doesn’t necessarily mean the town is not responding appropriately.

b) PHEP Planner Highlights & Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that as part of the workplan, the state provided the option to do a table top exercise or a flu clinic and he noted that the majority of HCHC members are opting to do a flu clinic. He also stated that the document for the *Staff*

Notification, Site Activation and Facility Set Up will need to be submitted for the SNS exercise and he asked HCHC members to let him know if they need help with the paperwork. Mr. Goshea noted that he had previously sent the template to HCHC members and he agreed to resend it to Ms. Messer per her request. Mr. Nelson reported that there will be a revision to the deliverables given how busy everyone is with COVID and he expected to see some alterations in the next couple of weeks. Finally, Mr. Goshea stated that thus far he has received flu clinic information from East Longmeadow, Holyoke and West Springfield which he has posted on the Google calendar. He noted that if other HCHC members would like to send him the details about their flu clinics, he can add their information to the calendar.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that the next MRC meeting will take place on October 14th. He asked HCHC members to let him know if they have any MRC needs and he noted that Longmeadow and Westfield have been utilizing MRC volunteers. Mr. Goshea did not have a PVCOAD update as he was unable to attend the meeting which was held last week. Ms. Spencer reported that the Mass Responds Quarter One MRC Drill takes place today. She also noted that she needs assistance with the Central Hampden County MRC and she asked HCHC members to let her know if they are aware of anyone who would be willing to help. As regards the Springfield MRC, Ms. Sanchez noted that they haven't been too engaged in the community. She stated that she has provided emotional support as well as job and housing referrals and she tried to find out how MRC could help with food pantries and flu clinics. Ms. Sanchez noted that the MRC used to meet every month and do trainings but she now refers members to MEMA or FEMA for training purposes. She stated that it has been difficult to keep MRC members engaged and she noted that she has spoken to Soloe Dennis about this.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the HMCC newsletter was recently sent out and she asked HCHC members to let Mr. Goshea know if they did not receive it. She noted that the HMCC has been quite involved in COVID mostly through the supply chain but they also have grants they are making available. Ms. Galloway stated that the HMCC is spearheading the regional asset management with the hospitals for PPE products on a rotating basis.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway noted that West Nile Virus was discovered in some mosquitoes and there was one human case of EEE in eastern Hampden County but otherwise western Massachusetts has done fairly well. She announced that the last day for testing is October 8th and trapping will most likely end by October 6th.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Mr. Goshea reported that the WAG discussion last month was about the Public Health trailer and he believed that only Pittsfield returned the contract. He stated that there will be a discussion about the trailer next week and he expected that Mr. Nelson will be returning from paternity leave and will be able to comment on it. Mr. Nelson confirmed that he is back working full time.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Nelson stated that he hasn't heard any news about LSAC in several months. He noted that any deliverable changes that DPH is considering will have to go through LSAC so there may be a conversation in the near future. Mr. Goshea stated that there was an LSAC meeting a couple of months ago but he had nothing new to report.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway stated that the on-line shelter training has been non-functional for some time. She felt that the training should be updated however others in the region feel that it should not, given that it hasn't been used in a while. She invited HCHC members to provide their feedback on whether there should be any updated sheltering plans, noting that WRHSAC wants to be sure there is an interest before moving forward with this project. Mr. Goshea reported that WRHSAC was able to purchase 2 "sandwich" sign boards for every community in Hampden County adding that they will be delivered to the PVPC and arrangements will be made to distribute them. Ms. Galloway explained that this is part of the NPI project, noting they are providing 2 sandwich boards and 4 signs per community and the counties can decide how they want to handle this. Ms. Galloway also noted that county-wide PPE was in the process of being ordered but she did not know when it would be available. Ms. Johnson stated that PVPC does not have the capacity for long-term storage of the sign boards and if they will be a county asset, an HCHC member will need to take them.

g) MAVEN Report

Ms. Kramer noted that as mentioned earlier, there was a COVID outbreak in Monson however it was resolved and currently everything is pretty stable. She stated that she worked with the Town of Ludlow, and CTC is set up if needed to do the contact tracing for their 5 schools, adding that she was planning to let the CTC handle the contact tracing for the other smaller towns. Ms. Kramer added that she is still seeing cases of tickborne diseases. Ms. McCool asked if there are towns that allow their schools to be on MAVEN. Ms. Galloway stated that their school nurses are the ones doing the majority of the MAVEN work which is for the entire town. Ms. Kramer explained that Ms. McCool is asking if there are school nurses doing MAVEN for the school only adding that she was told by Scott Troppy, MDPH, they could not because then they have access to all of MAVEN which is an issue. Ms. Galloway stated that she understands someone from the town can do the MAVEN work if they are doing it for the entire town.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Galloway stated that she signed up for one of the three MHOA Conference days. Mr. Goshea reported that there will be a Cares Act Webinar on October 8th from 3-4 p.m. and he noted that he sent out the link this morning.

7. Other Business

Mr. Miller commented that at one of the recent DPH meetings it was mentioned that there was a change in clearance for K-12 for someone having COVID-like symptoms and he asked if anyone had more information about that. Ms. Galloway noted that the DESE guidance is saying that even with a doctor's note, a COVID test is now required. She suggested that Mr. Miller check the FAQ's which are listed by date on DESE's website.

Mr. Miller also announced that the Town of Wales is considering hiring a part-time Health Agent and he stated that if

HCHC members know of anyone who might be interested, he could provide more information. Ms. Galloway suggested sending the job description to Mr. Goshea or Ms. Johnson who could then forward it to the group.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's October 1, 2020 HCHC Zoom meeting at 10:55 a.m.

ANGELA KRAMER MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 1, 2020 HCHC ZOOM MEETING AND LORRI MCCOOL SECONDED THE MOTION; MS. GALLOWAY TOOK A ROLL CALL VOTE AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY EACH HCHC MEMBER WHO IN TURN RAISED THEIR HAND.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Shell, Administrative Assistant 1 Specialist, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission