



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019**

**LOCATION:** Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)  
60 Congress Street  
Springfield, MA 01104

**CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 10:01 a.m.  
**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 11:13 a.m.

**ATTENDEES:**

Lisa Cunningham	Public Health Nurse, Chicopee
Soloe Dennis	Deputy Commissioner, Springfield Health & Human Services
Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Thomas Hibert	Health Inspector, Westfield; Health Agent, Montgomery
Beverly Hirschhorn	Director, Board of Health, Longmeadow
Erica Johnson	Senior Planner, PVPC
Angela Kramer	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Joshua Mathieu	Health Agent, Palmer
Lorri McCool	Health Agent for Wilbraham, Monson & Hampden
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow Board of Health
Michael Nelson	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Sherry Petrucci	Public Health Nurse, Agawam Health Department
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Sanitarian, Health Department, Chicopee

**GUESTS:**

Andrea Crete	Health Agent, Ludlow
Jonathan Miller	Health & Wellness Coordinator, STCC

**DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:**

- Agenda
- Minutes of Hampden County Health Coalition meeting, Thursday, August 1, 2019
- HCHC FY 19 Financial Statement for the Month of September 2019

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Jeanne Galloway called the October 3, 2019 meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Galloway welcomed HCHC members and guests and she asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Galloway asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the minutes of the last HCHC meeting which was held on August 1, 2019. There being no comments or questions, Ms. Galloway then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019 HCHC meeting.

LISA CUNNINGHAM MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 1, 2019 MINUTES; CHERYL MESSER SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED THE MOTION WITH TWO MEMBERS, JEANNE GALLOWAY AND SHERRY PETRUCCI, ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE.

#### 4. Financial Report

Erica Johnson presented the FY 19 Financial Statement for the month of September 2019 which reflects a balance of \$155,993.90. Ms. Johnson stated that the Coalition is allowed another budget modification in November and she asked HCHC members to let her know if there are items they are interested in purchasing with PHEP money. She also asked them to send her specific details pertaining to those items. Ms. Johnson stated that she will continue accepting requests on a first-come first-serve basis unless anyone objects to this practice. Ms. Johnson noted that she is not yet certain how much money she can reallocate for purchases. As regards allowable expenses, she reminded the group that any purchase requests need to relate to EDS planning. In response to a question from Ms. Messer, Ms. Johnson stated that she didn't know if N95 masks are considered an allowable expense but she asked Ms. Messer to let her know what she wants and she will submit her request. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the state looks favorably upon any items that can help support HCHC members in their planning efforts such as office supplies.

As regards the 2019 Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) Annual Conference, Ms. Johnson stated that this year she sent out a notice which included a deadline for responding and she thanked HCHC members for getting back to her in a timely manner, adding that there was enough money to honor all the requests that came in. Ms. Messer asked if the additional phone requested for Ludlow could be given to Ludlow's Health Agent, Andrea Crete. Ms. Johnson explained to the group that HCHC is allowed phone lines for two people per community. She noted that most communities already have their two lines but Ludlow only had one. Ms. Johnson stated she will add the other line in the next couple of days and she noted that Ms. Crete will be part of the 24/7 Contact List. As requested by Ms. Galloway, Ms. Johnson agreed to provide HCHC members with an updated 24/7 Contact List.

There being no further questions, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the HCHC Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statement for the Month of September 2019.

CHERYL MESSER MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019; SHERRY PETRUCCI SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

#### 5. Business At Hand

##### a) EEE in Hampden County

Ms. Galloway stated that 12 human cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been reported in Massachusetts, including 3 deaths, and there have been 9 animal cases. She noted that this outbreak has given some communities added impetus to try to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). Ms. Galloway

stated that if anyone would like more information about the PVMCD, they can follow the link on the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB) website which connects to PVMCD's website:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district-pvmcd> Ms. Galloway noted that there is a minimum cost of \$5,000 to join which must be approved by the community's highest legislative body in a certified vote that has to be sent to the SRMCB. She also stated that the PVMCD expects to hire someone during the next couple of weeks who will be able to go out and meet with town officials.

Ms. Spencer noted that Chris Goshea recently sent out an email with guidance from OPEM on EEE inquiries that recommended calling the state epidemiology phone number. Ms. Spencer stated that she has called that number and they are more than willing to answer any questions. Mr. Goshea then referred to the HHAN alert that he sent out last week and he pointed out that he did not receive the notice directly. He noted that PHEP is out of the loop for EEE alerts because of the definitions of the disease process. Ms. Galloway stated that, according to OPEM, mosquito problems do not fall under emergency management. Mr. Goshea asked HCHC members to let him know if they see something that he should know about and he would be happy to share it with the group and to unofficially assist when he can. A discussion then followed about the EEE investigation process. Mr. Mathieu asked if the state is no longer sending out reports about mosquito sampling results noting that he had previously been receiving weekly reports. Ms. Galloway stated that they are not doing as much sampling in the Pioneer Valley and she suggested that he go to [www.mosquitoreresults.com](http://www.mosquitoreresults.com) for information. Ms. Galloway noted that according to the state's website, an EEE cycle is expected every 10 to 20 years. She stated that our last outbreak was during 2010-2012 and we can expect to have more EEE outbreaks over the coming years.

b) Vaping Emergency

Ms. Galloway asked HCHC members if their Boards of Health have done what they need to do within their communities regarding the enforcement of the vaping emergency ban. A question was raised about the penalty for not honoring the ban and Ms. Hirschhorn asked if anyone had received a notification. Ms. Galloway stated that she believed a fine could be imposed for up to \$1,000 and Mr. Mathieu stated that for a first offense, it is his understanding that the merchandise will be confiscated.

c) PHEP FY20 Workplan & Deliverables Update

Mr. Goshea stated that we just finished PHEP Quarter 1 and he noted that everything is on track. Mr. Goshea also noted that he recently sent out an email with the list of the ICS Certifications that he has and he thanked everyone who submitted certificates. Mr. Goshea stated that he would like to maintain electronic copies of the certificates which will make it easier for him to pull up a record if the state asks for one. Mr. Goshea noted that the ICS-300 course will be available in western Massachusetts during the coming months, adding that one of the trainings will be in Berkshire County and the other will be in Agawam. Mr. Goshea noted that the link to the MEMA training calendar was included in his email but he asked HCHC members to let him know if they need more details.

Mr. Goshea stated that this year there is an option to do a table top exercise versus the traditional *Site Activation; Staff Notification and Assembly; and Facility Set-up* and he noted that if HCHC members would like to do the table top exercise, he will need to submit paper work and get approval from DPH. Several HCHC members expressed interest in the table top exercise. Mr. Goshea then responded to questions raised by HCHC members. Mr. Goshea stated that the *Site Activation, Staff Notification and Assembly, and Facility Set-up* exercise has to be submitted by the end of March so he will need to have that deliverable completed by the beginning of March. Mr. Goshea also noted that one of HCHC's deliverables is for Coalition members to update at least two sections of their EDS plans and he reminded the group that one section needs to be about *At Risk Populations*.

Mr. Goshea then provided an update on the recent WebEOC drill. He noted that 10 Hampden County communities completed the drill successfully, adding that Hampden County did the best in all of western Massachusetts. Ms. Kramer noted that she had trouble logging on to WebEOC. Ms. Messer stated that she could log on using her computer but not her phone. Mr. Matthieu suggested deleting the app and re-downloading it.

## 6. News and Updates

### a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea reported that Central Hampden County MRC has been focusing on recruitment and he noted he has also been working with Ms. Spencer to set up some trainings including a *Hands Only CPR* class in Agawam. Mr. Goshea announced that there will be a *Make an Emergency Plan* workshop at the West Springfield Public Library on October 9<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Spencer offered to send out a flyer with additional information. Ms. Messer reported that also next week, on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, MEMA will present a *Basic Shelter Operations* class in Agawam. Ms. Spencer noted that as part of the workshop in West Springfield, there will be an Open House for the Central Hampden County MRC. She reported that recruitment for Agawam was great and there are now 5 new volunteers. In response to a question from Ms. Hirschhorn, Mr. Goshea noted that the links to the trainings are shared on the HCHC Facebook page and on the Hampden County MRC Facebook page, adding that he will send HCHC members the links to those pages. Mr. Goshea also noted that MRC recently held a *Hands Only CPR* training in Springfield and there will be a *Stop the Bleed* training in Springfield as well as a *Narcan* training in Longmeadow. Mr. Goshea stated that he will send everyone the dates and times for those trainings.

Mr. Goshea next reported that he sent out a survey to all the MRC units in Hampden County asking for updated contact information, and asking about what kind of training and certification they have and what trainings they would be interested in. The survey also asked about their desire to serve, either locally or nationally. Mr. Goshea noted that there were approximately 45 replies including responses from some individuals who indicated they no longer wished to serve. Mr. Goshea stated that he will formulate a calendar to build MRC's training over the next year. Finally, Ms. Spencer stated that the MRC unit coordinators intend to meet on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. here at the PVPC. Mr. Goshea added that he had no updates on PVCOAD to report.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the HMCC is planning some upcoming meetings including a Full Coalition meeting of the 5 disciplines which will most likely take place in the spring. She also noted that there is a regular HMCC email that includes updates about the trainings and meetings. Ms. Galloway next reported that HMCC has a deliverable to create inter-municipal agreements or memorandums of agreement between municipalities and she noted that if any HCHC members need assistance with this, they can reach out to Tracy Rogers at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Ms. Galloway stated that this is something that Ms. Johnson can help with as well. Ms. Hirschhorn asked if any HCHC communities have inter-municipal agreements for when someone is inaccessible for any reason such as being away on vacation. She noted that there is an expectation that she will respond 24/7 but she felt that there needs to be a formal agreement with someone else for those situations when she is not available to answer a call. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Galloway stated that she understands that just about every town has signed on to a statewide mutual aid agreement but she didn't know how that impacts Public Health. Ms. Galloway suggested that perhaps there also needs to be inter-agency agreements.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway announced that there will be a meeting of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. in the Hearing Room at Northampton City Hall.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Michael Nelson reported that the WAG met on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted there was a discussion about the Local State Advisory Committee (LSAC) and the fact that there has been a lack of LSAC meetings. Mr. Nelson stated that two of the planners are going to reach out to the LSAC Chair to find ways to make LSAC more of a two-way conversation with the state noting that with declining meetings, our local representatives are losing the opportunity to communicate with OPEM. Mr. Nelson stated that Region 1 is leading the way to get that conversation going.

Mr. Nelson reported that the WAG also discussed the Non Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) project and he asked Mr. Goshea to provide an update on the NPI survey. Mr. Goshea stated that efforts are being made to engage community partners to find out about their NPI practices and he stated that a survey was just completed. He noted that trainings will be created around quarantine and isolation based on the data and they will develop education from the results of the survey. Ms. Galloway interjected that as part of the MOA conversation, it was noted that if Public Health needs to quarantine anyone, the police are supposed to handle the enforcement and assistance, however, the police are apparently planning to refuse so this might be something else that needs to be worked out. Mr. Goshea underscored that this survey is not meant to grade any communities about their NPI practices but the goal is to obtain the best practices nationwide and develop some trainings based on the survey. He added that they are trying to find out what everyone is doing currently and where the gaps are. A discussion followed about the issues of quarantine and isolation. In response to a question raised by Ms. Hirschhorn, Ms. Galloway noted that during the Ebola outbreak, isolation and quarantine policies were addressed and updated slightly. Ms. Galloway

also stated that after the NPI trainings are developed, the Coalition may consider having a training either as part of an HCHC meeting or as a separate meeting. As regards a possible location for the training, Ms. Messer stated that she could try to find out if Ludlow could host it in their conference room.

e) LSAC Update

Ms. Galloway noted that there has not been an LSAC meeting so there is no update to report. A discussion followed about the usefulness of LSAC and it was suggested that it needs to be recreated. Mr. Nelson explained that LSAC started a strategic planning process a few years ago but at that time they had a change of leadership and the process did not move forward. He agreed that the identity and purpose of LSAC needs to be reassessed.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway reported that the Pan Flu Subcommittee is planning a training on Functional Access Needs entitled *Tips and Tools for Responding to People with Disabilities, Strengthening Response and Protecting Dignity* which will take place at UMass in December and she noted that information on that event will be sent out shortly. Ms. Galloway stated that they are also planning a training on *Mental Health Resiliency* which is geared for first responders. In addition, she noted that the Pan Flu Subcommittee is working on *Public Information Message Mapping* and there will be trainings related to this project in the next calendar year.

g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer stated there was a possible case of *Mumps* in Palmer however she found out today that it was negative, noting that luckily it was a titer. Ms. Kramer next reminded HCHC members that she needed a letter from the state allowing her to obtain medical information from providers when necessary and she reported that she has now received that letter which Ms. Galloway explained is a Public Health exemption to HIPPA. Ms. Kramer next reported that she had several cases of *Hepatitis A* and she noted that many were resolved. She also stated that she had her first confirmed case of *Influenza* today. In addition, Ms. Kramer noted that she had a *Pertussis* case that was resolved and there was a *Shigellosis* that was also resolved. Ms. Kramer stated that other cases included *Salmonellosis*, *Cryptosporidiosis*, *Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever* as well as multiple tickborne infections.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Galloway stated that trainings are listed on both the MEMA and HMCC websites and she noted that an email will be sent out regarding MRC's upcoming trainings. Ms. Spencer also noted that the Totally Title 5 Seminar will take place on October 29<sup>th</sup> and she added that the 2019 MHOA Annual Conference is scheduled for November 6-8. Ms. Galloway also noted that she has a flyer about WRSAC trainings if anyone is interested.

7. Other Business

Ms. Johnson noted that she had emailed HCHC members about a great deal that would allow her to upgrade phones however when she submitted the order it was rejected. She explained that this was due to a Verizon issue adding that

she had received paperwork that was not accurate. Ms. Johnson apologized that she cannot provide a mass phone replacement at this time but she can take care of one phone at a time if anyone is having issues with their phone. At this point, Ms. Johnson let Mr. Hibert know that she has received a new phone for Joe Rouse whose phone was not working.

Ms. Hirschhorn asked if anyone is going to be applying for the Request for Responses (RFR) for Public Health Shared Services. She explained that there is a grant available from MDPH for municipalities who are interested in pursuing shared services across municipalities. Ms. Hirschhorn noted that the announcement came out last week. Ms. Galloway pointed out that there is a quick turnaround on this opportunity.

At this point HCHC guest, Jonathan Miller, stated that he came to today's Coalition meeting to see if there is anything new to be learned about EEE and vaping but he also wanted to talk to HCHC members about the Health and Wellness Center that he runs at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC). Mr. Miller explained that the Health and Wellness Center is looking to expand their Public Health involvement and he asked if any communities had any ideas about partnerships. Ms. Messer asked Mr. Miller if he is looking for student internships. Mr. Miller noted that he is not from the academic side but he can be a liaison and he pointed out that they have many health programs. Mr. Miller stated that they offer courses in the health fields noting that there is an emerging exploratory health course which is an introduction to all the different aspects of the health careers.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business for the Coalition to conduct, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's October 3, 2019 HCHC meeting at 11:13 a.m. BEVERLY HIRSCHHORN MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS OCTOBER 3, 2019 HCHC MEETING; CINDY MESSER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Shell, Support Staff, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission