



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020**

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:04 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 11:01 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Kathleen Auer	Health Agent, Agawam Health Department
Soloe Dennis	Deputy Commissioner, Springfield Health & Human Services
Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Angela Kramer	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Lorri McCool	Health Agent for Wilbraham, Monson & Hampden
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow board of Health
Michael Nelson	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Aimee Petrosky	Health Agent, East Longmeadow
Joe Rouse	Director of Public Health, Westfield; Health Agent, Russell
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Health Director, Southwick

GUESTS:

Steve Malochleb Director, Greater Westfield & Western Hampden County MRC

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of June 4, 2020 Hampden County Health Coalition Zoom meeting
- HCHC June 2020 Financial Statement
- Coalition survey - list of questions and suggested remedies

1. Meeting Called to Order

The July 2, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Jeanne Galloway.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Galloway welcomed HCHC members and guests.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2020 HCHC meeting which was held via Zoom.

SOLOE DENNIS MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 4, 2020 MINUTES; KATHY AUER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THERE BEING NO OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENSIONS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Financial Report: June 2020

Chris Goshea stated that he is reporting on behalf of Erica Johnson who was unable to attend today's HCHC meeting. Mr. Goshea noted that the financial report reflects a balance of \$40,956.98 however he stated that this is not a final amount given that there are still some invoices coming in. Mr. Goshea also noted that that the Verizon budget line needs to be

adjusted and Ms. Johnson is waiting for state approval to reallocate some of the funds.

Ms. Galloway then called for a motion to approve the HCHC financial report for the month of June 2020.

SOLOE DENNIS MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020; KATHY AUER SECONDED THE MOTION; THERE BEING NO OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENSIONS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Business At Hand

a) Coalition Survey Discussion

Tammy Spencer reviewed comments and questions that had been submitted by HCHC members.

Western Mass Proactive Flu Campaign

Ms. Spencer noted that Deb Schaier would like to see a western Massachusetts proactive flu campaign in the fall and she asked if there have been any discussions about starting the education now. Angela Kramer stated that there were discussions during immunization webinars about doing drive-through flu clinics and she was wondering if MAPHN could do a training for all the public health nurses. Mr. Nelson remarked that there are some very good drive-through clinics in Region 1, specifically the Town of Deerfield, and he offered to provide Mr. Goshea with that information. Ms. Auer noted that with schools reopening, they are stressing that the entire student body should receive flu vaccines. She stated that this ought to be part of a routine doctor's visit before the school year starts. Ms. Galloway agreed that the burden should be on the primary care provider.

Swimming Pool Openings

It was noted that West Springfield and Chicopee decided not to open their community pools. Ms. Auer stated that all of Agawam's condo sites have opened except one, adding that there are now monitors to ensure social distancing, and there is a sign-in so they can do contact tracing.

School Reopening Planning

Ms. Auer stated that there has been a conversation amongst her school nurses about the credentials of the person who is assigned to students who become symptomatic and need to be sent to a separate room. She noted that this individual needs to be able to assess and take appropriate action should symptoms escalate. Ms. McCool pointed out that several schools don't have a separate area available for symptomatic students other than the nurse's office.

Reopening Guidance Enforcement

Ms. Galloway reported that West Springfield will allow outdoor entertainment and outdoor dining. She noted that guidance from the state wasn't clear therefore West Springfield set up some guidance which is posted on their website.

Health and Well-Being of Self and Staff/Team Members

Ms. Galloway stated that she had submitted this comment to remind people to take care of themselves over the long

holiday weekend. She hoped that guidance that needs to be enforced will not be sent out at the last minute on Friday if Massachusetts moves to Phase 3 on Monday. Mr. Rouse stated that he heard that Phase 3 will be gradually phased in.

Coordinating with DLS When Responding to Complaints

Several HCHC members stated that the Department of Labor Standards (DLS) is very slow in responding, however, Mr. Dennis noted that our local DLS coordinator, Adam Kinney, has been very responsive and understands our concerns. Ms. McCool agreed that DLS has been very responsive. Mr. Rouse stated that he called the DLS number that is specific for municipalities and within 24 hours he received a call back. He recommended making a phone call instead of sending an email. Mr. Dennis stated that he could provide HCHC members with Mr. Kinney's phone number. In response to a suggestion from Ms. Spencer, Mr. Dennis offered to invite Mr. Kinney to join our next HCHC meeting. He also noted that as another option, he could invite DLS Director, Mike Flanagan.

Trying to Explain to the Public When Guidance from the State Seems Contradictory

HCHC members agreed that state guidance has been somewhat vague and contradictory.

Responding to Mask Complaints

Ms. Messer asked if anyone could provide her with a warning letter to use for COVID violations such as restaurant personnel not wearing masks. Aimee Petrosky offered to send her their inspection report for COVID violations which includes a warning. Ms. Petrosky explained that East Longmeadow responds to each complaint and if they observe that masks are not being used, they will issue a violation which includes a warning if it's a first offense. She noted that they follow the process but so far they have not validated a complaint. Mr. Dennis stated that the issue of mask complaints is an ongoing challenge in Springfield. He felt that when it comes to Public Health emergencies, we need to look at the role of Public Health and determine how we can strengthen our voices given that we are the key experts.

Tag Sales

Ms. Spencer stated that along with handing out a permit, Southwick has a checklist and they provide a sign to be posted that describes social distancing, hygiene and masks.

b) PHEP FY21 Workplan & Budget Update

Mr. Goshea reported that HCHC accomplished more than 90% of the FY 20 workplan. As regards the EDS plans, he noted that rather than asking for an extension, we decided to make a note in the workplan of what deliverables were not met. He added that the documentation will be submitted to the state in two weeks. As far as FY 21, Mr. Goshea reported that the workplan has been submitted to the state however he did not know the timeline of when it will be approved. Mr. Goshea remarked that the workplan is not very different from last year's noting that there are similar deliverables. He stated that they are adding some mutual aid recovery components to expand network building and they will be sharing some more Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) resources. As far as the SNS exercise, Mr. Goshea stated that we will be testing the Functional Access Needs components and HCHC can opt to do a table top exercise or the traditional SNS components. Mr. Dennis stated that Springfield opened tents for the homeless population for positive and non-positive COVID patients and they will be doing an After Action Review. He asked if those activities will

suffice as completion of their deliverables. Mr. Goshea stated that he will look into this and get back to Mr. Dennis.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that he was unable to attend the last PVCOAD meeting and he has nothing new to report. Mr. Goshea next stated that MRC is going back to having monthly meetings. He reported that a lot of the MRCs seem to be doing supportive work when they can. Ms. Galloway asked how the MRC membership is set up for flu clinics and she also asked about recruitment. Mr. Goshea stated that the MRC workplan is to be submitted and he noted that there are some changes. He reported that if there is a real need, the state is saying they can pull resources without actually engaging the unit leaders. As far as MRC recruitment, his understanding is that the units have had a surplus of people asking to volunteer. Mr. Malochleb noted that Westfield and Western Hampden County MRC just finished providing the meals for the school departments and he is now looking for the next task. He will stay in touch with Joe Rouse about upcoming clinics. Mr. Goshea noted that the MRC is ready and willing to help out but not a lot of health departments have come up with anything yet that fits without exposing the vulnerable populations. He stressed that it's important to try to engage volunteers and keep them engaged.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway stated the HMCC has been busy handling PPE requests for western Massachusetts. She noted that a lot of trainings are coming up and virtual options are being discussed, noting that some trainings are being converted to an interactive online system.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway stated that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) is trapping mosquitos, collecting and sending them for lab analysis. She noted that the PVMCD is not listed separately in the Arbovirus Report but that will change with the next round of testing. Ms. Galloway noted that there have been no positive reports anywhere across the state thus far. She stated that the PVMCD will be meeting in another week or so and she will have more data at that point. Ms. Galloway reported that new towns have joined the PVMCD and they will be on board in the next couple of weeks when they submit their verified documentation. She also noted that PVMCD is still accepting new members.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Ms. Galloway noted that Mr. Nelson had left today's meeting and therefore was not available to report on the WAG. Mr. Goshea stated that the WAG is now doing monthly meetings instead of weekly check-ins. Ms. Galloway also noted that Michael Nelson will be out on paternity leave and Gail Bienvenue will be filling in for him.

At this point, Ms. McCool rejoined the meeting noting that she had been having technical difficulties with Zoom. She asked if she could now talk to the group about a COVID related issue. Ms. McCool stated that last week they received information which they assumed was from a reliable source indicating a positive COVID case only to find out that although the individual said she tested positive she actually had not. Ms. McCool noted that Mr. Goshea helped to get

her in touch with the Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC). She thought perhaps they had missed this but she found out that the test was inconclusive and the individual did not want to retest. Ms. Kramer pointed out that this process involved 3 days of time that wasn't necessary and she underscored that before making an assumption, people need to have all the facts. Ms. Kramer also reported that MAPHN Board President Ruth Mori is meeting with John Welch today with regard to local boards of health being more involved with the CTC.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Goshea reported that LSAC has scheduled a conference call meeting to take place in August.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway reported that WRHSAC is trying to keep moving forward with trainings and communications. Mr. Goshea noted that as regards the NPI projects, there have been discussions about doing isolation quarantine training. He also stated that there is a potential for WRHSAC to use funds for PPE and they will see if they can do a bulk order to try to help supplement. Mr. Goshea asked HCHC members to send him an email by tomorrow with their PPE needs, for now and into the future, and he will submit their requests. He noted that he will need to compile the data by next week and it would be helpful if HCHC members could clearly specify their requests including quantities, descriptions, and item numbers if they have them.

g) MAVEN Report

Ms. Galloway noted that Angela Kramer had to leave early for another meeting however she pointed out that Ms. Kramer had already provided her MAVEN updates.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Petrosky reported that the MHOA voted to cancel the November 2020 MHOA Conference. She stated that they do not yet have a definitive way of moving forward but more information will be provided. Mr. Dennis noted that at the June HCHC meeting, he was asked to share the MEMA working group sheltering list. He stated that he has now received the list from MEMA and he will send it to Mr. Goshea.

7. Other Business

Ms. Galloway asked the group if they would like to meet in August or if they prefer to wait until September. It was decided by consensus that it would be helpful to continue having monthly Zoom meetings even if it's a short meeting. Mr. Dennis stated that he will try to reach out to Mr. Kinney to see if he is available to attend our next Coalition meeting.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no objections, Ms. Galloway adjourned today's July 2, 2020 HCHC Zoom meeting at 11:01 a.m.