



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019**

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

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:01 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:56 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Lisa Cunningham	Public Health Nurse, Chicopee
Soloe Dennis	Deputy Commissioner, Springfield Health & Human Services
Thomas FitzGerald	Health Director, Southwick
Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Beverly Hirschhorn	Director, Board of Health, Longmeadow
Erica Johnson	Principal Planner/Manager, PVPC
Angela Kramer	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow Board of Health
Michael Nelson	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Aimee Petrosky	Health Agent, East Longmeadow
Sherry Petrucci	Public Health Nurse, Agawam Health Department
Deborah Schaier	Public Health Nurse, Holyoke
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Sanitarian, Health Department, Chicopee

GUESTS:

Larry Spencer	Greater Westfield MRC
MRC Coordinator	Greater Westfield MRC

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of Hampden County Health Coalition meeting, Thursday, November 7, 2019
- HCHC FY 19 Financial Statement for the Month of November 2019
- Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) Discussion and Questionnaire

1. Meeting Called to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the December 5, 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 November 7, 2019. There being no comments or questions, Ms. Galloway then called for a motion to

approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 HCHC meeting.

LISA CUNNINGHAM MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 2019 MINUTES; TOM FITZGERALD SECONDED THE MOTION AND THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED THE MOTION WITH TWO MEMBERS, AIMEE PETROSKY AND JEANNE GALLOWAY, ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE.

4. Financial Report

Erica Johnson presented the FY 19 Financial Statement for the month of November 2019 which reflects a balance of \$127,820.99. Ms. Johnson stated that she submitted a budget amendment in November to reduce some staffing costs and it included requests for items that were made by HCHC members. She stated that she will let everyone know the date of the next budget amendment opportunity. After a brief discussion, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the HCHC Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statement for the Month of November 2019.

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

5. Business At Hand

a) PHEP FY20 Workplan & Deliverables Update

As regards the FY20 work plan and deliverables, Mr. Goshea stated that so far everything is on track. He noted that he reached out to Region 3 and to Lisa Jackson about conducting a potential table top exercise for Emerging Infectious Disease and they are working on negotiations to set up a time that will be best for the Coalition sometime in late February or early March 2020. Mr. Goshea then distributed a handout on Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention (NPI) which includes examples of Personal NPIs, Community NPIs and Environmental NPIs. He asked HCHC members to complete the list of questions on the reverse side of the document and to return their answers to him as soon as possible noting that the data needs to be compiled by December 16th. Mr. Goshea pointed out that there is no right or wrong answer. He noted that they are trying to find out what the different perspectives are and then they will try to set up a potential training based on the needs. Mr. Goshea added that he would prefer to receive the information electronically but handwritten answers would be fine as well.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Ms. Spencer stated that Central Hampden County MRC has scheduled two more Open Houses/Trainings. She noted that on January 15th there will be a *Stop the Bleed* training at the Chicopee Public Library and she stated that she will send out flyers with more information. Ms. Spencer noted that there will also be a *Stop the Bleed* training on February 5th at the Baystate Medical Center in Holyoke. In addition, Ms. Spencer reported that they now have

89 volunteers. Ms. Spencer stated that it didn't seem necessary to schedule a December meeting of the MRC Coordinators and she plans to send them a memo about the next meeting. As regards PVCOAD, Ms. Spencer noted that they only meet once each quarter so she did not have an update to report.

At this point, Ms. Johnson pointed out that the MRC contract was structured differently this year. She noted that instead of hiring a consultant, the Hampden County MRC Coordinator position was kept in house at PVPC which has allowed more financial flexibility. Ms. Johnson stated that she sent a contract amendment for MRC to the state. She also officially submitted a draft contract for subcontracts with unit coordinators and she put in a request for supplies for the East Longmeadow unit. Ms. Johnson noted that she had never previously requested anything from the state with MRC funds and hopefully, if approved, she will be able to move money to the units.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC) is planning their annual Full Coalition meeting for the end of March or early May 2020. She also noted that there is an HMCC newsletter that provides news and updates. Ms. Galloway next reported that for some reason there is currently more funding available in the HMCC as well as WRHSAC and there is interest in spending those funds for the good of the disciplines. Ms. Galloway recommended that the Coalition reach out to the HMCC and WRHSAC if there is something that HCHC members would like to do. She suggested that the refrigeration discussion could be brought back up again if it's going to be a regional issue. Ms. Johnson noted that there was a conversation about formalizing a relationship with Pioneer Cold Storage either at their site or via a truck or trailer, although she noted that this would not help with everyday vaccine storage needs. Ms. Hirschhorn felt that it would be helpful to have a regional resource to store extra vaccines for a possible pandemic. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the need for vaccine storage was identified as part of the refrigerator survey.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Petrosky stated that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) recently hired a coordinator who is helping to create a plan for bringing services to Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties and who is willing to talk to Boards of Health or Boards of Selectmen and Town Managers. Ms. Petrosky reported that it was a busy EEE year and she noted that PVMCD is looking to expand services for the next mosquito season. She added that they are working with DPH on surveillance and how to make improvements for next year. Ms. Galloway announced that the next meeting of the PVMCD will take place on December 9th at 2:00 p.m. in Northampton. She noted that if a town has joined and has not yet paid, they will need to do so. She also asked those communities who have not joined, to reach out to the PVMCD to find out how to become a member adding that they will need approval from their elected officials. Ms. Galloway noted that PVMCD now includes 12 member communities and she pointed out that they need to encourage more communities to join so that the PVMCD can be more financially sustainable. Ms. Messer asked if there is a letter that PVMCD could send to the Ludlow Board of Health. Ms. Galloway noted that a letter was sent out previously and it could be updated and sent out again. Ms.

Petrosky stated that \$5,000 provides surveillance as well as response, noting that there would be support if there were to be another EEE outbreak. Ms. Petrosky suggested reaching out to the parents of children who are involved in outdoor evening sports and recreation. She noted that this group might be able to motivate their town's elected officials to join the PVMCD. In response to a question that was raised, Ms. Galloway underscored that mosquito control is about preventing mosquitos from becoming adults and the aim is to be able to avoid any aerial spraying to kill adult mosquitos.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Michael Nelson reported that the WAG recently met via conference call and the only discussion was about the Local State Advisory Committee (LSAC). He explained that this group is made up of representatives to each of the Public Health coalitions as well as state employees. Mr. Nelson stated that LSAC is going through a reinvigoration process and the purpose of the WAG call was to get the 4 western Massachusetts planners on the same page as far as what they envision for LSAC. Mr. Nelson pointed out that most of the LSAC representatives are relatively new and are not aware of the actual purpose of the group, adding that they need to define their purposes and goals.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Nelson noted that there was an LSAC call on December 2nd with just the local representatives which addressed how they want to proceed in order to make LSAC more beneficial for everyone however he noted that he was not on the call so he cannot speak to it. Mr. Nelson also reported that there will be an LSAC meeting on December 16th.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway stated that WRHSAC has significantly more funds and they are trying to figure out how to spend some of it. She noted that she is interested in trying to get more money for Public Health either through Planning or Training and Exercise, or equipment if it can be a regional asset. Ms. Galloway asked HCHC members to let her know if they have any ideas. She noted that the next WRHSAC meeting will be held on December 17th.

g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer reported that there was a case of *Pertussis* as well as a couple of *Measles* scares that were revoked and they also had a *Salmonella* case. Ms. Kramer stated that they are still getting a few tickborne diseases and so far she has had less than 5 cases of the flu. Ms. Kramer noted that her computer was down and not working well and there was also an update to MAVEN which was a little challenging. Ms. Messer asked Ms. Johnson if there are funds for a new computer for Ms. Kramer given that she is having issues with her computer which is outdated. Ms. Johnson stated that she can put a request in the next budget modification. Ms. Messer also mentioned that due to the updates to MAVEN there are a lot of nurses from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses

(MAPHN) who would like a refresher class on MAVEN. She noted that Mr. Dennis had hosted a MAVEN class previously and she asked if he could arrange something. Mr. Dennis agreed to do so.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Mr. Nelson reported that the quarterly WebEOC drill had started and he asked HCHC members to log in as soon as they return to their offices. In response to questions raised about the WebEOC, Mr. Nelson offered to provide a quick WebEOC tutorial immediately following today's HCHC meeting.

7. Other Business

Ms. Hirschhorn asked if any other community is seeing large numbers of pediatric *Pneumonia* of unknown etiology. She stated that there were 18 cases in one Longmeadow middle school. Ms. Hirschhorn then responded to several questions that were raised, including concerns about the issue of vaping, and a brief discussion followed.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business for the Coalition to conduct, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's December 5, 2019 HCHC meeting at 10:56 a.m. AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS DECEMBER 5, 2019 HCHC MEETING; SOLOE DENNIS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

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