



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019**

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

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:05 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 11:50 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
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, Wilbraham, Monson & Hampden
Cheryl Messer	Director of Nurses, Ludlow Board of Health
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:

Natalie Guzmán-Escalera	Student Nurse, Westfield State University
Sarah Moriarty	Gandara Center

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of Hampden County Health Coalition meeting, Thursday, March 7, 2019
- HCHC FY 19 Financial Statement for the Month of March 2019

1. Meeting Called to Order

Jeanne Galloway called the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) to order at 10:05 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 that was held on March 7, 2019. There being no comments or questions, Ms. Galloway then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019 HCHC meeting.

CHERYL MESSER MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2019 MINUTES; LORRI MCCOOL SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED THE MOTION.

4. Financial Report

Erica Johnson presented the FY 19 Financial Statement for the month of March 2019 which she noted reflects a balance of \$88,019.33. After a brief discussion, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the HCHC Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Statement for the Month of March 2019.

AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2019; SOLOE DENNIS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

Ms. Johnson next reported that she submitted a budget amendment to the state and she noted that everything she put forward was approved including medical supplies, office supplies, blankets, backpacks, first aid kits, File of Life cards, laptops and iPads. Ms. Johnson stated that the process for purchasing those items is underway and HCHC members will be notified by PVPC Administrative Assistant Carol Sarno when their items are available. Ms. Johnson also stated that she is now collecting purchase requests for the next budget amendment which she will review on a first-come first-serve basis. She noted that some HCHC members have already sent her their requests. Ms. Johnson then responded to questions about Coalition phones. She explained that she replaces the phones when they break and she noted that two phones are allowed per community. Ms. Galloway reported that when Michael Nelson was at the WAG meeting he went over the results of the recent WebEOC drill and he noted that if the state is paying for emergency phones, the towns are expected to respond to the drills or they will lose their phones. Some HCHC members stated that they had problems with logging in to the drill and a brief discussion followed about the Coalition's response to the drill.

5. Business At Hand

a) Vaping Information

Ms. Galloway introduced Sarah Moriarty, Program Director for the Hampden County Tobacco Free Community Partnership/Gandara Center. Ms. Moriarty then provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled the *New Look of Nicotine Addiction – Talk With Your Kids About the Dangers of Vaping* which included data on local use by high school students and adults, as well as information which compared vaping to other types of tobacco products. Ms. Moriarty noted that that high school use of e-cigarettes is currently higher than all other tobacco products combined.

The presentation included a video, *Juulers against Juul* that was made by youth which provides a powerful message on the dangers of vaping. Ms. Moriarty noted that the video demonstrates that vaping by young people is occurring in epidemic proportions and she explained that *Juul* is currently the most popular e-cigarette on the market. Ms. Moriarty talked about industry tactics and she noted that the tobacco and vaping industries target young people by creating products that are sweet, cheap and easy to access. Ms. Moriarty underscored that e-cigarettes are not safe

for youth, noting that they contain nicotine which is a highly addictive substance that can damage the developing adolescent brain and can also prime the brain for addiction to other substances later in life. She noted that more research is needed regarding long-term health effects. Ms. Moriarty reported that the FDA has announced plans for stricter regulations on e-cigarettes and flavored products typically marketed towards youth.

Following her presentation, Ms. Moriarty responded to several questions raised by the group. Ms. Galloway asked if she could forward today's PowerPoint presentation to Coalition members. Ms. Moriarty agreed and she stated that everyone should feel free to contact her if they have any questions. HCHC members then thanked Ms. Moriarty for her report.

b) Concurrence Vote PHEP FY2020

Ms. Johnson noted that all HCHC members should have received an email from the state regarding FY20 PHEP funding. Ms. Johnson explained that she doesn't have the actual budget numbers but she noted that as in years past she would like HCHC members to vote to concur unless there is a dramatic change in scope or reduction of funds as determined by our Co-chairs. Ms. Galloway noted that the conference call regarding the budget will take place next week and it is expected that the concurrence vote should happen within the 2 weeks following. Ms. Johnson added that HCHC members could arrange to have another meeting in order to vote. Ms. Galloway stated that HCHC could make a motion to vote to concur in anticipation of the outcome of the grant and to allow the Co-chairs to make the decision or we could also vote not to concur.

AIMEE PETROSKY MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION (HCHC) ALLOW THE COALITION'S CO-CHAIRS TO VOTE TO CONCUR WITH THE APPLICATION FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MDPH OPEM) TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) FOR FY2020 PHEP FUNDING, UNLESS THERE IS A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN SCOPE OR REDUCTION OF FUNDS AS DETERMINED BY THE COALITION'S CO-CHAIRS; SOLOE DENNIS SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

Ms. Johnson noted that neither she nor Chris Goshea will be available for the upcoming conference call and she asked HCHC members to let her know if anyone could participate on behalf of the Coalition. She also pointed out that we can rely on our other PHEP planners as well as Michael Nelson to provide any useful information from the conference call. Ms. Johnson stated that after the conference call, Ms. Spencer and Ms. Galloway will decide whether or not the Coalition will concur.

c) Deliverables Update

Ms. Johnson provided an update on behalf of PHEP Planner Chris Goshea who was unable to attend today's HCHC meeting. Ms. Johnson first asked HCHC members to make sure their contact information is up to date. She also

reported that our final EDS exercise took place two weeks ago at Gateway High School so that deliverable has been taken care of. Ms. Johnson also noted that in March, we conducted our Emerging Infectious Disease presentation and she thanked everyone for their participation. Ms. Johnson next reported that Mr. Goshea attended the Preparedness Summit in St. Louis last week which he thought was extremely useful. He also participated with other HCHC members in the Public Health Nursing Clinical Conference. Ms. Johnson reported that the conference was well attended and the feedback indicated that it was worthwhile. Ms. Johnson next stated that there was a call-down exercise on the HHAN. Finally, Ms. Johnson reminded HCHC members that they have until June to update two sections of their EDS Plans which should include the EID section. Ms. Johnson also noted that HCHC members need to provide a copy of their current updated plan and she stated that an electronic version is preferred.

d) PPE Training

Ms. Johnson stated that a small group formed regarding a PPE training and she noted that they wanted to wait until after the EID workshop. She added that there will be an update at the next HCHC meeting.

e) Meeting Date Reschedule July & January

Given that the July HCHC meeting is scheduled to take place on July 4th, Ms. Galloway asked the group if they would like to change the July meeting date or cancel that meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided by consensus that the July 4th meeting would be tentatively moved to Thursday, June 27th, if needed, and it was agreed that a final decision will be made at the June 6th Coalition meeting. Ms. Galloway also asked HCHC members to think about whether or not they would like to reschedule the January 2020 meeting and it was decided that this question will be discussed at a future Coalition meeting.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Tammy Spencer reported that she and Lois Luniewicz attended the PVCOAD meeting in March and she noted that there was a discussion about improving communication amongst the members. Ms. Spencer next reported that on March 21st, Ms. Luniewicz set up a table at the Public Health Nursing Clinical Conference. She also reported that there was a MA Responds drill on March 26th and she noted that on March 29th Jennifer Frenette held a regional call down drill. Ms. Spencer next stated that the first part of the training series *You are the Help Until Help Arrives* took place in Longmeadow on March 28th and she noted that over 20 people attended. Finally, Ms. Spencer reported that she did not know if there will be an MRC meeting this month.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway stated that the Public Health Steering Committee positions are up for renewal. She reported that it was decided at the WAG meeting that she and Allison Eagan would continue for the next round. Ms. Galloway stated that if anyone is interested in being a Public Health representative they must be involved in the HMCC and she noted that there are various subcommittees they can participate in. Ms. Galloway noted that this is not a huge

time commitment other than travel.

c) MCD Update

As regards the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD), Ms. Galloway stated that it has been difficult to find time to meet with the state so there hasn't been much progress since the last meeting. She noted that the PVMCD plans to meet during the upcoming weeks.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Ms. Galloway stated that the WAG group talked about concurrence. They also talked about HMCC representatives as well as the issue of refrigeration which apparently is now a statewide problem. Ms. Galloway also noted that there is a new format for EDS templates.

e) LSAC Update

Ms. Galloway stated that that there was a small LSAC group meeting where they talked about concurrence.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway reported that MEMA has a new director, Samantha Philips, who is from Philadelphia.

g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer reported that cases of the flu are still occurring but she noted that overall it is not as bad as last year. Ms. Kramer stated that she has also had a case of mumps and more than one case of measles that ended up getting revoked. She also stated that she has had a few tickborne diseases.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Galloway stated that WRHSAC will be offering an *Emerging Threats* training on May 8th in Easthampton and she noted that additional information can be found on the WRHSAC website. Ms. Hirschhorn reported that there will be a MHOA training on April 11th in Marlborough regarding safety issues and there will be a MHOA/MDPH Community Sanitation Seminar in Hadley on April 25th. Ms. Petrosky stated that the MHA Annual Conference will be held on May 16th at the Mount IDA UMass Extension. She also reported that there will be a well water training at DPH in Northampton on June 12th and both breakfast and lunch will be provided. Ms. Petrosky noted that space is limited and she offered to email the registration link to HCHC members who are interested in attending.

7. Other Business

Ms. Schaier stated that she and other HCHC members recently attended an immunization seminar in Framingham. She noted that the flu was one of the topics and Ms. Kramer stated that they also talked a great deal about Hepatitis A.

Ms. Johnson noted that several months ago she ordered PPE kits for HCHC members. She pointed out that Ms. Petrosky was not at the Coalition meeting when the kits were distributed so she asked her to stop by Mr. Goshea's

office following today's meeting to pick up a kit for East Longmeadow.

8. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's April 4, 2019 HCHC meeting at 11:50 a.m. AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS APRIL 4, 2019 HCHC MEETING; DEBORAH SCHAIER SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

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