



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION
ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020**

CALLED TO ORDER AT: 10:02 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 11:36 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 Westfield & Montgomery
Thomas Hibert	Director, Board of Health, Longmeadow
Beverly Hirschhorn	Principal Planner/Manager, PVPC
Erica Johnson	Public Health Nurse, Westfield Health Department
Debra Mulvenna	Public Health Nurse, Ludlow
Angela Kramer	Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, MDPH
Michael Nelson	Health Agent, East Longmeadow
Aimee Petrosky	Co-Chair; Health Director, Southwick

GUESTS:

Steve Malochleb Director, Greater Westfield & Western Hampden County MRC

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:

- Agenda
- Minutes of May 7, 2020 Hampden County Health Coalition conference call meeting

1. Meeting Called to Order

The June 4, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Jeanne Galloway.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Galloway welcomed HCHC members and guests and she then took a roll call.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting of the HCHC which was held via conference call on May 7, 2020.

BEVERLY HIRSCHHORN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 7, 2020 MINUTES; SOLOE DENNIS SECONDED THE MOTION AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

4. Financial Report: May 2020

Erica Johnson stated that as of yesterday, HCHC has a balance of \$47,397.83 which she anticipates spending down. Ms. Johnson noted that she had the opportunity to do another budget amendment and she included the requests she had access

to. Ms. Johnson noted that it was not necessary to extend this grant given that HCHC completed the deliverables. She stated that ideally the FY21 grant will be available by July 1st and the budget may include a small increase. She asked HCHC members to send her any supply requests they may have, noting that she would like to build supply requests into the budget in the early stages instead of at the end. Ms. Petrosky asked if HCHC should be thinking about supplies needed for sheltering in a COVID-19 world that may include a natural disaster and she suggested that this could be a topic for the next HCHC meeting. Mr. Dennis stated that he participates on a MEMA sheltering committee which is in the process of identifying equipment that municipalities can purchase and he hopes to share this information with Ms. Johnson. Ms. Hirschhorn asked if there will be funding in the FY21 budget for dispensing sites. Ms. Johnson pointed out that she needs approval for each specific purchase. In response to a question from Mr. Dennis, Ms. Johnson stated that the most recent budget amendment included laptop requests for Springfield and Ludlow, and she used the remainder of funds to request disposable face masks. Regarding the purchase of face masks, Ms. Petrosky recommended the vendor Mantis Graphics in Easthampton and Ms. Spencer suggested Mass Surgical in Holyoke. Ms. Galloway asked HCHC members to email Ms. Johnson if they have links for suppliers.

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

SOLOE DENNIS MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE HCHC FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020; AIMEE PETROSKY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

5. Business At Hand

a) Discussion of Re-Opening Including Camps & Pools

HCHC members first discussed plans to re-open camps. It was noted that the Towns of Agawam and Ludlow may not open, and Mr. Dennis stated that Springfield has not yet made a final decision. Camps that were expected to open included East Longmeadow, West Springfield and Westfield. Ms. Spencer reported that Southwick only has one camp and they will follow the state's recommendations. She noted that one of the only pools in town is utilized by the camp for one-on-one private lessons and they haven't made a decision on this yet. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that she will make sure there is strict conformance in Longmeadow with the new COVID standards as part of infection control. A brief discussion followed about ensuring there is compliance. Ms. Petrosky stated that she will participate in a conversation between Hampshire and Hampden Counties to gather information on the issue of re-opening the camps.

Ms. Johnson reported that the PVPC sent out a survey to health departments in Hampden and Hampshire Counties in relation to COVID-19 enforcement to see if there are ways to provide support and be a greater resource. Ms. Hirschhorn asked if there will be consolidation of the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) with the PVPC in that role. Ms. Johnson explained that when the HCOG disbanded, the PVPC, FRCOG and Berkshire Regional Planning each took on a portion of that work to allow HCOG programs to continue. She noted that the City of Northampton has a role in Hampshire County similar to PVPC as far as Public Health Emergency Preparedness but they also provide additional services. Ms. Johnson noted that because of the COVID funding, Northampton is now providing MAVEN services for

Hampshire County and beyond, including the Town of East Longmeadow, and there may be a role for the PVPC to help with this effort post-COVID funding.

HCHC members then talked about the opening of pools and spray parks and Ms. Galloway stated that guidance should be available in the next couple of days. Ms. Spencer remarked that Southwick's beach remains closed for now. In response to a concern that was raised about swimming holes in unauthorized areas, Ms. Galloway stated that the community is supposed to designate this as a beach or an authorized area. Ms. Spencer stated that they are putting up "no trespassing" signs wherever there is an area that is not an official beach.

b) State Guidance on PPE & Social Distancing

Ms. Hirschhorn stressed the need for state guidance on minimum PPE required for administering flu shots if COVID-19 is circulating or increasing in the fall. Mr. Nelson stated that he will convey that message.

c) Election of HCHC Co-Chairs for FY21

Ms. Galloway noted that she and Tammy Spencer currently serve as HCHC Co-Chairs and she asked if anyone would like to nominate someone else to be Co-Chair for FY21. HCHC members strongly supported moving forward with their current Co-Chairs and Ms. Galloway and Ms. Spencer agreed to continue in those roles.

AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION FOR JEANNE GALLOWAY AND TAMMY SPENCER TO CONTINUE AS HCHC CO-CHAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021; SOLOE DENNIS SECONDED THE MOTION; JEANNE GALLOWAY AND TAMMY SPENCER ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND ALL THE OTHER HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT APPROVED THE MOTION.

Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Galloway and Ms. Spencer for their service to the Hampden County Health Coalition.

d) HMCC Representation

Mr. Nelson reported that everyone is very pleased with the HMCC Public Health representatives that are in place and they plan to continue with Jeanne Galloway and Allison Egan as the Steering Committee members.

e) PHEP FY21 Workplan & Budget Update

Ms. Johnson stated that she is waiting for more information about next year's budget however she noted that it is expected to be largely similar to the last two years with a slight budget increase.

f) PHEP FY20 Workplan & Deliverables Update

Mr. Goshea reported that the Coalition achieved 90% of the workplan. He remarked that HCHC members were supposed to give him their newest updated EDS Plans by the end of June so that he could submit them to the state, however he acknowledged that HCHC members have had extra work related to the pandemic. Mr. Goshea noted that if the EDS plans are not 100% ready, the state has allowed us to extend our workplan and we would have to provide a time line/proposal; or, we could make notes on the workplan indicating what deliverables were not met. Mr. Goshea

stated that if HCHC members would like to send him their EDS plans, he is happy to submit them to the state. However, for those who are unable to, he will make a notation indicating that we will move that to next year. Ms. Galloway asked Mr. Goshea to include a notation that West Springfield is expecting their EDS Plan to be EID compliant going forward but there needs to be larger modifications than she has time to work on right now. Mr. Goshea stated he will insert that notation and if anyone else has specific notes, he would be happy to insert them.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Dennis, Mr. Goshea explained that the timelines for the workplan had been set up pre-COVID. He noted that all of the deliverables have been accomplished except for submitting the EDS Plans and he did not recommend extending our workplan to send in EDS Plans if they are not ready. Ms. Johnson suggested adding a blanket statement in our final report that HCHC is in the process of assessing the needs of our EDS sites in relation to COVID-19 and that the EDS Plans will be updated as guidance becomes available. Mr. Goshea underscored that he will make it clear in the notations that the reason we did not accomplish this goal is because there is much to include due to COVID. Mr. Nelson felt there is understanding from all levels that COVID is the highest priority and he agreed that there is no point in doing something just to check off the box as opposed to doing it correctly. Mr. Goshea noted that HCHC members have more than enough to take care of due to COVID-19. He stated that HCHC is doing a phenomenal job and it would be good to start fresh this year. Mr. Dennis then thanked Mr. Goshea for his work. Ms. Spencer asked if HCHC should be expecting any EDS guidance for COVID protocols for standing up an EDS in case a vaccine does show up. Mr. Nelson expected that we will likely be looking at mass vaccinations.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that he was unable to attend PVCOAD's virtual meeting last week so he did not have any updates to report. He next stated that the MRC has been holding weekly calls and he noted that in general there have not yet been a lot of assignments. Mr. Goshea stated that there was a discussion at the recent MAG meeting about the MRC funding and he noted that they still haven't seen a workplan, deliverables or budget.

At this point, Ms. Galloway stated that she would like to re-arrange today's agenda items to accommodate Angela Kramer who will need to leave early. Ms. Galloway then moved to take up agenda item 6 (g) MAVEN Report.

(g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer stated that she has been working diligently at home since the Ludlow Town Hall was closed and she noted that she has also been doing some contact tracing. In addition, as a precautionary backup, she has been preparing a day sheet for MAVEN which she submitted to Ludlow's health agent as documentation of what was done. As a consequence of COVID-19, Ms. Kramer stated that the towns now have a better understanding about what she does and they appreciate the value of MAVEN. She felt that the towns would not refuse if asked to contribute to MAVEN. Ms. Johnson noted that HCHC has had many discussions about the need to have the towns buy in to this service, however she pointed out that PVPC has been able to contract with the Town of Ludlow directly and through that small amount of grant money, Angela Kramer has been able to serve a lot of towns which has worked out well. She noted that this has

been good for the towns and for the PVPC since we can meet our grant deliverables every year. Ms. Johnson stated that Hampshire County has many communities that are not typically on MAVEN and PVPC has been thinking about how to bring them on. She remarked that due to COVID, we seem to be at a turning point where communities see the value of the MAVEN services. Ms. Johnson stated that PVPC is thinking about how to best continue this service throughout the region for the towns that need it. She commented that she sees this as a potential consultant position and she noted that PVPC's survey is to find out what is needed by the communities.

Ms. Galloway then moved to take up agenda item 6 (b) HMCC Update.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway stated that the HMCC has been meeting regularly and Mark Maloni is still sending out HMCC updates. She noted that the full coalition meeting that was scheduled for April will now perhaps be a virtual meeting in the fall. Ms. Galloway stated that the HMCC Duty Officers are handling supplies for all the HMCC partners as well as others including dentists and oral surgeons. Ms. Hirschhorn remarked that the HMCC came through with PPE for the Leavitt Family Jewish Nursing Home in Longmeadow which had many cases of COVID and several deaths.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD) set our first traps this week. She noted that the next meeting will take place virtually on Monday, June 8th at 2:00 p.m. and the agenda should be available on the state website. Ms. Petrosky also reported that Superintendent Chris Craig was approved for his pesticide applicators license which will allow PVMCD to move forward with a more robust mosquito control.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Michael Nelson stated that the WAG has been meeting on a weekly basis and keeping each other apprised of their COVID related activities.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Nelson stated that he had no updates on LSAC.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway reported that various WRHSAC projects have shifted to an online format. She noted that the Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) program has been proliferating and people are beginning to understand it more. Ms. Galloway also reported that there was a conversation at this week's Pan Flu Subcommittee meeting regarding racism and working on social inequities. She stated that this is a larger issue that will be moved to the full council because it needs to fold into some of the other subcommittees as well. Ms. Galloway noted that part of the discussion is dovetailing into conversations around *harm reduction* and trying to normalize that phrase so that it is no longer associated with substance use given that we consider harm reduction in just about everything that we do. Ms. Galloway stated that Mark Maloni is working on some infographics noting that he put together a helpful document on harm

reduction for COVID-19 that will be available soon. Ms. Hirschhorn suggested creating a document specifically for senior citizens to clarify what they should be doing regarding COVID-19.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Petrosky announced that the MEHA Annual Conference will be a 2 hour Zoom meeting which will include CEUs and they expect to announce the date in the next week or so. Ms. Petrosky also stated that August is the deadline to make a decision about having an in-person MHOA Conference, noting that a big draw of the conference is getting together, networking and meeting vendors. Ms. Spencer reported that there will be a June 11th virtual Municipal Tobacco Control Conference and she noted that registration went out for that event. She also noted that there will be a MDPH and MDAR EEE planning event for local Boards of Health on June 10th.

7. Other Business

There was a brief discussion about reopening restaurants including outdoor food permits.

8. Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's June 4, 2020 HCHC Zoom meeting at 11:36 a.m. SOLOE DENNIS MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THIS JUNE 4, 2020 HCHC MEETING; AIMEE PETROSKY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MOTION.

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