



**MINUTES OF HAMPDEN COUNTY HEALTH COALITION  
ZOOM MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020**

**CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 10:05 a.m.  
**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 11:17 a.m.

**ATTENDEES:**

Jeanne Galloway	Co-Chair; Health Director, West Springfield
Christopher Goshea	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, PVPC
Thomas Hibert	Westfield & Montgomery
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
Joe Rouse	Director of Public Health, Westfield; Health Agent, Russell
Tammy Spencer	Co-Chair; Health Director, Southwick

**GUESTS:**

Joshua Garcia	Town Administrator, Blandford
Sandy Table	Registered Nurse, Ludlow
Marianne Moura	Registered Nurse, Ludlow
Lyn Simmons	Town Manager, Longmeadow
Jhana Wallace	Care Resource Coordinator/Manager, Community Tracing Collaborative
Lauren Ward	DPH Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Region 5

**DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING:**

- Agenda
- Minutes of August 6, 2020 Hampden County Health Coalition Zoom meeting

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

The September 3, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Hampden County Health Coalition (HCHC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Jeanne Galloway.

**2. Welcome & Attendance**

Ms. Galloway took roll call and the following communities responded that they were in attendance: Agawam; East Longmeadow; Longmeadow; Ludlow; Montgomery; Russell; Southwick; West Springfield; Westfield. Ms. Galloway also noted that attendees included Michael Nelson from MDPH as well as Erica Johnson, Christopher Goshea and Lynn Shell from the PVPC. Guests included Joshua Garcia, Sandy Table, Marianne Moura, Lyn Simmons, Jhana Wallace and Lauren Ward. Michael Nelson noted that Ms. Ward is the new DPH Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Region 5.

Ms. Galloway stated that Jhana Wallace is here today to talk about the Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC). She explained that Ms. Wallace will need to leave early therefore the agenda items will be rearranged so that the first item to be addressed is 5 (b) Contact Tracing & Quarantine.

Ms. Wallace stated that the CTC involves monitoring people who are in quarantine and isolation, and she explained that the Care Resource Coordination Program helps to provide people with the resources needed in order to stay in quarantine and isolation. She noted that resources are a lot scarcer in the western part of the state, adding that their staff can share the information that they are identifying around resource gaps in service. Ms. Galloway asked how many towns in Hampden County are working with the CTC. Ms. Wallace believed that almost all the towns are involved although she noted that a few do their own tracing. In response to a question from Ms. Messer, Ms. Wallace stated that she didn't know if the CTC is equipped to work with K-12 schools but she will confirm and let Ms. Messer know.

Ms. Petrosky stated that we are all a little uneasy about using the CTC due to compatibility issues that are making it somewhat challenging during a very chaotic time. However she noted that she attended a meeting yesterday where Ms. Wallace presented a simple process that she felt the HCHC will find useful and she asked Ms. Wallace to explain how HCHC members would refer someone to the Care Resource Coordination Program. Ms. Wallace stated that they have a process where health departments and institutions of higher education can bypass the tracing process without using MAVEN, noting that they would need to fill out an online intake form that goes directly to her. The Care Resource Coordination Program would then reach out to people in the community who need resources as they would for someone who was sent to them internally via the tracing team. Ms. Wallace stated that she can send preliminary information about that process to the HCHC to share. Ms. Galloway suggested sending the information to Chris Goshea or Erica Johnson who could then forward to the group. Ms. Wallace stated that once the process is up and running she will include the HCHC as part of their outreach and she offered to come back and walk HCHC members through the process.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 HCHC meeting which was held via Zoom.

AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 6, 2020 MINUTES; ANGELA KRAMER SECONDED THE MOTION; THERE BEING NO COMMENTS, OBJECTIONS OR ABSTENSIONS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT.

### 4. Financial Report: August 2020

Erica Johnson reported that at the end of June there was a PHEP balance of \$4,365.73 which was returned to FRCOG. Ms. Johnson noted that we recently received the FY21 funds and we have made one payment of approximately \$1,000 for our phone bill. Ms. Johnson then talked about some adjustments she made in the FY21 budget including a reduction in the travel/training budget which allowed her to increase the supply budget. She stated that hopefully by making reductions at the beginning instead of the end of the year, she will have a more realistic view of how much funds are available and how we can use those funds, noting that she does not like having to return unspent funds.

Ms. Johnson also stated that the budget includes a contract with Ludlow for MAVEN services but she has not sent it out given that COVID has changed the nature of Angela Kramer's work. Ms. Johnson stated that HCHC needs to have a conversation about what our expectations are around MAVEN noting that she would like to continue using the PHEP money to cover all the towns that can't provide MAVEN services but she did not know what that would look like in the

coming months. Ms. Johnson expressed her appreciation to Ms. Kramer for providing MAVEN services for so many towns, which involves a tremendous amount of work, adding that she is grateful to the Town of Ludlow for allowing her to do this work. Ms. Johnson stated that we need to think about what we can realistically do under this contract with existing staff and existing funds. Ms. Galloway suggested forming a subcommittee to help brainstorm. Chris Goshea and Angela Kramer offered to participate. Ms. Kramer stated that one option is to look at the towns that now have the resources to provide MAVEN services themselves which may help to ease the burden. Mr. Garcia noted that due to COVID, small towns have been able to see how important MAVEN reporting is and he agreed that this is an opportune moment to convene and have conversations about how small towns can take this more seriously. Ms. Johnson stated that PVPC recently hosted a roundtable discussion for both Hampden and Hampshire Counties. She noted that Hampshire County was able to provide MAVEN services for a while but they can no longer do that and PVPC is trying to figure out how to best fill some gaps.

At this point, Ms. Galloway asked if the group will need to vote on the financial report. Ms. Johnson noted that her report was mainly informational and she did not have an itemized budget to review today. Ms. Galloway stated that the financial report will be voted on at the next HCHC meeting.

## 5. Business At Hand

### a) Contact Tracing & Quarantine – Partners in Health

This item was addressed at the beginning of today's meeting.

### b) Seasonal Flu Clinics

Ms. Galloway suggested that the group could coordinate schedules for flu clinics so they are not all being held at the same time. Mr. Goshea asked HCHC members to let him know if they have any clinic dates and he will post them on the HCHC Google calendar. Ms. Galloway reported that West Springfield will be doing drive-through clinics on September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. primarily for West Springfield residents over the age of nine. She stated that they are working with CVS and they are still hoping for some MRC assistance. Ms. Spencer stated that Southwick is having their first senior flu clinic on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Messer stated that Ludlow is planning to have a drive-through clinic in October. They will first do homebound patients which will happen at their door so they don't have to enter the home and they will pre-register them by phone. Ms. Petrosky stated that they have not yet set a date but they are working with CVS and Walgreens to see who can provide the most availability. She noted that they are running their EDS as a drive-through which ideally will start during the first week in October. Ms. Petrosky stated that people can pre-register and she felt that the registration program will keep the numbers manageable. In response to a question from Ms. Galloway, Ms. Petrosky stated that she will find out the name of their registration software and she will provide that information in today's Zoom Chat Section.

Ms. Johnson noted that a number of people have asked about using PHEP funds for purchases related to flu clinics. She stated that HCHC members can use PHEP funds but she pointed out that it will likely take over 3 months before she can move those requests forward. She noted however that almost all HCHC members have COVID funds remaining so she encouraged them to utilize those resources for expenses related to flu clinics and future clinics for COVID.

c) PHEP Planner Highlights & Updates

Mr. Goshea noted that the state is requiring rotation of supplies this year, so if anyone is looking for PPE they need to get a rotation agreement in place. He stated that he reached out to Baystate and Holyoke Hospital to see if they might be interested in a PPE rotation program. Ms. Johnson recommended that HCHC members purchase PPE with their COVID funds. As regards flu clinics, Mr. Goshea stated that a lot of HCHC members are looking at using a drive-through EDS. He noted that the Town of Deerfield sent out their large and small EDS plans which are shared on Google Drive. In addition, Mark Maloney from HMCC mentioned that Franklin County is going through planning and revamping those plans and trying to put an annex into their EDS plans. Mr. Goshea stated that Mr. Maloney gave him a draft format of what they have now which is also shared on the Google Drive noting that HCHC members should feel free to use it and adapt anything they want. He encouraged them to provide feedback about what works and what doesn't.

Mr. Goshea noted that the PVPC held a meeting last week for Hampden and Hampshire Counties. He stated that they are looking into finding out what the needs are and he noted that MAVEN took more of a backseat than anticipated. Mr. Goshea stated that we want to make sure MAVEN is not dropped off the radar given that it's a requirement for COVID-19 funding and PHEP funds.

Mr. Goshea next reported that the HMCC will be offering a funding opportunity through the state for flu clinics that would be retroactive to either July 1<sup>st</sup> or September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Nelson reported that the funding amounts range from \$500 up to a few thousand dollars depending on the funding formula which is based on population. He stated that it is his understanding that any communities who participated last year in the state's flu vaccine are eligible. He noted that there is a small work plan and budget which is a one-page document explaining how the money will be used and that will need to be filled out and sent back to FRCOG.

6. News and Updates

a) MRC & PVCOAD Updates

Mr. Goshea stated that MRC did not have a meeting last month but they plan to have one next week. He noted that if any HCHC members need an MRC volunteer for their flu clinics or if they have any other needs, he would be happy to send out their request. Mr. Goshea noted that he did not have a PVCOAD update.

b) HMCC Update

Ms. Galloway reported that the HMCC is finished with their PPE COVID response activities and there have been discussions about the funding opportunity that was just announced by Mr. Goshea and Mr. Nelson.

c) MCD Update

Ms. Galloway noted that the eastern part of Hampden County is on an elevated risk level for EEE and she reported that EEE and West Nile Virus have been found in mosquitoes throughout the state. Ms. Galloway remarked that this is something that schools and sports groups need to keep in mind so that they schedule their games to end before dark.

d) Western MA Public Health Advisory Group (WAG)

Mr. Goshea reported that the WAG discussed the EDS trailer that the Pan Flu Subcommittee is interested in purchasing and he noted that a request went out to see if anyone in Hampden County would want to house the trailer. He believed that as of now it will be stored in Northampton. Ms. Galloway noted that western Massachusetts should have a Public Health trailer in every county. She asked if a community in Hampden County could host one of the trailers and take on the storage, insurance and maintenance costs. In response to a question from Ms. Petrosky, Ms. Galloway stated that her understanding is that Hampshire County uses PHEP funds to cover those costs. Mr. Nelson agreed noting that their trailer maintenance cost is roughly about \$1,000 a year. Ms. Petrosky stated that she could ask the East Longmeadow Fire Department if it would be possible to house the trailer with their emergency trailers. Ms. Galloway noted that there will need to be a written agreement to host, store, maintain and insure the trailer and Ms. Petrosky asked if Mr. Goshea could provide her with a copy of that agreement. Mr. Goshea stated that he could request that information from HMCC Program Manager Tracy Rogers. Ms. Galloway noted that there is also an agreement for use and maintenance and she believed that Kelly Constantine from Northampton's Health Department could provide copies of that agreement.

e) LSAC Update

Mr. Nelson stated he believes that there hasn't been any LSAC activity for several months.

f) WRHSAC Updates

Ms. Galloway stated that WRHSAC is going to try to have some trainings and she noted that they have some Resiliency and Wellbeing apps and resources for use by First Responders and Public Health. She added that Mark Maloney will be sending out a newsletter with information on all the trainings. She noted that they were going to be in person but now they are trying to convert to online formats.

g) MAVEN Report

Angela Kramer reported that she has seen more tickborne illnesses and they are still seeing cases of COVID but she noted that everything is going well and it is not overwhelming.

h) Upcoming Events, Trainings & Exercises

Ms. Spencer reported that an MHOA tobacco training, *Why Massachusetts Leads the Country in Tobacco Control*, takes place September 17<sup>th</sup> and has 2 contact hours. Ms. Petrosky also noted that the MHOA's annual fall conference will take place remotely and she noted that the logistics are still being worked out. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that the fee is \$100 for the two days.

7. Other Business

In response to a question from Ms. Hirschhorn about flu clinics, Ms. Petrosky and Ms. Messer stated that their towns will only be drive-through. Ms. Galloway noted that Mr. Goshea is posting the flu clinic information on a shared drive. Mr. Goshea then asked HCHC members to email him their dates so that he can copy/paste into the calendar. A discussion followed about whether or not communities are planning to cancel Halloween trick-or-treating. Ms. Spencer stated that instead of a ban, they are thinking about having a drive-through event with gloves and masks where kids can pick up some

candy. Ms. Hirschhorn stated that she was approached by a parent group about the idea of having a fun house that people could drive through and then someone would hand them a bag of candy. She pointed out that if Halloween needs to be cancelled, it wouldn't be the first time we cancelled per order of the police.

At this point there was a brief discussion about high school sports and the new Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) regulations that had just been released. Ms. Petrosky stated that she needs to present to the school committee and she asked HCHC members if everyone agrees that the gathering size for outdoor events also applies to high school sporting events. Ms. Galloway stated that this is what is stated in the sports guidance. There was also a discussion about contact tracing and quarantine for students participating in contact practices. In response to a question from Ms. Petrosky, Ms. Messer recommended sending any specific questions to Ron O'Connor at MDPH and she noted that Mike Coughlin will send a written response. She stated that Ms. Petrosky will then have an answer in writing from the state that she can present to the school committee.

At this point, Mr. Goshea reported that he received an email from Tracy Rogers letting him know that the EDS trailer is actually going to Pittsfield, not Northampton. Ms. Galloway stated that there will be another round of funding so there may be an opportunity for another trailer. Ms. Hirschhorn suggested getting a copy of the sample agreement language to look over in case any communities are interested. Mr. Goshea stated that he will share that information with the group.

8. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Galloway called for a motion to adjourn today's September 3, 2020 HCHC Zoom meeting at 11:17 a.m.

AIMEE PETROSKY MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 HCHC ZOOM MEETING, BEVERLY HIRSCHHORN SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THERE BEING NO OBJECTIONS THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ALL THE HCHC MEMBERS PRESENT.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Shell, Administrative Assistant 1 Specialist, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission