

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023

2:00-3:15 pm

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Laura DelleChiaie	Director	Beverly
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Frank Giacalone	Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
MJ Alexander	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Norris Guscott	Coordinator	Lynn
Andrew Petty	Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
John Coulon	Director	Nahant
Sharon Cameron	Director	Peabody
Chassea Robinson	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
David Greenbaum	Director	Salem
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Laura Nash	Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Hayden Fitch	Sanitarian	NSPHC
Katie Herrera	Supervisor	WeCare / CTC

Staffing Updates

- Hayden Fitch started as the new Regional Sanitarian, and Terry Kennedy started as the Regional Field Trainer for Food. The positions for the Social Worker, Community Health Worker, part-time Public Health Nurse, and part-time Regional Field Training Hub Coordinator have been posted: salemma.gov/jobs.

WeCare Program Updates

- Laura and Katie co-presented an overview of the WeCare program activities from July through November 2023. Most promotion has been through flyers distributed through Meals on Wheels participants; over 700 were sent out. Judith offered to share the contact information for the Fairweather Apartments point person, as they work across several NSPHC communities. The turnaround time for the initial call after a referral is made is typically under 48 hours.

Epidemiology and Regional Clinics Updates

- Massachusetts currently has a 13.7% vaccination rate for COVID-19. There has been less demand compared to the flu vaccine. For the regional clinics, 114 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered so far, and about 1200 flu vaccines. The most popular responses for where individuals heard about the clinic were: 1. senior center staff/newsletter, 2. health department or family/friends, and 3. social media.
- Lynn is hosting a COVID-19 clinic on Monday, December 11th, through DPH's mobile vaccination clinic.
- As long as funds remain after the last vaccination clinic, the group will be able to order public health apparel through the NCOA grant; a portion is available for administrative use and not restricted to clinic supplies, so directors may order as well.

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IMPACT Melanoma

- Based on feedback from the evaluation IMPACT Melanoma conducted with the municipalities, they offered the possibility of switching to chemical sunscreen since there were several concerns about the mineral sunscreen. They used the sport sunscreen this summer during a project with Harvard, and it was well-received.

FY24 Work Plan Review

- Some components of the FY24 work plan have been delayed due to the contract amendment process. The IMA is almost fully executed; we are waiting on two municipalities' signatures. Positions have been posted for the social worker, community health worker, and part-time public health nurse. The inspection software initiation is underway for communities who opted into Relavent Systems. During the December meeting, Lynn will present their pilot rodent mitigation program, which can serve as a starting point for a regional strategy. The group discussed potential Title V contractors for the group and agreed it makes sense to have a primary and backup. Potential contractors include Dan Ottenheimer, John Coulon, and Peter Mirrandy.

PHAB Accreditation

- Several group members expressed interest in pursuing accreditation by Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and potentially incorporating this into the FY25 PHE workplan. There was a seminar at the recent MHOA conference that recommended using the PHE infrastructure for this. The benefits of accreditation are that it can open more opportunities for grant funding and acknowledge the standards that health departments are meeting. The group agreed that it would be essential to have a consensus if this is included in the FY25 work plan, as it will include a significant cost and be time-consuming, even with the help of a consultant. The current fee schedule is available at <https://phaboard.org/wp-content/uploads/Version-2022-Fee-Schedule.pdf>. The group will schedule a working group meeting after the holidays for anyone interested in discussing the requirements and logistics in more depth.