

# North Shore Public Health Collaborative

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19th, 2024

2:00-3:45pm

### Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Laura Dellechiaie	Director	Beverly
Frank Giacalone	Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
John Coulon	Director	Nahant
Andrew Petty	Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Sharon Cameron	Director	Peabody
Chassea Robinson	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Suzanne Darmody	Public Health Nurse	Salem
David Greenbaum	Director	Salem
Jeff Vaughn	Director	Swampscott
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Laura Nash	Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Hayden Fitch	Sanitarian	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Training Hub Coordinator	Northeast Training Hub
Terry Kennedy	Regional Trainer – Food	Northeast Training Hub

### PHE and Training Hub Updates

- There is a new Training Hub page on the regional website ([northshorepublichealth.com/northeastpublichealthtraininghub](http://northshorepublichealth.com/northeastpublichealthtraininghub)). This includes information about MDPH performance standards, training, and resources. Terry proposed bringing all the inspectors across NSPHC together for in-person trainings. Training topics would be informed by what Terry sees while going out with inspectors; for example, a risk-based assessment. Terry is also available for one-on-one coaching, which people can sign up for through the website. The group is interested in the training opportunities, and asked if Terry would be able to hold food safety certification classes.
- The group is in the process of hiring several positions. A second Regional Sanitarian is starting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Regional Trainer for Housing accepted the job offer. Second-round Community Health Worker interviews were recently conducted. An offer was made to a Public Health Nurse candidate, but the candidate declined it. Given the small number of applications for the second full-time PHN position, the group discussed the potential of hiring a second Community Health Worker due to the number of highly qualified candidates but decided that is not what the collaborative needs at this time. If hiring remains a challenge, the group may discuss changes to the second full-time PHN position. The group voted to hold the first hybrid meeting in January.

### Workplan and Budget Updates

- The group reviewed a presentation detailing the workplan and budget updates. Budget updates included a review of spending to date in each budget category. The workplan updates included a summary of the previous month's working groups related to environmental health and infectious disease. Updates also included a summary of activities shared services staff have done for specific communities. The group also reviewed the online tool Box, which is where collaborative documents will be accessible to all collaborative members. Kendra

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shared the results from the Employee Satisfaction Survey she conducted. The survey was sent to 43 people, and 23 completed the survey. The group discussed the results and areas where they'd like to learn more, such as what contributes to job dissatisfaction for some employees and how different communities approach hybrid schedules. The group is interested in conflict resolution and de-escalation training.

### Epidemiology Updates

- Laura presented information about recent infectious disease trends. COVID-19 cases nationwide are slowly increasing. Local wastewater data suggests that cases in our area are down from the initial summer wave but have stagnated. The CDC advises anyone 6 months of age or older to receive an updated vaccine. For EEE in Massachusetts this year, there have been 96 positive mosquito samples, four human cases, and two animal cases. For West Nile Virus in Massachusetts this year, there have been 322 positive mosquito samples and eleven human cases.

### Opioid Settlement Funds

- Swampscott has hired a contractor for 15 hours per week who has extensive experience in the substance use disorder field. Salem was approved to hire a part-time opioid outreach specialist. Kendra has a list summarizing how each NSPHC community is planning to use its funds. Kendra visited Healthy Streets in Lynn to talk to people directly impacted by the opioid epidemic about how they feel funds should be used. These included resources to pick up needles, sober groups, gyms, a food truck, phones, employment programs, housing, places to receive mail, help paying for detox, and safe spaces to spend time. Danvers was accepted into the Community Naloxone Program and will be able to order through them shortly.

### Community Updates

- Peabody put out an RFP for behavioral health support groups with leftover contract tracing funds. There were no applicants, so the department was approved to negotiate directly with an agency that expressed interest, Elliot Human Services. Once a contract is in place, they will be able to meet with the communities to discuss their needs.