**Region 3D North Shore Cape Ann Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition**

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Via Zoom Conferencing

https://zoom.us/j/97797113534

Meeting ID: 977 9711 3534

Audio Call In – 1-646-876-9923

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

1:30PM - 3:30PM

**Voting Members in Attendance (Virtual):**

David Greenbaum, Co-Chair Salem Health Department

Bill Burke Beverly Health Department

Frank Giacalone, Judith Ryan Danvers Health Department

Erin Kirchner Essex Health Department

Rachel Lee Hamilton Health Department

M.J. Duffy-Alexander, Michele Desmarais Lynn Health Department

Max Schenk Gloucester Health Department

Pamela Crehan Manchester-by-the-Sea Health Department

Deborah Murphy, John Coulon Nahant Health Department

Sharon Cameron Peabody Health Department

Suzanne Darmody Salem Health Department

Teresa Riley-Singh Saugus Health Department

Jeff Vaughan, Neia Illingworth Swampscott Health Department

Maribeth Ting Wenham Health Department

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance (Virtual):**

Karen Contador BME

Beth Robert HMCC/MAPC

Liisa Jackson MRC Coordinator

Brad Downey MAPC

Brian Luther MAPC

**Voting Members Absent:**

Teresa Kirsch Beverly Health Department

Kellie Keenan Essex Health Department

Dennis Palazzo Hamilton Health Department

Elaine D’Agostino, Jennifer Almonte Lynn Health Department

Ellen Lufkin, Bobbie Cody Manchester Health Department

Andrew Petty, Tracy Giarla Marblehead Health Department

Antonio Barletta Nahant Health Department

Chassea Robinson Peabody & Rockport Health Departments

Leslie Whelan Rockport Health Department

John Fralick Saugus Health Department

Greg Bernard, Andrew Ting Wenham Health Department

**The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

* Coalition Meeting Agenda for January 26th, 2022
* Coalition Meeting Minutes from December 22nd, 2021

**Call to Order**

* In absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair David Greenbaum called the meeting to order at 1:32pm

**Welcome & Introductions/Attendance Roll Call**

* Mr. Greenbaum welcomed the today’s meeting.
* Mr. Luther took roll and noted attendance.

**Minutes from December 22, 2021 Meeting**

* Motion put forth by Mr. Schenk to approve the draft minutes for the November 24th meeting as submitted. Ms. Ting seconded.
  + Beverly, Gloucester, Hamilton, Lynn, Manchester, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, and Wenham voted to approve. Danvers, Essex, Nahant and Peabody abstained. Motion approved.

**MDPH/OPEM Update**

* Ms. Balbi provided the MDPH/OPEM update.
* The WebEOC drill conducted on Thursday, January 13th was completed correctly by 8 towns. 2 towns posted in an incorrect category.
* The CDC has posted the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the PHEP grant.
  + The first discussion with LSAC member will be February 2nd and members will look at deliverables.
  + Funding amount they didn’t put an amount. Currently using level funding.
  + Once LSAC approves Concurrence meeting dates will be known in next week.
* After Action Conferences are occurring across the region. Region 3C is ongoing now, 2 others soon.
* COVID has caused role shift at DPH.
* MDPH/OPEM has begun preparation for this weekend’s coastal storm.

**Budget Discussion**

* Mr. Downey provided a budget/purchasing update.
* The 2nd iPad distribution event was a success, and all communities now have their 2nd iPads. Any communities experiencing issues with their FirstNet devices or service should contact the coordinators.
* Inventories were due to coordinators on the 24th. Any community that has yet to submit their inventory should do so as soon as possible and reach out to coordinators with questions. Coordinators will follow up following the meeting.
* Per last months discussion, the executive committee has moved to purchase 10 clocks for each community and then use the remaining funding to purchase traffic cones. The clocks are anticipated to cost approximately $3,300.00 allowing for roughly $5,600.00 to be spent on cones.

**PHEP Coordinator Update**

* Mr. Luther provided the PHEP Coalition Coordinator update.
* Q2 Workplan was passed along to the HMCC to be submitted to DPH.
* The coordinators are working on updating the 24/7 contact list.
* Next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2022.

**PHEP Planner Update**

* Ms. Contador gave the Planner update.
* A report from the AAR should be ready to review in March. Currently they are still hosting conferences and in the process of compiling information for a comprehensive review.
* Reminded towns that BME is there for EDS updates.

**HMCC/MAPC Update**

* Ms. Robert provided the HMCC/MAPC update.
* The HMCC has been working with hospitals daily regarding capacity and capability. Across Region 3, hospital needs have not been growing and then number of staff out is decreasing. Currently there is no positive trend, which is an improvement from the situation in the previous weeks.
  + Mr. Vaughan suggested local public health should receive information from hospitals to assist with public outreach and support for preventative measures.
  + Currently hospitals report into a survey every day at 10am. The state collates that data and its shared to the HMCC to helps manage capacity. The reports are internal and not available for local health.
  + Ms. Balbi stated there is hospital capacity information available online and will pass along a link.
  + There was a discussion on the determining factors to end mask mandates. Hospital data and information would be helpful.
* The region is starting to see hospital needs level out. For a while there was drastic increase in needs. Less staff time out. The National Guard is still helping with non-essential duties.
* The HMCC is currently working on purchases for Region 3D.
* The HMCC is planning a Q3 HMCC meeting that will incorporate best practices with an EMS response perspective.

**MRC Update**

* Ms. Liisa Jackson provided the MRC update.
* Volunteers are continuing to show up and assist with local public health clinics and testing.
* Any needs for volunteers should be relayed to Liisa and she can assist in matching up volunteers. Liisa can also be contacted for badges.

**COVID 19 Discussion/Community Updates**

* Mr. Burke reported for Beverly. Beverly has an expiring mask mandate on February 2nd. Beverly has a new inspector that is in the process of being trained. Bill noted that his first meeting for the mask mandate was overrun by anti-mask attendees. But one of the positives of that meeting was that many people saw it and helped town admin understand the things that have been going through.
* Ms. Ryan reported an update for Danvers. The current mask mandate approved and revisited by the Board of Health on a monthly basis. Danvers did not purchase any test kits and the schools will be switching to at-home testing.
  + Frank Giacalone reported that his previous post in Newburyport purchased a pallet of test kits and provided them to senior housing and other places. Working to get acclimated with Danvers.
* Ms. Lee reported for Essex. Rachel noted that cases have peaked. Essex still has a mask mandate in place and holds a vaccine clinic every Thursday but may move to every other week. Pediatric clinics every 3 weeks.
* Mr. Schenk reported for Gloucester. Gloucester also has a month-by-month mask mandate. Is using wastewater numbers as another measure for determining mandates. Conducting a clinic at a Portuguese church which has been seen as a safe forum. Gloucester has distributed 4,700 at-home test kits to low-income housing and don’t intend to purchase any more. Currently part time nurses have been working extra hours but has posted
* Ms. Lee reported for Hamilton. Cases are still high but coming down. Hamilton still has a mask mandate and will continue to emphasize usage. Hamilton also purchased testing kits and residents can purchase them at cost.
* Ms. Almonte and Ms. Duffy-Alexander reported for Lynn. Cases are still high but coming down. Has assistance for contact tracing, but not doing full investigations. Has a mask mandate. Still conducting multiple clinics per week and has seen an uptick in first doses. The mayor’s office is doing a COVID-19 forum with the community. The schools are moving to once a week antigen testing, but will continue to do symptomatic testing.
* Ms. Crehan reported for Manchester. Cases were up in December but are starting to decline. Still contact tracing but received help. BOH is reviewing mask mandates based on percent positivity and hospital rates. High vaccination rates, even in lower age groups. Purchased roughly 1,500 test kits and distributed to low income, businesses, and restaurants.
* Ms. Murphy reported for Nahant. Followed case trends of everyone else. 146 cases for the month of January. Stopping the test and stay program and doing pool testing. Helping with Lynn vaccine clinics which are open to Nahant residents. Over 84% of age 75+ has a booster. BOH meets every other Wednesday, has a mask mandate and no discussion to lift as of now. 2 nurses conducting contact tracing and able reach out once to positive cases. Mr. Coulon added that Nahant has a new Council on Aging director which takes time. School Committee voted to start meeting in person.
* Ms. Cameron reported for Peabody. Has 3 contact tracers and a full-time care resource coordinator as part of the CTC grant. Distributed test kits to low-income residents. Today is the last vaccine clinic offered directly. MGB is hosting a clinic every Wednesday at the Library. 2 testing kiosks open today in Peabody. BOH is meeting tomorrow and looking to extend mask mandate. Lots of complaints at gyms.
* Mr. Greenbaum reported for Salem. Cases have come down significantly. There have been a lot of cases but they are starting to go down. There has been a lot of complaints on the mask mandates, largely from gyms. They are struggling with the Proof of Vaccine requirement, which will be reviewed for an extension on March 8, depending on how hospitals are doing. Ms. Darmody noted the difficulty staying current with new guidance.
* Ms. Riley-Singh reported for Saugus. Cases are coming down. At the peak it was 800 in one week. 100 people at the last clinic last week. BOH will decide on March 7th on whether to continue the mask mandate. Lines at testing are no longer present.
* Mr. Vaughan reported for Swampscott. Did not receive test kits or buy any for the public. 88% vaccinated and 52% boosted. Mask mandate started before Christmas and will be reviewed in second week of February. The vaccine requirement has been difficult to enforce.
* Ms. Ting needed to leave the meeting early but placed an update for Wenham in the chat. ‘Wenham continues to cook along. Nothing much particularly new. We are adapting to new DESE guidance - as Judith was just describing.’ Wenham is looking for PHN coverage.

**New Business/Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Executive Committee**

* None

**Motion to adjourn made my Ms. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Lee.**

* Motion approved unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned the meeting at 2:55PM.**