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

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Location: Via Zoom Conferencing

https://zoom.us/j/93174422118

Meeting ID: 931 7442 2118

Audio Call In – 1-646-876-9923

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

1:30PM - 3:30PM

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

Andrew Petty, Chair Marblehead Health Department

Teresa Kirsch Beverly Health Department

Frank Giacalone, Judith Ryan Danvers Health Department

Michele Desmarais, Norris Guscott Lynn Health Department

Max Schenk Gloucester Health Department

Tracy Giarla Marblehead Health Department

Sharon Cameron Peabody Health Department

Chassea Robinson Peabody & Rockport Health Departments

David Greenbaum, Suzanne Darmody Salem Health Department

Teresa Riley-Singh Saugus Health Department

Jeff Vaughan, Neia Illingworth Swampscott Health Department

Maribeth Ting Wenham Health Department

Rachel Lee Regional (Hamilton, Wenham, Essex, and Rockport)

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

Karen Contador BME

Beth Robert HMCC/MAPC

Liisa Jackson MRC Coordinator

Brad Downey MAPC

Brian Luther MAPC

Anna Wielgosz BME

Dan Witts MAPC

**Voting Members Absent:**

Bill Burke Beverly Health Department

Erin Kirchner, Kellie Keenan Essex Health Department

Dennis Palazzo Danvers & Hamilton Health Department

M.J. Duffy-Alexander, Elaine D’Agostino, Jennifer Almonte Lynn Health Department

Pamela Crehan, Ellen Lufkin, Bobbie Cody Manchester Health Department

Deborah Murphy, John Coulon, 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 March 23rd, 2022
* Coalition Meeting Minutes from February 17th, 2022

**Call to Order**

* Chair Andrew Petty called the meeting to order at 1:43pm

**Welcome & Introductions/Attendance Roll Call**

* Mr. Petty welcomed everyone to today’s meeting.
* Mr. Luther took roll and noted attendance.
  + Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Lynn, Marblehead, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, and Wenham were present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

* Motion put forth by Ms. Ryan to approve the draft minutes for the February 17th meeting as submitted. Mr. Schenk seconded.
  + Beverly, Danvers, Essex, 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 annual Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant has not opened as of today.
* Working with Boston Marathon planning for April 18th. DPH is preparing to work in a smaller capacity in comparison to other years.
* The PHEP workplans are getting currently being revamped. It is estimated the workplan template will be released in May.
* MDPH and HMCC are working on developing scopes for planner and coordinator contracts as well as updating deliverables and workplan expectations for the communities. This will include an option to consider the AAR/IR during the planning process, and to practice EDS drills.
* Planning purchases for next fiscal year has been in discussion and should be discussed among the coalitions while planning for next fiscal year.
* There is a discussion on potential PTSD training for public health workers.

**Budget Discussion**

* Mr. Downey provided a budget/purchasing update.
* The recent budget modification has been reflected in the budget.
* The Cone/Cone Carrier solicitation is out to bid and quotes are due on Friday.
* There was a discussion on continued challenges with the FirstNet cell phone service.

**PHEP Coordinator Update**

* Mr. Luther provided the PHEP Coalition Coordinator update.
* The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 27th. The executive committee is exploring an in-person meeting, more details will follow.

**PHEP Planner Update**

* Ms. Contador gave the Planner update.
* Planners have been working on the after-action reports. They are currently revising the draft versions into their final versions.

**HMCC/MAPC Update**

* Ms. Robert provided the HMCC/MAPC update.
* The HMCC Q3 Stakeholder training meeting will be held next week, Tuesday the 29th, at 10:30am. EMS panelists will discuss their response to COVID and how they prepare/respond to regional emergencies. Planning for Q4 is underway.
* PPE Cache is officially open and active. Reach out to the HMCC for assistance. You can fill out the request forms which are available on the HMCC website.
* Hospitals are at tier 2 hospital resurgence. The hospitals are meeting once a week and monitoring upcoming trends.

**MRC Update**

* Ms. Liisa Jackson provided the MRC update.
* Volunteers have been helpful as things have been quieting down. Some were able to sign up for a burn response course.

**COVID 19 Discussion/Community Updates**

* Ms. Kirsch reported for Beverly. COVID is slowing down but seen an uptick in Flu and other diseases.
* Mr. Giacalone and Ms. Ryan reported an update for Danvers. There have not been any major clusters and numbers have been steadily low.
* Ms. Lee reported for Essex. Clinics are continuing every other Monday and switch between Essex and Manchester.
* Mr. Schenk reported for Gloucester. There have been clinics continuing with emphasis on ESL populations but will be slowing down. A new PHN is joining in May. COVID cases continue to decline. Waste-water treatment numbers have continued to decline. Vaccination rate for first and second dose was 84%, and in the seventies for booster shots.
* Ms. Lee reported for Hamilton. Hamilton and Wenham are working together for shared clinics and upcoming flu clinics in the Fall. PPE was acquired through MEMA and the first distribution is tomorrow. Hamilton is still conducting weekly clinics.
* Ms. Desmarais reported for Lynn. COVID numbers are decreasing with frequent vaccination clinics across the city. There has been a spike in TB cases across the city.
* Ms. Giarla reported for Marblehead. There are fewer cases of COVID across town, but there have been some flu and other illnesses reported in the schools. Will start offering COVID tests to restaurant and retail for employees.
* Ms. Cameron and Ms. Robinson reported for Peabody. Federal funding for rapid PCR and antigen testing for individuals without insurance will be ending soon. Tuberculosis has emerged the case investigators hired from the PHE grant are able to respond when COVID cases are low.
* Me. Lee reported for Rockport. Rockport is planning for flu clinics in the fall as well as mosquito control. Clinics are held every few weeks.
* Mr. Greenbaum reported for Salem. COVID cases are in decline in general, but an uptick in TB cases has been noted. Testing will end on March 31st.
* Ms. Riley-Singh reported for Saugus. COVID cases have been in decline, in the community and in schools. Most of testing has been occurring at home. There has been an increase in TB cases.
* Mr. Vaughan reported for Swampscott. The Library and Senior Centers are ramping up to full activities. Cases are declining but have seen a small uptick. Influenza cases have been reported.
* Ms. Lee reported for Wenham. Wenham is working together with Hamilton to do flu clinics in the fall. Joint distribution of test kits and masks occurred last week. Planning for mosquito control is underway.

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

* The price of Epi pens has increased drastically and would like share with others for certain clinics.
  + Ms. Lee shared that Hamilton Fire has access to epinephrine vials and syringes in a packaged kit for $25.
* Inspector/Camp Director Informational training April 21, 3 pm - 4:30pm Zoom. I will send out the link when I receive it from the state.

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

* Motion approved unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned the meeting at 2:26PM.**