

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16th, 2:00-3:30pm

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Laura Dellechiaie	Director	Beverly
Frank Giacalone	Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Lisa Tobin	Director	Lynn
Andrew Petty	Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
Sharon Cameron	Director	Peabody
Suzanne Darmody	Public Health Nurse	Salem
David Greenbaum	Director	Salem
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Laura Nash	Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Sathvika Kamani	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Training Hub Coordinator	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC

PHE Updates

- Kendra started as the new Regional Public Health Social Worker. She has been working on a resource list, guides to applying for public benefits, and will be taking a course to become a Mental Health First Aid trainer. Kitzia accepted the Public Health Nurse position in Lynn, so we will be looking to hire a new Regional Public Health Nurse. Steven has been working on tutorials for people to download their LPHI certificates of completion. Sathvika presented the work she has been doing and the types of projects Community Health Workers can assist communities with.

Epidemiology Updates

- Laura shared updates about Avian Flu; according to available data, most cases have been seen in agricultural works, and 33 people were actively experiencing symptoms. They're currently doing assessments to predict potential transmission, and at this time, the risk to humans is very low, but Laura will continue to monitor it.
- Wastewater COVID-19 levels have been low recently. Mandated hospitalization reporting sunsetted on April 30th, but HHS proposed a new rule that would mirror reporting for other respiratory illnesses.
- People can send ticks to a lab via Tick Report and have them tested for common tick-borne illnesses. Laura reviewed the locally available data.
- MAVEN is changing its virtual gateway to improve security, including introducing multifactor authentication. Laura recommends having at least two forms, such as email and phone. She participated in a soft launch with the MAVEN team and will be available to assist with any issues. The shared services team is available to assist with case investigations, including vacation coverage.

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FY24 Workplan and Budget Review

- The FY24 budget included an additional \$408,000 compared to FY23. This additional amount was distributed through a contract amendment, which was not in place until the fall. Large expenses including hiring for new positions and the Relavent inspection software could not be purchased until this was in place, so the staff and software budget line items were not fully spent due to the delay. This was primarily reallocated to the communications line item, so we can develop regional communications materials and translate existing ones.

FY25 Workplan and Budget

- The budget will be level-funded for FY25-FY27. The process for deciding on the workplan will be to start the discussion at this meeting, then continue it with smaller working groups, and vote at the next NSPHC meeting. The deadline for draft budgets is June 14th, so the group agreed to move the next meeting to June 13th to vote in time. After this meeting, The Shared Services Coordinator will schedule smaller working groups to develop a draft for the group to vote on.
- For the FY25 workplan, OLRH provided a menu of objectives and activities for PHE groups to choose from. There are required objectives related to grant administration, governance, and a Foundational Public Health Services review. Activities include maintaining an IMA, meeting regularly, submitting quarterly reports, and similar administrative responsibilities. In addition, each PHE group must choose at least one sustainability objective and at least three performance standard objectives and may choose elective objectives as well.
- The group reviewed the sustainability objective options. The group discussed which activities would be required by shared services staff versus all municipal staff, and the importance of retaining local authority while enhancing capacity through sharing and streamlining services. While the group does not want to regionalize or merge departments, negotiating contracts for services such as Title V and rodent control as a group could lead to a better rate. The group discussed incentives for meeting the workforce standards and whether these apply to all staff or only shared services staff. The group discussed the importance of salary equity across the communities. Some activities are already happening, such as holding monthly collaborative meetings, developing a process for requesting shared services staff, and monitoring regional grant opportunities. These can be formalized through the workplan.