



Serving the Towns of Alford, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox,
Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis,
Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge and Tyringham

"The mission of the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative is to leverage partnerships in order to provide quality public health services that directly improve the health and well-being of the entire community."

SBPHC Meeting minutes

September 8, 2022 @ 9AM

Great Barrington Conference Room, 334 Main St., Great Barrington, MA

w/ Remote Option

<https://zoom.us/j/95602362119> Meeting ID: 956 0236 2119

One tap mobile [13126266799,,95602362119#](tel:13126266799)

Present In Person: Pat Levine (SHF), Rebecca Jurczyk (GTB), Dianne Romeo (LNX), Ellie Lovejoy (MTW), Jim Wilusz (TTHD), Jayne Smith (ALF), Jill Sweet (SBPHN)

Present Remotely: Gary Pratt (Recovery Center), Jordan Chretien, (NM) Mike Hugo (MAHB- joined at 9:30am)

1. Administrative Items

Review and Approve Aug 12, 2022 Minutes: Ellie Lovejoy made motion to approve the minutes, Dianne Romeo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Health Nursing Update

Jill updated that COVID was still present in the community. There have been no monkey-pox cases so far. The project allowing residents to self-report results of at home COVID testing has been placed on hold. There has been progress on the car seat program and Jill is working with preschools and other organizations where caregivers meet to get word out about services. No large car seat clinic is scheduled at this point because the required educational components in addition to the physical process of installing/replacing/disposing of car seats takes time and we only have one licensed installer.

Vaccine Update: Jill updated the group that we have received a partial shipment of our private purchase and state vaccine and have been working with the Pittsfield Board of Health until our new refrigerator is installed. She is going to ask for Sanofi to delay shipment of the second portion of the vaccine order.

Jayne reported that we are ready for the clinics to start. Most of the clinics have been set and provided both a list of clinics plus individual town flyers. We are working with CHP to ensure good coverage for the communities, including advertising with their flyers. Fairview is offering assistance to translate the general flyer into Spanish. Once they are done, we are asking each town to assist us in placing the flyers and helping us get the word out. It is unclear whether Fairview is doing their "Friends and Family" clinics and if they don't then we may need to step up. Jill wondered if we could ask Fairview whether they can provide egg free if we host a Saturday Clinic. The registration links for the schools

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are not published. Volunteers are needed for the various tasks, either through MRC or directly through the towns or SBPHC.

Mt. Washington, Sandisfield, Tyringham and Sheffield still don't have clinics scheduled. Pat Levine is interested in having a general clinic in Sheffield. Ellie reported that Mt. Washington is likely just going to send their residents to other clinics. Jayne offered assistance to help get information on individual town websites.

School based clinics are not currently listed under the general links and instead the specific links are sent to the school community. Most of the clinics are scheduled in the middle of the day to focus on senior community. If there is a call for evening or weekend clinics, then we will rise to meet that need. Spanish translation service options are being reviewed to ensure we meet linguistic needs.

3. Opioid Settlement Subcommittee Update

The original draft document that was meant to be the "ask" to the selectboards needed information on sustainability portion, which was complicated by restrictions on self-promotion for government funded entities. The committee will be meeting to tighten that up the "ask" letter and should have it available soon.

Gary clarified that he now has 1.3 hours/week where he can advocate for funding to increase program sustainability. Not sure what the specific ask will look like to advocate for funds. Would it be Gary going to each town and asking the select board?

Sheffield reports that they have 13 people attending an upcoming naloxone training. Mt. Washington is interested in having a naloxone training as well.

4. Topics for Discussion

- a. **Review Draft Articles of Organization:** Articles of Organization are not a requirement but they are a summary of the IMA and we can work on it whenever we all have time and it seems to make sense. Members were encouraged to study and think about the document. Jayne mentioned that she could send out the Articles of Organization after the capacity assessment is finished
- b. **Public Health Excellence Grant**
 - **DPH Capacity Assessment:** Jim reported that we are expecting the assessment to start any day now. Reactions by towns ranged from excitement over seeing how they are/aren't meeting requirements to apprehension of the amount of time that will be required to gather the information. Jim and Jayne are both here to help. Mike Hugo was on the call and elaborated that the \$300,000 grant is a starter and that the capacity assessment results assist the states to fill in any gaps found. There has been a lot of effort to make the process as easy as possible. The first phase should take under an hour. In Phase 2, DPH will be reaching out to all the contacts, even the Board of Health members. This information will be used to offer trainings and certifications. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 both go to a survey monkey and are not discoverable so everyone should answer honestly. A third party will be crunching results and then come up with a composite report for our PHE group that will not outline individual towns. Money distributed to fill gaps will be coming through the PHE group. The final report will be after the election, possibly around December 1st.

While the SAPHE 2.0 legislation did not get signed by the Governor and was sent back to the legislature, the groups working on it remain hopeful that it will happen when the legislature goes back into session. Mike assured the group that the funding will be there one way or another to support these efforts long-term.

- **Supplanting of funding clarification and guidance from DPH:** DPH came out with slides that clarified what “supplanting of funds” entails and those slides were shared with the group. Most towns have given the Collaborative any funds they have spent on public health nursing in the past. The few that didn’t now have clarification on how those funds must be spent.
- c. **2023 NEHA/FDA Retail Standards Grant Program Proposal:** Jayne reported that the \$20,000 grant that she had hoped to apply for is very competitive. With the state’s investment in our public health programs, relying on the FDA grant to enhance our food programs may be redundant. Jim talked about we are also running into capacity issues until we get additional resources through the PHE grant. Either we could do one application that will provide limited funds, each town could apply to the grant on their own or we could pass for this year. Jayne cannot do all the heavy lifting, however, with everything else that is going on. Jayne will check with Great Barrington, Sheffield and New Marlborough.
- d. **Discussion on other ways SBPHC communities can support each other:** Ellie gave updates on what is going on in Mt. Washington. Asked if there is any resource available for LBOH for legal matters. Mike Hugo replied that MAHB has that contract to give advice but they cannot be “representing” any local board of health. MAHB can also provide training on managing hostile meetings. One issue that keeps popping up is that some boards of health are prohibited from having access to town council. The SBPHC can also be a soundboard to bounce off ideas on the different ways that things get interpreted and how things are typically handled in other towns.

Mike mentioned that there are some upcoming BOH 101 trainings and for us to keep an eye out.

5. Community Partner Updates

Jayne mentioned that the extended drought followed by 6” of rain was a stressor on wells and asked if towns are interested in either issuing advisory or provide as a collection point for water testing. The group felt that an advisory would be good but to allow residents to arrange for their own testing.

6. Citizen Speak Time

7. Upcoming Events

- a. **Smash the Stigma**, September 17, 2022
 - b. **MHOA Conference**, October 26th- 28th, 2022- Jim reminded everyone to reserve hotel with their own credit card and to submit those expenses afterwards to be reimbursed by the FDA grant.
8. **Next Meeting Date:** October 14, 2022: In-person with remote option. Ellie asked whether public boards are required to do Zoom meetings, which the group answered no unless there is a Town bylaw requiring, like there is in Stockbridge. Mike Hugo will check on that with the Attorney General’s office.
9. **Adjourn Meeting:** Motion to adjourn made by Dianne Romeo, Ellie Lovejoy Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:21AM.