

# ***Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative***

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

August 13, 2021- 9:00 AM Meeting Minutes (Prepared by Jayne Smith)

**Present:** Jim Wilusz (Tritown); Pat Levine (Sheffield); Ellie Lovejoy (Mt. Washington); Jayne Smith (Alford); Amy Hardt (SBPHC); Jill Sweet (SBPHC)

*\*Note: Remote participation was unavailable by members and guests due to internet being down\**

## **1. Action Item updates**

- a. **Nomination of Chair, Vice Chair:** Jim would like the chair/vice chair to be from a member town. The chair will run meetings. There was a suggestion that we could rotate chair. *(Topic was tabled until September meeting due to summer attendance)*
- b. **MAVEN**
- c. **Review and approve July 9, 2021, minutes**

## **2. Grant updates-Jim**

- a. **Logo:** Guest Consultant-John Krol 180 Media-branding/logo: *(Tabled due to lack of internet)*
- b. **Survey updates:** The survey went out and it was unanimously decided that Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative should be our name.
- c. **Workplan activities:** Draft due 9/30, final 10/31- We need to identify high level items that are achievable in the first year using the SMART structure. Pat Levine would like to be part of the team to form the work plan.
- d. **VNA fund options-** The SBPHC is not at the point where it will charge towns for PHN services. Instead, the Towns are encouraged to build capacity on a town-by-town basis. If a Town has a difficult time finding a good use for funds then SBPHC will work with them to not lose it- these services cannot supplant existing funding.

## **3. Facilitated Discussion**

- a. **Meeting frequency, length, goals, mission statement, overarching goals**  
Open meeting law- starting in Sept, agendas must be posted. JW would like to continue to meet at least monthly for now until basic structure is adopted. The draft IMA requires quarterly meetings.
- b. **Branding:** Once we get branding and logo, the agenda and minutes will be posted on the website along with other information. The logo will be used for letterhead and website.

## **4. Budget update**

- a. **Shared Regional Inspector options** – Originally 2 FT Nurses and 1 PT shared services coordinator. There is not enough money after the 2 FT nurses to find a good person so Jim revised the budget for the state. **What do member towns want to do?** Do they want to have a p/t shared inspector? Discussion ensued on how an experience inspector can help us build capacity. JW- Future probably isn't a "contract for svc" model but perhaps we can bridge gaps.

**Capacity Building:** It was suggested that we focus on bringing new talent in, including college students and others. We could look at interns to be paid to do specific work, train existing inspectors, and bring in new inspectors into the region.

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### **5. PHN Updates-Amy/Jill**

#### **a. BHS meeting**

#### **b. Updates**

- **IMA:** Cheryl Sbarra is reviewing IMAs for all groups and have been asked to help SBPHC form one that is friendly to individual towns. JW received draft and it looks like a good foundation. Towns asked to review for an agenda discussion at the next meeting.
- **Air Quality Sensors :** Looking at grant to provide region air quality sensors, either by individual towns or as a collaborative.
- **BinaxNow:** Looking at taking advantage of state-provided BinaxNow antigen tests as a tool for quickly tracking symptomatic positive cases.
- **Schools:** Working with superintendents to support school year
- **Berkshire County PHN:** Meeting with other PHN to share data and ensure up to date information in order to best inform policy decisions.
- **Blood Pressure Clinics:** Have worked with Lenox and are reaching out to other towns.
- **Car Seat:** Amy and Jill will be getting trained in October to do car seat installations and offer that service in collaborative towns.
- **Flu Clinics:** In September and October they will be partnering with CHP to provide mobile flu clinics to most of the collaborative towns.
- **Others:** PHN have also met with a variety of local groups, including Rural Recovery, the SB Community Health Coalition, the SB Opioid Work Group. They have researched car seat installs and also have found a potential Chokesaver training provider.

#### **c. Communication/protocols/social media**

#### **d. Flu/data sharing/dashboards:** JH is working on dashboards and other ways to best communicate data impacting local decisions, including the raw data from MAVEN on town and county level.

**Flu:** They are coordinating with state to get our own up and running but there is a lot to get established. Working on finalizing medical director, getting refrigerator, and determining availability of flu vaccine. Summary... Be patient- it will work out.

### **6. Mentorship/training options**