

Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health

MINUTES

March 12, 2024 – 11:30am

Attendees: Connor Robichaud, Mishel Caisapanta, CMRPC; Jeanne Gniadek – Northbridge; Diane Tiernan – Upton; Erin Hightower – Uxbridge; Agnieszka Podstawka and Kristin Harris– Douglas; Bill Fisher – Hopedale; Jack – Mendon; Colleen Strapponi – Blackstone; Jack Sullivan, Deb Vescera, Dan Markman

1. Approval of Minutes

Erin made a motion, seconded by Jeanne, to approve the minutes of the Feb 8th BVPPH meeting. The motion minutes passed unanimously.

2. Hiring of Regional Health Inspector

The group elected to keep the ad posted.

3. Shared Services Coordinator Updates

a. Community Health Coordinator goals

- i. Preventative Programming – Mental Health, Substance Use, Age-Friendly. Build on the programs the Regional Public Health Nurse conducts.
- ii. Resource Connection – Resource Guide to memorialize new partnerships.
- iii. Join relevant taskforces – Hoarding, Homelessness, Substance use.
- iv. Communication coordination – work with the Regional Health Inspector, Epidemiologist, Public Health Nurse
- v. Eileen Alexander from the South-Central Mass Partnership for Public Health shared that she is actively working 3 cases in each town to assist individuals, especially around hoarding/heavy content – setting up a hoarding task force would help with grant funding. CMHA assists with homelessness – Open Sky, United Way, and Resource Center all come together. Opioid task force led by Webster police department. She also assists with the Community Health Needs Assessment. Adaptability is critical, works closely with points of contact on emerging issues. Introductions to Health, police, fire, and senior centers will be crucial.

b. MAHB Training. Jeanne made a motion to approve, Erin seconded, and it passed unanimously

- i. Uxbridge – 3 board members
- ii. Douglas – 2 staff
- iii. Mendon – 1 Board Member
- iv. Blackstone – 1 Board Member
- v. Each town should register and pay by check so Northbridge would cut one check for the group

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- c. **MAPHN Conference** – Erin motioned, and Agnieszka seconded to send Kristin Harris, Agnieszka Podstawka, and Trish Parent to the annual MAPHN conference.
- d. **Performance-based salary increases.** Diane motioned to approve of the following increases, and Agnieszka seconded.
 - i. Jack Sullivan, Epidemiologist: 3%
 - ii. Deb Vescera, Public Health Nurse: 2.5%
- 4. **Inspection Staff Updates**

While we are short and inspector, Dan is working hard to keep up with inspections. The Community Resource Guide needs to be designed by CMRPC, and Connor will follow up with his team to ensure its completion.
- 5. **Public Health Nurse Updates**

Working on a depression, isolation, and anxiety program. Working on an evaluation form to get input from participants. Need name badges for home visits – Northbridge police may be able to help.
- 6. **Epidemiologist Updates**

Jack will draft goals for his position for the upcoming year. The state has not changed its guidance for COVID even though the CDC has – infectious people are required to isolate for five days and wear a mask for 6-10 days, depending on symptoms. As of this morning, there are no confirmed measles cases in MA, though some are nationwide.
- 7. **Unanticipated business**
 - a. Next meeting is April 3 at 2pm in Douglas.
- 8. **Adjourn**
 - a. Adjourned 12:21pm

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BVPPH ON APRIL 3, 2024.