

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18th, 2024

2:00-3:30 pm

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
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
Chassea Robinson	Public Health Nurse	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
Hayden Fitch	Sanitarian	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Terry Kennedy	Regional Trainer – Food	Northeast Training Hub

PHE and Training Hub Updates

- Hayden finished his Tier 3 training with Terry and was the program's first graduate. Relavent will provide on-site assistance to anyone who needs it. David and Meg will join Nahant's Board of Selectmen meeting next week to discuss the IMA. The North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership MOU was updated to specify that communities can leave the program without any consequences if funding does run out. Meg will be sending out an invitation for a study group for people planning to take the CPH exam. Kendra sent an email to the directors regarding the employee satisfaction survey. Any departments needing access to interpreter and translation services can contact Meg to work out logistics.

Swampscott podcast project

- Swampscott has a summer intern who is working on a podcast series. The focus is on local public health in Massachusetts, and various topics will be discussed. They're looking for guest speakers and will start with people impacted by the opioid epidemic. The group discussed potential issues and ways to promote the podcast.

Epidemiology Updates

- DPH reported that Massachusetts had its first confirmed measles case. It was related to an international outbreak, not acquired locally. The threat of measles is still low in Massachusetts. There have been 167 confirmed measles cases across the country so far this year. There have been some cases of avian influenza among dairy herds and nine confirmed cases in humans. Regular exposure to different influenza strains may be protective for humans. There is a lot of COVID-19 transmission, but DPH stopped counting cases for this month, so it's difficult to know the exact number. The flirt variant is the most dominant strain currently. The pertussis outbreak is still an issue across the state, with over a dozen confirmed or suspected cases in NSPHC communities. Cases have been mainly found in older teens who have had at least three years since their last

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booster, recommended for adults every seven to ten years. Sathvika made a handout with information about pertussis that can be sent to providers. There has been an increase in Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and other tickborne illness cases across the state. Lone star ticks are not native to this area but have been increasing here since 2016. Alpha-gal syndrome is not a reportable disease, so it's difficult to get an accurate estimate, but physicians have reported seeing an increase among their patients. There haven't been any confirmed cases of EEE or West Nile virus this year, but mosquitos have tested positive, and these numbers typically go up towards the end of the summer.

FY25 workplan and budget

- The funding priorities survey results supported adding a second full-time Regional Sanitarian and a second full-time Regional Public Health Nurse. The job descriptions were sent to HR and will be posted shortly. Meg shared a summary of the workplan objectives and associated activities. The group discussed the best way to work on workplan activities, such as developing Standard Operating Procedures, checklists, and other documents. The group agreed to extend the monthly meetings to two hours and use the second half of the meeting for working groups. Templates and forms developed by the group are meant to be a resource, not a requirement.

Body art updates

- There are a few outstanding details for the updated body art regulation, such as clarifying some definitions and defining critical versus noncritical violations. The group discussed popup body art events without permits that have been reported in the area.

Opioid settlement funds

- The group discussed whether any pending lawsuits would impact the funds municipalities have already received. Future disbursements may be affected, but it's unlikely that anyone will have to return funds. Beverly's new Social Services Navigator started recently.

Community Updates

- Lynn issued a regulation to address noise complaints about ice cream trucks operating late at night.