

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16th, 2025 2:00-4:00pm

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Laura Dellechiaie	Director	Beverly
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Lisa Tobin	Director	Lynn
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	Lynn
Sharon Cameron	Director	Peabody
Chassea Robinson	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Suzanne Darmody	Public Health Nurse	Salem
David Greenbaum	Director	Salem
Jeff Vaughn	Director	Swampscott
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Laura Nash	Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Kendra Harris	Public Health Social Worker	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Jeanne Butler	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Steven Kahn	Epidemiologist	NSPHC
Caitlyn Matykiewicz	Community Health Worker	NSPHC
Hannah Laffer	Sanitarian	NSPHC
Hayden Fitch	Sanitarian	NSPHC
Terry Kennedy	Regional Trainer – Food	Northeast Training Hub
Stephen Casey Jr.	Regional Trainer – Housing	Northeast Training Hub

PHE and Training Hub Updates

- The team discussed progress on the Training Hub. About 50 participants attended the recent Tier 2 Housing training. Seven people are ready for Tier 2 Housing; the next session is expected to be in May. Three people are ready for Tier 2 Food; the next session is expected to be in April. Stephen Casey is working on getting the hoarding task force up and running. The Training Hub staff will meet with Lynn’s inspectors from their ISD.
- Based on Doodle results, the next permanent makeup school regulation meeting will be on Thursday, January 30th at 2pm.
- Steven Kahn will be starting as the second Regional Epidemiologist.
- BME will join our next meeting to discuss the Foundational Public Health Services tools.
- Kendra and Caitlyn will hold de-escalation training for NSPHC, open to any municipal public health staff.
- Nurses interested in renewing CPR certification through Jeanne should contact her directly.

Epidemiology Updates

- Laura presented updates on respiratory illnesses, including influenza, bird flu, norovirus, and human beta pneumovirus. She noted that influenza rates are on the decline and have likely peaked for the season. The bird flu has affected over 134 million poultry and led to over 900 dairy herds being affected. Laura also discussed the recent uptick in norovirus cases, attributing it to increased indoor interactions and colder winter temperatures. She emphasized that while norovirus is highly contagious, it typically doesn't cause severe illness in most people. Lastly, Laura mentioned the human metapneumovirus, which has been around for over 50 years and is not a cause

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for concern in the US due to herd immunity. Laura also addressed a question from Judith about testing for the human metapneumovirus, explaining that it's tested for using the same RC as for flu.

Workplan and Budget Updates

- The group reviewed some of the feedback survey responses received. Laura D. requested a spreadsheet of all PHE projects that is updated to show progress. She wants to understand what else the PHE staff is doing for other communities so she can set her expectations and prioritize appropriately. David asks that all PHE requests come through Smartsheet (not directly to PHE staff) so that we can allocate staff appropriately.
- Presentation by Meg – see slides for more details.
 - We can only hire one of the following positions: full-time inspector (Hayden's replacement), full-time PHN, or part-time PHN. Sharon said that she'd prefer a full-time inspector, especially because hiring a PHN is very difficult. Laura shares concerns about finding a PHN and suggests possibly trying to find an inspector who is cross-trained. Jeff has thoroughly enjoyed Hayden helping with food inspections. He would lean towards another inspector, particularly for food.

Opioid Settlement Funds

- Neia is launching episodes 5 and 6 today for Swampscott's podcast. Judith shared that she has received pushback from higher-up city officials regarding putting in Narcan boxes. Other communities have had similar experiences. Laura D. said that she has not yet bought the boxes because she wants to put them in downtown businesses but needs to connect with those community stakeholders to get their buy-in. This could be a potential project for Caitlyn. Lisa shared that there was a decrease in usage during the cold weather; Lynn is also adding syringe boxes to address needle-related complaints. They also recently launched their harm reduction vending machine. Peabody is using the settlement funds to support two clinicians (a mental health and substance use clinician and a care coordinator) and provide stipends.

Community Updates

- Peabody has a new social worker, Kendra, who will work on a regional level to offer peer support groups in NSPHC communities. She has a background in treatment and will run a group at the high school and coordinate services and promotions for the groups. Chassea is leaving her position as a Public Health Nurse and will start as the Northeast Public Health Nurse Consultant in February.
- Laura D. asked whether other communities have done risk control plans for food establishments and if so, how they do it. Lisa has only done it once or twice but is happy to have her inspectors share it with Laura. Sharon suggests telling them their two options are suspending their permit or getting a CPFS to help write a plan. Terry is planning for his next training to cover progressive enforcement, including risk control plans. Terry also offered to help with this particular food establishment, and Laura D. will connect with him offline.
- Sharon discussed the progress made in tobacco control after the recent nicotine-free generation proposal. Since then, retailers agreed to remove products resembling toys and school supplies. She also mentioned the possibility of requiring retailers to have technology for scanning IDs as a condition of permitting. Beverly and Danvers are not doing anything right now with the nicotine-free generation. Salem is waiting to see how it goes in Peabody. Swampscott increased the penalties and fines. Lynn is doubling the tobacco license fees. David brought up the social consumption of marijuana and asked whether any communities have thought about what it'll look like if/when those licenses come. No communities have discussed it yet.
- The FDA banned Red Dye No. 3. There will be a grace period, but it's on the way out.