

# North Shore Public Health Collaborative

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00-11:15 am

### Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Laura DelleChiaie	Director	Beverly
Teresa Kirsch	Public Health Nurse	Beverly
Frank Giacalone	Director	Danvers
Judith Ryan	Public Health Nurse	Danvers
Norris Guscott	Coordinator	Lynn
Andrew Petty	Director	Marblehead
Tracy Giarla	Public Health Nurse	Marblehead
John Coulon	Director	Nahant
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
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Caroline O'Connor	Intern	NSPHC
Katie Herrera	Contract Tracing Supervisor	Guest

### **Health literacy project presentation**

- Caroline O'Connor presented her findings from the health literacy needs assessment survey she completed.

### **WeCare program updates**

- Katie Herrera shared updates about the WeCare senior outreach program. The program has been running for about eight weeks, and there are currently nine participants from three communities. Many referrals came through the Salem hotline, not just Salem residents. A promotional flyer went out to Meals on Wheels recipients. The group discussed the importance of reaching seniors not connected to services or active at the senior centers yet. Potential outreach methods include contacting assisted living facilities, looking at recent burial permits, and using reverse 911 notification to promote the program. Andrew will research whether sending reverse 911 notifications based on age is possible.
- The Salem News reached out to Judith to discuss the program. She answered their questions and quoted the promotional letter that Katie sent to the Public Health Nurses. The reporter may have looked up contact information for the program on Danvers's social media because she included the Danvers Council on Aging phone number. Judith requested that the article be updated; in the meantime, the COA will pass on information about any callers.

# North Shore Public Health Collaborative

## NSPHC updates

### *General updates*

- The group had an initial meeting to discuss the National Council on Aging grant for regional vaccination clinics and will have another meeting next week.
- The sun safety presentation went well, and we will post it online after we receive the Spanish and Portuguese translations.
- The homeless outreach kits are available; please let Meg know if you would like any and whether or not you would prefer them assembled. The inspection supply backpacks are also available if communities would like them.
  - The group discussed different approaches their communities are taking to responding to encampments. Peabody has a homelessness task force that meets monthly, and case managers have successfully visited the encampments regularly to connect people with housing. Most people still living at the encampments had declined housing referrals. They did not disperse the encampment until it was a public safety concern after a fire started and there were several acts of violence. Peabody gave residents living in the encampment a month of advanced notice so they could prepare.
  - Salem has received several complaints about an encampment. The police issued a statement reiterating that the residents have a right to be there and will address public safety issues as they arise.

### *Hiring and staffing updates*

- David, Laura D., and Meg will conduct three interviews this week for the regional sanitarian position. Marblehead and Peabody are both looking to hire a sanitarian soon and requested that they share information about promising candidates.
- Kitzia is now able to provide MAVEN case investigation coverage.
- ORLH will amend the PHE contract in October; we can hire for the new Community Health Worker and Social Worker positions once that is amended.
- Marianne will not return to her part-time Regional Public Health Nurse position. The group discussed whether or not to hire an additional part-time PHN since we now have Kitzia as our full-time PHN. Kitzia is willing to help with the North Shore Mother Visiting Partnership home visits. Still, it could be helpful to have additional support as Marblehead and Swampscott will be relying on regional coverage. An additional PHN would also be helpful for vaccination clinics. The group unanimously agreed to hire a new part-time PHN.

### *Internal website page*

- Meg showed the group an internal NSPHC website page as a potential alternative to the Smartsheet request form and dashboard. The group unanimously agreed to switch to using this.

### *Open meeting law*

- ORLH informed us that the group must adhere to Open Meeting Law requirements once the IMA is in place. If the entire group approves, the host community can post the meeting information and agenda on behalf of all member communities. The group unanimously voted in favor of this.
- The group decided to move to monthly NSPHC meetings rather than biweekly; the group will continue meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. The directors will have their own monthly meeting; Sharon will coordinate a meeting time.

## Epidemiology updates

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- Laura will apply for the NACCHO grant to increase infectious disease capacity. Andrew is interested in reviewing the application; please get in touch with Laura if anyone else would like to. She will submit a letter of support on behalf of the collaborative, as we did with the NCOA grant application.
- The new COVID-19 booster is expected to be available by mid-September.

### Community updates

- The group discussed the rodent control flyer and requested that additional copies be printed and translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian. Peabody uses a double-sided flyer; Sharon will send Meg a copy to include in the updated rodent flyer.
- The group discussed at-home COVID-19 tests; many of the tests currently in stock are expiring soon, and the tests are too expensive for many people to be willing to purchase. Communities with extra test kits agreed to share them while waiting to hear about buying more. There does not appear to be any statewide contract to purchase the test kits in bulk.
- The state instituted a biweekly call for communities that are housing migrants; the first one was last week. They informed attendees that there are now so many families coming in that they don't have the capacity to provide case management. Families are being placed in hotels without any support. There was a recent neo-Nazi rally outside of a Woburn hotel housing migrants, so communities should be aware of this potential safety concern. Communities have also heard concerns about vaccination exemptions for migrant children to attend schools; this does not waive vaccination requirements but gives the children extra time to get vaccinated so their entry into schools is not delayed.