

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 21st, 2023 2:00-3:30pm

Attendees

Name	Role	Community
Frank Giacalone	Director	Danvers
Lisa Tobin	Director	Lynn
Andrew Petty	Director	Marblehead
Sharon Cameron	Director	Peabody
Chassea Robinson	Public Health Nurse	Peabody
Suzanne Darmody	Public Health Nurse	Salem
David Greenbaum	Director	Salem
Neia Illingworth	Public Health Nurse	Swampscott
Terry Kennedy	Regional Field Trainer	NSPHC
Meg Dlusniewski	Coordinator	NSPHC
Kitzia Diaz	Public Health Nurse	NSPHC
Anna Arbo	Intern	NSPHC

NSPHC Updates

- There is an interview for the part-time Public Health Nurse position scheduled for January 9th at 10 am via Zoom.
- Once the IMA is in place, each municipality will need to post the name of the PHE collaborative, the fact that the municipality participates in that PHE collaborative, and that meetings of the PHE collaborative are posted on the regional website with the URL link describing how to find the posting.
-

Lynn Rodent Control Pilot Program

- Lynn presented the pilot rodent program they implemented with A1. Residents from the Pine Hill neighborhood requested ARPA funding for the program. Pine Hill has primarily single-family housing, and the program was implemented there and an area with more multi-family housing. They used flyers and held community meetings to educate residents and regularly enforce the sanitary code, which addressed about 50% of the problem.
 - A1 conducted sidewalk surveys to identify the main problems. After they addressed what they could through code enforcement, they used a combination of birth control, traditional traps, and poison. Residents were concerned about using poison, and smart traps ended up being the best solution. The program initially planned for monthly servicing, but ended up needing weekly servicing. The subsurface traps did not get any hits.
 - The program also included a better dumpster enforcement program, where they checked every dumpster at least once a month and checked a list of problem dumpsters every week. There was also a day that DPW went into neighborhoods to fix trash carts;

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

this is always a free service, but going into the neighborhood had a much better response.

- The other neighborhood did not see the same level of improvement as Pine Hill. This was partially due to less buy-in from residents and partially due to the geography of the Saugus River, which creates a natural habitat for rats.
- An intern who was not a full-time health inspector conducted follow-up on all the related code complaints. A1 got releases from residents to inspect their property and use one of the three trap options. The most common violations in Pine Hill were overgrowth and old fixtures outside, such as canoes. In the other neighborhoods, trash and dumpsters were the most common violations. The total cost was \$50,000, and A1 worked with the city to ensure they didn't exceed the limit. For the next steps, it would be helpful to have A1 come to a meeting and discuss the project.

Budget Updates

- Due to the delay in contract amendments, many PHE groups have spent less than initially budgeted, so ORLH is expanding the list of allowable expenses. These were the specific items ORLH included, but municipalities may suggest other ideas:
 - Purchase covid vaccines upfront
 - Digitize legacy data; scan previous inspections and create PDF forms
 - Engage a consultant for strategic planning, facilitating increased sharing of public health services, and ensuring adherence to performance standards
 - Implement an SSA-level COOP (continuity of operations plan)
 - Receive reimbursement EA response plan for response activities not covered by other sources, such as transportation
- The group would like funding for tickborne disease education, a Spanish class for staff, and language learning software/apps.

Epidemiology Updates

- See attached data prepared by Laura.

Body Art Regulations

- Beverly is moving forward with their regulations, recently met with their body art establishments, and made several edits to the model. The group suggested another feedback session in February to conduct more industry outreach. Lynn was working on updating the regulations before the pandemic, and they have several artists who would be interested.
- The group discussed the curriculum for the tattoo skin course and the possibility of partnering with a local community college to develop a course. The [Quincy skin course](#) is operating again and could be used as a model or approved course.

Community Updates

North Shore Public Health Collaborative

- The group discussed inspections of local shelters; Salem has inspected the Lifebridge kitchen under 410, but the shelter is exempt for the most part. Lynn has received complaints about the shelter and is considering a proactive inspection. At Peabody's monthly homelessness task force meeting, the police department reported an increase in the number of people living outdoors in tents; a number of them were people who used to stay at shelters but no longer felt safe there.
 - Salem worked with a consultant to address the encampments, and one of the main strategies they recommended was identifying the community leader in the encampment. Suzanne recently offered Hepatitis A vaccinations, and the city will start collecting trash to make it as sanitary as possible throughout the holidays. They are looking into alternative housing options to offer. Salem has a social service group conducting outreach and offering housing; some residents have accepted but changed their minds, and some prefer to live outdoors.
 - If encampments are disbanded due to health and safety concerns, the municipality needs to give at least 30 days' notice to the encampment residents. If they're displaced, encampment residents will likely move to a neighboring location, and other residents may move into the same site.
 - Lynn has received a lot of requests for a warming center, but the city is not equipped for that. Peabody has a plan for when the temperature is below a certain level. The site is at a church and staffed by the fire department. The health department coordinates this, and the city's insurance covers liability. This is usually in place five to ten nights per year, depending on how cold the winter is.