

Region 3B Coalition Meeting

October 7, 2021

2:03 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Remote Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83365891085?pwd=OFkzT25iY1M1NnJdGZMNkEvWk41dz09>

Meeting ID: 833 6589 1085

Passcode: 856443

Attendees (Roll Call):

Voting Members: Shuang Shen (Chair, Reading), Tom Carbone (Andover), Jackie Aguilar (Lawrence), Kristin McRae (Lynnfield), Brian LaGrasse (North Andover), Donna Hovey (North Reading), Peter Blanchette (Lawrence)

Non-Voting Members: JoAnne Petro (3B Coordinator), Elizabeth Robert (Region 3 HMCC Program Manager), Dan Witts (Region 3 Planning & Ops Coordinator), Felicia Balbi (OPEM/DPH Sr. Preparedness Planner), Jake Lamond (MRC Coordinator), Karen Contador (BME Strategies), Anna Weilgoetz (BME Strategies), Laura Vlasuk, Elizabeth Ferrara (BME Strategies)

Voting Members Not In Attendance: Methuen, Wilmington

Call to Order: 2:03 p.m. – Six (6) communities were represented. Quorum was met and meeting was called to order.

Approval of meeting minutes from September 2, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting, motion Peter Blanchette (Lawrence), second Brian LaGrasse (North Andover), motion carries

Roll Call Vote: Tom Carbone-Andover (yes), Jackie Aguilar-Lawrence (yes), Kristin McRae-Lynnfield (yes), Brian LaGrasse-North Andover (yes), Shuang Shen-Reading (yes), Donna Hovey-North Reading (yes), motion carries

The Coalition welcomed back Peter Blanchette, Lawrence Building Commissioner, and he introduced himself to the group.

MDPH Update:

Felicia Balbi

Felicia informed everyone that Monday would be the Boston marathon which is being held in October this year due to COVID. MDPH/OPEM will be in various locations such as the Boston Medical Intelligence Center, the VAA, the finish line as well as the State Emergency Operations Center and they are staffing the Department Operations Center out of Marlborough.

Felicia is waiting on the Q1 documents, the workplan updates, as we close out Q1 at the end of September. Q1 did not have a WebEOC drill but do anticipate a Q2 drill to occur. This is an unannounced drill through the HHAN. It is important if you are a new member that you have your WebEOC login information and that your 24/7 contact information is up to date.

MDPH/OPEM is busy in resources again. Currently working through many resource requests that are coming in and have added some additional staffing to accommodate this as well.

Hospital meetings with the State have increased since the last time we met. The State activated the resurgence plans again and activated at Tier 3 which means they are meeting twice a week.

Felicia indicated that everyone is now back in the office once a week and her office day is Wednesday in Marlborough.

Planner Update:

Karen Contador/Anna Weilgoetz

Anna wanted to thank everyone who filled out the AAR information gathering survey that was sent out after the last meeting. BME is currently pooling answers across all Region 3 communities for consistency so that after the full survey to the partners and conference they can compare and contrast across the whole Region. BME is currently working on a draft of the survey that will be sent to stakeholders and partners. This will be sent to the Coalitions in the coming weeks.

Communities are currently in flu season and BME is available to assist if needed. Please reach out if you have a need.

Coordinator Update:

JoAnne Petro

JoAnne informed the group that all MHOA requests were approved by MDPH. A group meeting will be held by MAPC before the conference to review reimbursement guidelines for those attending the conference. Donna Hovey informed the group that she will be withdrawing her request to attend MHOA as she will be resigning from her position as PHN with the Town of North Reading to pursue her Doctorate degree. As a result, Donna is also removing herself as the LSAC representative for the Coalition. Those attending the MHOA conference are Nancy Zabbo (Methuen), Kristin McRae (Lynnfield), Shuang Shen (Reading) and Peter Blanchette (Lawrence).

A practice WebEOC drill was held and JoAnne indicated that she was quite pleased with the results for a first drill in quite some time. There was a 75% successful participation. For the two communities that did not successfully complete the drill, one community did not respond within the time requirements and one community had an issue logging in. All eight communities attempted to complete the drill.

JoAnne solicited a discussion among the group for the selection of a new Vice Chair. This position was left vacant after the departure of Felix Garcia from Lawrence.

Brian LaGrasse nominated Peter Blanchette and Kristin McRae seconded the nomination.

Discussion: Peter Blanchette expressed how honored he is to be selected for this position and did accept the nomination and will serve as the new Vice Chair for the Coalition.

Roll Call Vote: Tom Carbone-Andover (yes), Jackie Aguilar-Lawrence (yes), Kristin McRae-Lynnfield (yes), Brian LaGrasse-North Andover (yes), Shuang Shen-Reading (yes), Donna Hovey-North Reading (yes), motion carries

JoAnne informed the group that attendance at the Q1 HMCC Stakeholders meeting was 50%. It was attended by Andover, Lawrence, Reading and Lynnfield.

JoAnne solicited a discussion among the group for the selection of a new LSAC representative which is needed as the result of Donna Hovey leaving the Coalition. Felicia Balbi indicated that there may be one in October, however, is unsure with the departure of the LSAC Chair. Felicia suggested that perhaps the LSAC representative for the Coalition could fall under the newly elected Vice Chair's responsibility. LSAC meetings generally take place every other month but it is believed that there has not been a LSAC meeting held since June. Felicia gave an overview about the purpose of the LSAC group. Peter Blanchette indicated that he would be willing to take on this responsibility if the group decides. Peter will follow up with Tom Carbone to get a little more background about what is involved.

A motion was made to approve Peter Blanchette (Lawrence) as the LSAC Representative for the Coalition, motion Tom Carbone (Andover), second Brian LaGrasse (North Andover), motion carries

Roll Call Vote: Tom Carbone-Andover (yes), Jackie Aguilar-Lawrence (yes), Kristin McRae-Lynnfield (yes), Brian LaGrasse-North Andover (yes), Shuang Shen-Reading (yes), Donna Hovey-North Reading (yes), motion carries

HMCC Update:
Elizabeth Robert

Q1 Stakeholder meeting was held last week. If you did not get a chance to attend, a recording of the meeting was posted on the HMCC website. Beth informed the group that presenters included that the Public Health Director from Lynn spoke about the food security task force that was created because of COVID and the City is now choosing to keep it in place as best practice, an EMS representative spoke about challenges facing EMS, Nick LaClair from Lowell General gave a presentation on Alternative Care Sites, the CEO for the New England Home for the Deaf in Danvers spoke about some challenges and successes that they experienced and Bill Klaag from the hospitals spoke about pediatric pandemic preparedness.

Beth informed the group that she would be sending out an invite about a week before MHOA for those wishing to participate in an informational meeting regarding reimbursement policy. This is not a required meeting but will be available to those who wish to attend. Receipts, proof of payment and certificate of participation will be required.

The HMCC is currently working on content for the Q2 meeting.

There is PPE from the CACHE in Amesbury that is available to support the Disciplines. If anyone is in need, please reach out to Beth or Dan.

MRC Update:
Jake Lamond

Currently in flu clinic season. Providing support at this point to Andover and North Andover at their respective Senior Centers. Also providing some support at the Topsfield Fair at the request of the PHN for Topsfield. They were in danger of not happening except that the MRC's were able to satisfy the Town's requirements that all indoor venues only be attended by those who are masked.

Tom Carbone reminded the group that the MRC has resources available to all eight communities if needed for flu clinics, community days, recruiting table, etc.

LSAC Update:
Donna Hovey

There was no LSAC update.

A motion was made to adjourn, motion Brian LaGrasse (North Andover), second Donna Hovey (North Reading), motion carries

Roll Call Vote: Tom Carbone-Andover (yes), Jackie Aguilar-Lawrence (yes), Kristin McRae-Lynnfield (yes), Brian LaGrasse-North Andover (yes), Shuang Shen-Reading (yes), Donna Hovey-North Reading (yes), motion carries

Adjourn: 2:45 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for November 4, 2021