



General Committee Meeting

February 16, 2023

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Felix Garcia (*Acton*), Rajit Gupta (*Ashland*), Heidi Porter (*Bedford*), Wesley Chin (*Belmont*), Sara Schaffer (*Brookline*), Mike Greene (*Burlington*), Nancy Porter (*Cambridge*), James Goodrich (*Canton*), Linda Fantasia (*Carlisle*), Flor Amaya (*Chelsea*), Melanie Dineen (*Concord*), Kylee Sullivan (*Dedham*), Sabrina Firicano & Krista Costello (*Everett*), Nancy Fuller (*Hanover*), Scott Moles (*Holliston*), Shaun McAuliffe (*Hopkinton*), Health Department Representative (*Hudson*), Kelliann Coleman & Alicia McCartin (*Lexington*), John Garside, Emily Lao (*Marlborough*), Brenda Healy (*Medfield*), John McVeigh (*Millis*), Anne Grossman (*Milton*), Tim McDonald, Talib Abdelrahim (*Needham*), Shin-Yi Lao (*Newton*), Matt Tania (*Norfolk*), Abbie Atkins, Stacey Lane (*Norwood*), Sopheakso Sandy So (*Quincy*), Adrienne Maguire (*Revere*), Andrew Schelle (*Scituate*), Linda Callen (*Sharon*), Heather Aker, Taylor West (*Southborough*), Pat Moran, Emily Amico (*Sudbury*), Meaghan Ritcey (*Waltham*), Shuang Shen, Abbey Myers (*Watertown*), Karen DaCampo, Jennifer Murphy (*Winchester*), Meghan Doherty, Alyson Roche (*Woburn*), Matt Tanis (*Wrentham*), Patrick Fagan, Shelia Dibb, Caeli Tegan, Lizzie Ferrara (*MRCs*), Kerry Dunnell (*MRPC*), Liz Foley (*MDPH OPEM*), Garrett Simonsen, Steven Mauzy (*4AB PHEP*)

Meeting Minutes

- Tim McDonald (*Needham*) opened the meeting at 10:04 am.

I. Approval of November 9 GC Meeting Minutes

- Canton made a motion, seconded by Cambridge to accept the January 19th GC meeting minutes – motion approved.

II. Finance Committee (*Tim McDonald, Needham*)

- Tim updated that the MRPC is looking into hosting a multidisciplinary conference this spring. PHEP funds will be contributed if the coalition is supportive. Tim also updated on the status of unspent funds, the lion's share of which come from unstaffed positions or unpaid staff contractor leave.

III. DPH Updates (*Liz Foley; MDPH OPEM*)

- Liz discussed a call hosted today (2/16) by DPH OPEM at 1pm to go over BP5 deliverables and the PHEP notice of funding opportunity. If anyone did not receive notification of this call through a DPH listserv (e.g., forwarded invite from a coworker), please let Liz know. Coalitions have until mid-March to vote on Concurrence. Regional staff are looking to schedule a meeting next week, voting is a grant requirement.
- Liz provided an update on additional health equity project funding. In addition to 4AB's budget, which is being used to support an outside consultant, DPH will be providing

approximately \$15,000 for an equity project. This year is designed as an exploration year, and additional funds will be available in the next budget period to continue equity work.

- For DPH's data-based initiative, contractors providing Technical Assistance have been in contact with 4AB staff to set up initial meetings; work will be done in the upcoming weeks.
- In other news, Brockton hospital was evacuated last week affecting 4AB hospitals as well as their neighbors in Region 5. DPH has been coordinating patient tracking and recovery assistance as hospitals continue to load balance.
- DPH has hired a new resource coordinator, Shane Keville-Wagner, and he came from the Region 2 HMCC.

IV. LSAC Update (*Tim McDonald, Needham*)

- Tim updated that we are anticipating approximately level funding for the region for Budget Period 5 (BP5). 4AB's budget may receive a small cut so as to provide additional funding to rural regions where there is a higher number of communities per region despite a lower population. 4AB is one of the more populated regions, but does not the greatest number of communities.
- Tim opened discussion on the statewide funding formula used to allocate CDC PHEP dollars. In the past, funding has been determined partly based on the number of communities in the region, and partly based on population. The Local State Advisory Committee (LSAC) is open to other funding formulas that place a greater emphasis on equity.
- Lizzie Ferrara (BME/NC-8) agreed that the social vulnerability index, or a similar data-driven approach would be useful. Additionally, she advocated for additional support for health directors if a funding transition affected the local budget. BME has supported LHD with written materials, attended meetings, etc. to bolster efforts seeking funding. Laura also suggested a statistical tool to examine which communities are in greatest need. Sometimes those who need it are not the ones who receive funding.

V. Planner Updates (*Steven Mauzy, PHEP Planner*)

- Steven updated on the Epidemiology Workgroup. The first meeting was held and gathered introductory information. We will focus on resources needed during an epidemiological surge, including drafting guidelines for surge events and procedures for contact tracing, in the event that additional resources were onboarded on short notice.
- Planning for the Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Training and Exercise Series is underway. We are targeting early April for the Seminar and early May for the Workshop. Dates forthcoming. The Equity Contract is still in process; kickoff meeting anticipated soon.

VI. MRC Updates (MetroEast, Middlefolk, MetroWest, Central Middlesex, NC-8, Burlington, Brookline)



- *Middlefolk*: Patrick updated that the unit is working on getting the SOPs approved for the unit.
- *MetroWest*: The last 4A transition group meeting was held, the SOP has been approved, and an active advisory board in place. The unit is working on onboarding volunteers.
- *Central Middlesex*: Sheila updated that two meetings with the 12 communities have been held and the unit is hoping to get an SOP finalized at the next meeting. The unit is working on rebadging everyone.
- *Burlington*: Mike updated that a big recruitment project is upcoming, including badging those who onboarded in COVID.
- *NC-8*: Caeli updated that the unit is focusing on mental health first aid, CPR, and pet sheltering. Hoping to partner with other MRCs.
- *Brookline*: Sara updated that the Quarterly Leadership Team was reinstated after a multi-year hiatus during COVID. The unit is working on an upcoming stop the bleed training.
- *MetroEast* - Kerry informed the group that she would be looking to amend a current contract with BME to cover MetroEast MRC coordinator services and general MRC support across the region for the remainder of BP4 in the absence of hiring a programmatic lead.

VII. Budget Modification Status (Kerry Dunnell, MRPC)

- Kerry updated that a spend-down proposal is forthcoming for the end of the fiscal year and a final budget modification for the general coalition to vote on next week. Some ideas on how to expend funds were brainstormed by the EC and will be shared during next week's meeting.

VIII. HMCC Updates (Kerry Dunnell, MRPC)

- Kerry updated that the Planning and Operations Coordinator position has been filled and is anticipated to be filled mid-March.
- The General Coalition will convene at the next MRPC Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, March 29th.

IX. New Business

- No new business.

X. Vote and Adjourn

- All 39 communities voted unanimously to accept the January 19th minutes and adjourn.
- Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 11:23; Emily seconded that motion.