

Executive Committee Meeting

April 20, 2023

1:00 pm to 3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Melissa Ranieri (Walpole); Nancy Porter (Cambridge); Kelly Pawluczzonek (Weston); Tim McDonald (Needham); Joanne Belanger (Lexington); Kerry Dunnell, Terri Clover (MRPC/HMCC); Garrett Simonsen, Steven Mauzy (Regional Planners); Liz Foley (MDPH OPEM)

Meeting Minutes

- Nancy Porter (Cambridge) opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

I. Approval of the February 14th PHEP EC Meeting Minutes

- Kelly made a motion, seconded by Melissa, to accept the February 14th EC meeting minutes– motion approved.

II. HMCC Updates

- Kerry introduced Terri Clover as the new Planning and Operations Coordinator for the MRPC/HMCC.
- Kerry updated that a regional conference, spearheaded by Joan Cooper Zac from South Shore Hospital and the EMS Council, will be held May 2nd.
- An annual Hazard Vulnerability Analysis will be coming from MDPH soon, and the HMCC will look for public health responses.
- Terri announced an upcoming alert drill.
- Tim brought up the idea of adding additional administrative/grant support in the upcoming budget.

III. MDPH Updates

- Liz updated on a successful, quiet Marathon Monday. She added that OPEM has hired a new Epidemiologist for data support to hospitals and public health. The state will be receiving additional funds in the PHEP grant, which will be divided and allocated for further equity projects. Q3 reports are due at the end of April. Liz reported she is responding to a notice of funding opportunity for statewide MRC planning.
- The Committee discussed using the MDPH Equity funds for roundtable facilitated discussion after the Equity workshop, as well as the date and location for the day.

IV. Planner Updates

- Garrett began the discussion of BP5 focus areas with a review of the next budget period's deliverables. Major changes in this BP5's deliverables include a downsized role in Emergency



Dispensing Site plans and drills and the Urban Area Security Initiative communities do not have deliverables related to the FEMA Operational Readiness Review. Instead, this year's deliverables focus on continuing health equity work at the regional level and public health's role in mass care at the community level.

- Steven started the presentation with a note on equity in the framing of focus areas. As the region begins integrating equity into public health emergency preparedness planning, it is important that we begin making strides towards taking a whole community approach and intentionally including more voices in the planning process.
- The first draft of the planners' proposal included taking the coalition through a process of assessment, planning, and exercises. The outputs of this process include the creation of whole community advisory boards, as well as resources and workshops for water, sanitation, and hygiene related emergencies, mass care, and legal preparedness planning.
- The Executive Committee engaged in a discussion of the proposed focus areas and budget. Tim pointed out that the General Coalition votes on the budget, not the focus areas; thus, the approval of the GC rests on their approval of the budget.
- The committee engaged in a discussion around differing viewpoints in the region on why a municipality should engage in emergency preparedness planning. Some communities are focused on the in-hand take-away benefit of deliverables and products, and view engaging in planning as optional, while others view engaging in preparedness as a required part of protecting health.
- The committee discussed the possibility of changing the size or parameters around travel funding.

V. Adjourn

- Tim made a motion, seconded by Nancy to adjourn at 2:55 – motion approved.