

General Committee Meeting

December 20, 2023

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Felix Garcia (Acton), Rajit Gupta (Ashland), Sara Schaffer (Brookline), Mike Greene (Burlington), Nancy Porter & Derrick Neal (Cambridge), Linda Fantasia (Carlisle), Moira Carter & Melanie Dineen (Concord), Kylee Sullivan (Dedham), Bill Murphy (Framingham), Nancy Funder (Hanover), Scott Moles (Holliston), Shaun McAuliffe & Simone Carter (Hopkinton), Eddie St. Louis (Hudson), Joanne Belanger, Alicia McCartin & Kelliann Coleman (Lexington), Paul Dinwoodie (Marlborough), John McVeigh (Millis), Caroline Kinsella (Milton), Tiffany Benoit (Needham), Shin-Yi Lao (Newton), Matt Tanis (Norfolk and Wrentham), Abbie Atkins (Norwood), Sopheaksosandy So (Quincy), Adrienne Maguire (Revere), Karin Carroll (Somerville), Taylor West (Southborough), Shuang Shen (Watertown), Michele Schuckel & Julia Junghanns (Wayland), Kelly Pawluczzonek (Weston), Alyson Roche and Meghan Doherty (Woburn), Caeli Tegan Zampach, Josh Tillman, Shelia Dibb (MRCs), Kerry Clark & Teri Clover (MRPC), Liz Foley (MDPH OPEM), Garrett Simonsen & Steven Mauzy (4AB PHEP)

Meeting Minutes

- Nancy Porter (Cambridge) opened the meeting at 10:04 am.

I. Approval of September 27th GC Meeting Minutes

- Steven noted a typo in the meeting minutes, the time the meeting ended was incorrect. Joanne (Lexington) made a motion, seconded by Caroline (Milton), to accept the meeting minutes with the corrected time.

II. HMCC Updates (Teri Clover, Kerry Clark, MRPC)

- Kerry updated that the Q2 Budget Modifications, increasing the NACCHO line item to \$46,000 and adding funds to the Extreme Temperatures project using unspent salary funds, were approved by MDPH. Kerry also updated that not all of the allocated MRC funds have been requested by units, and units who have not yet requested funds should reach out.
- Kerry updated that the Regional MRC Coordinator position has been submitted to CHA Human Resources and Talent Acquisition. HMCC staff are waiting for the position to be returned from CHA before posting. Additionally, the PHEP Program Manager position is being developed and will also be under CHA.

III. DPH Updates (Liz Foley, MDPH OPEM)

- Liz reminded attendees that the HHAN drill was sent out and to keep an eye out for it. She updated the coalition on a number of projects at OPEM, including a project with GE on modernizing data collection for federally mandated COVID-19 reporting, the resource unit is continuing to supply Paxlovid to facilities that meet requirements, continuing to track and support hospital capacity for influenza-like illness, RSV, and COVID-19, and developing a multi-year training plan for OPEM staff.
- Liz also updated that work on emergency sheltering assistance is ongoing. Sites will be consolidated through a three-phase plan. As part of the consolidation, Joint Base Cape Cod is demobilizing. Family Welcome Centers in Quincy and Allston continue to operate, and a few temporary safety-net sites have also come online. Much work has been done around transportation resources and providing transportation to medical appointments. Those who qualify through MassHealth have transportation through the National Guard, a contract with a cab company is in place for those who do not have MassHealth or who are not approved to travel with the National Guard, and an UberHealth account through the Mass League of Health Centers for urgent medical visits.

IV. Planner Updates (*Garrett Simonsen, Steven Mauzy, PHEP Planners*)

- 16 people have requested funds for travel to NACCHO, the list has been sent to MDPH for approval, and staff are in communication with a travel agent for hotel and air arrangements.
- Steven updated that we've heard back from about half of 4AB communities for the annual ICS deliverable and quarterly 24/7 contact update.
- Garrett updated the region on the status of the Extreme Temperatures project, which is focused on public health mitigation and disproportionate impact planning related to extreme heat and cold weather events. A Request for Proposals was issued, and three proposals were received, the vendor is pending DPH approval.
- Josh Tillman (MetroEast MRC) inquired if anyone had suggestions on training for volunteers on extreme temperatures. Garrett responded that there will be a training component involved in the project, although it will be open to MRC coordinators not volunteers. Nancy suggested the MAPC website.

V. MRC Updates

- Josh (MetroEast MRC) is hosting an educational forum to break stigmas and educate volunteer groups about what they can do to support people experiencing homelessness.
- Sara (Brookline MRC) recently finished cleaning up the volunteer list and now has a more active list of volunteers.
- Mike (Burlington MRC) is also working on cleaning up their volunteer list and badging.
- Shelia (Central Middlesex MRC) is preparing for more training in the new year, and the unit has applied for NACCHO funding.
- Caeli (NC-8) has been undertaking an inventory project and organizing trainings for the next calendar year.

- MetroWest is looking for a new coordinator.

VI. New Business

- Karin (Somerville) is in need of personal hygiene kits if anyone has extras they are looking to offload, please let her know.

VII. Vote and Adjourn

- All communities voted in favor of the minutes with the corrected time and to adjourn. Joanne (Lexington) moved to adjourn at 11:02 pm; Shin-Yi (Newton) seconded that motion.