



## **General Committee Meeting**

*February 28, 2024*

*10:00 am to 12:00 pm*

*Zoom Meeting*

### **Attendance**

Natasha Waden (Arlington), Rajit Gupta (Ashland), Heidi Porter (Bedford), Sara Schaffer (Brookline), Mike Greene (Burlington), Nancy Porter (Cambridge), Linda Fantasia (Carlisle), Melanie Dineen (Concord), Kylee Sullivan (Dedham), Rana Wehbe (Everett), Bill Murphy (Framingham), Nancy Funder (Hanover), Shaun McAuliffe (Hopkinton), Lauren Antonelli (Hudson), Joanne Belanger and Alicia McCartin (Lexington), Paul Dinwoodie (Marlborough), Brenda Healy (Medfield), John McVeigh and Sarah Ward (Millis), Tim McDonald, Ginnie Chacon-Lopez, and Tiffany Benoit (Needham), Shin-Yi Lao (Newton), Matt Tanis (Norfolk and Wrentham), Abbie Atkins and Stacey Lane (Norwood), Sopheaksosandy So and Jae Cho (Quincy), Adrienne Maguire (Revere), Linda Callen (Sharon), Ellen Hartnett (Sherborn), Karin Carroll (Somerville), Taylor West (Southborough), Vivian Zeng (Sudbury), Melissa Reniri (Walpole), Abbey Myers and Shuang Shen (Watertown), Kelly Pawluczonek (Weston), Julie Long (Weymouth), Alyson Roche and Meghan Doherty (Woburn), Caeli Tegan Zampach, Josh Tallman, Paul Martin (MRCs), Kerry Clark and Teri Clover (MRPC), Liz Foley (MDPH OPEM), Garrett Simonsen and Steven Mauzy (4AB PHEP)

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **I. Approval of January 24th GC Meeting Minutes**

- Mike (Waltham) made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Melissa (Walpole), to accept the meeting minutes – motion approved.

#### **II. Planner Updates**

- Garrett introduced JSI, the consultant brought on board to work on the Extreme Temperatures project. Terry Greene (JSI) introduced their team of nine people who will be working on the project. This project has three objectives: to advance health action planning for extreme temperature events; to apply whole community planning and a health equity lens; and to identify and prioritize the most exposed and disproportionately affected populations.
- The JSI team's first task is to convene focus groups. Focus groups provide an opportunity to explore available assets and resources and the needs and priorities of population groups. The key audiences could include those who have and/or serve those with physical disabilities, mental health needs, and/or neurodivergent.



- The second part of the project is a survey to establish a baseline for extreme temperature planning activities to inform project workshops and health action plans. The survey is expected to be administered in early March, with data analysis conducted in March and April.
- The third part of the project is the creation of community profiles. The goal of the profiles is to provide data to help us understand the characteristics and risk factors of the population in 4AB. Profiles will inform health action planning as well as local mitigation strategies that are effective in mitigating risk and reaching those who are most impacted. The profiles will describe the health effects of extreme temperatures and populations at high risk of negative health impact or being disproportionately affected, present community-level demographic and health outcomes data, share examples of best practices or risk mitigation strategies, and support action planning to inform the development of mitigation strategies to reach those most affected by extreme temperatures. Profiles will be developed for both individual communities as well as the region as a whole. Profiles are expected to be ready in April or May.
- The last component of the project is the workshops. There will be three workshops, two virtual and one in-person. The workshops are designed for local health departments, and the first two workshops are designed for partner organizations to join as well. The workshops will offer opportunities to identify strategies to mitigate disproportionate health effects and develop community-specific extreme temperature health action plans.
- Those attending NACCHO should have received an email from Steven with additional details about their flight and hotel. The planners will also offer open office hours on Thursday, March 14th, for attendees to answer any questions about logistics.
- The Principles of Operation have not been updated since 2019 and are now currently being updated to reflect changes. These changes include the inclusion of virtual meetings and new language around term limits. Edits will be reviewed at the June meeting.

### **III. DPH Updates** (*Liz Foley, MDPH OPEM*)

- Liz updated that the notice of funding opportunity for the new PHEP cooperative agreement arrived on Friday. One of the major changes is it asks the state to prepare a five-year budget and work plan instead of annual submissions. OPEM is reviewing the cooperative agreement and putting together the state level deliverables, which will be shared with the coalition in the coming weeks. There are no major changes in the budget from the CDC. A concurrence vote will need to be held by April 4th. The acute care hospitals are still meeting weekly; seasonal viruses are trending down, although capacity remains high. MDPH continues to monitor the situation with Steward hospitals.

#### **IV. HMCC Updates** (*Kerry Clark, Teri Clover MRPC*)

- Kerry updated on the current budget status. Spending is on track in a number of areas, such as NACCHO and with JSI. As we get closer to the end of the fiscal year, spending in other areas such as salary and fringe will become more clear. A Regional MRC coordinator is in the process of being hired. This is a salaried CHA position. There is an opening for the Central Middlesex MRC Coordinator.
- Teri thanked those who participated in the first portion of the annual Hazard Vulnerability Analysis deliverable. Focus groups will be convened for the next steps. Shin-Yi (Newton) requested an introduction at the beginning of the HVA workshop to level set and help folks get on the same page before beginning. Teri reviewed the draft of the new website. The Hospital Preparedness Program is hosting a tabletop in early May that will involve some public health involvement.

#### **V. MRC Updates**

- Caeli (NC-8) updated that NC-8 is working on a day-long training day to bring volunteers together and connect with community partners. Sara (Brookline MRC) is starting a disaster animal response team (Brookline Animal Response Crew). Mike (Burlington MRC) updated that their MRC is offering a conscious and unconscious bias training tonight, and has been busy with pediatric vaccination clinics. Josh (MetroEast) updated that major initiatives have been a Somerville warming center, but with spring weather on the way that will eventually wrap up. Kerry introduced Paul Martin as the new MetroWest coordinator. Joanne (Central Middlesex) updated that the unit is planning on offering Narcan and Stop the Bleed training and looking for a new coordinator. Brenda (Middlefork) updated that the new coordinator had a meet and greet event recently, and is also planning a Stop the Bleed.

#### **VI. New Business**

- In new business, Kerry brought up the idea for a strategic planning committee. He also brought up the idea of a back-to-basics training day that could help level set emergency preparedness knowledge in the region. Topics could include ICS, meet your MRC, and PHEP 101. More specific topics will likely be informed by the focus areas set for BP1. Joanne (Lexington) suggested acronym bingo.

#### **VII. Vote and Adjourn**

- Shin-Yi (Newton) made a motion to adjourn; Shaun (Hopkinton) seconded. 27 communities voted to approve the minutes and to adjourn at 11:37 am.