



General Committee Meeting

April 2nd, 2023

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Rajit Gupta (Ashland), Sigalle Reiss (Brookline), Mike Greene (Burlington), Linda Fantasia (Carlisle), Mary Goodwin (Cohasset), Kylee Sullivan (Dedham), Bill Murphy (Framingham), Nancy Funder (Hanover), Shaun McAuliffe (Hopkinton), Eddie St. Louis (Hudson), Joanne Belanger and Alicia McCartin (Lexington), Paul Dinwoodie & Paige Ferriter (Hudson), Brenda Healy (Medfield), John McVeigh (Millis), Tim McDonald and Tiffany Benoit (Needham), Shin-Yi Lao (Newton), Matt Tanis (Norfolk and Wrentham), Abbie Atkins and Stacey Lane (Norwood), Sopheaksosandy So (Quincy), Adrienne Maguire (Revere), Karin Carroll (Somerville), Taylor West (Southborough), Vivian Zeng (Sudbury), Melissa Reniri (Walpole), Abbey Myers (Watertown), Kelly Pawluczzonek (Weston), 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 10:02 am.

I. DPH Updates (*Liz Foley, MDPH OPEM*)

- Liz opened the meeting with a discussion of concurrence and explained that as a part of the cooperative agreement, each year coalition votes to concur or not concur on the state's approach to the activities and priorities related to the grant. The new cooperative agreement represents a shift from more preparedness-based priorities to response-focused initiatives.
- In the new cooperative agreement, the state is being asked to submit a five year plan instead of an annual one. The CDC has introduced a new readiness framework that focuses on 10 essential areas, and the 15 PHEP capabilities have been de-emphasized compared to previous cooperative agreements. Examples of these areas include health equity, workforce, risk communications, and data systems. Programmatic changes include grounding hazard planning in the regional HVA.
- Community-level priorities include participating in the HVA and state-sponsored drills, updating WebROC contact boards quarterly, and developing a public health emergency response framework.
- Coalition-level priorities include a needs assessment and hazard-specific planning based on a hazard identified through the HVA.

- For UASI communities, priorities include maintaining capacity for medical countermeasure dispensing and participating in the development of a state-level multi-year integrated preparedness plan.
- Liz updated that the program expects to be level-funded for the next budget period. The Local and State Advisory Committee examined the funding formula and funds reverted from past budget periods. Rural communities continue to need additional funding, and some small changes have been made to support those communities. Tim reviewed the overall PHEP funding breakdown; roughly a third of the funds are allocated to local health, OPEM, and BIDLs, with less than 10% of funds being distributed to the HMCCS, tribes, and the Bureau of Climate and Environmental Health. Karin (Somerville) asked if, given the amount of reverted funds every year and the number of needs in communities, there was a possibility of reinstating community-level funding.

II. Concurrence Vote

- Shin-Yi (Newton) made a motion to approve and concur; Melissa (Walpole) seconded.

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

- Kerry updated the coalition that much of the spending we have been waiting to see has begun; invoices are coming in and being paid. There may still be a few more gaps to fill to finish spending for the fiscal year. Kerry updated that the new MRC Coordinator will start next week. The Burlington MRC has requested funds for a tent and backpacks.
- Teri shared a quote for the PocketaTalks, roughly \$64,500 for 240 devices. Melissa made a motion to approve the budget as amended, including the \$700 for Burlington MRC, no more than \$65,000 for PocketaTalks, and no more than \$60,000 for a back to basics training, with the provision that if costs exceed the approved amount the EC will meet and discuss further to approve the purchasing expenses. Shaun (Hopkinton) seconded the motion.
- Teri updated that the next HMCC stakeholder meeting will be held on Tuesday April 23rd. JSI will be updating on the Extreme Temperatures project.

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

- Garrett updated that the NACCHO conference was last week and the coalition was able to send 17 people. Nancy (Cambridge) and Karin (Somerville) both presented. Somerville presented work done around access to warming centers for unhoused people. Cambridge presented work done around water, sanitation, and hygiene emergencies in populations experiencing homelessness. Kevin Sweet (Wrentham) was also part of a panel on environmental health.
- The first workshop for the Extreme Temperatures project is being held tomorrow.

V. MRC Updates



- Joanne (Central Middlesex) updated that they are still looking for a coordinator. Josh (MetroEast) updated that they are looking to set up the next round of training to re-engage at the grassroots level. Paul (MetroWest) reported that he has met with each community to assess their needs as he onboards and is working through a backlog in MAResponds. Brenda (Middlefork) updated their MRC is offering to Stop the Bleed on Tuesday. Mike (Burlington) updated that the MRC had their annual meeting recently. Caeli (NC-8) updated that NC-8 has an access and functional needs training coming up and is planning a full-day training day in September.

VI. New Business

No new business.

VII. Vote and Adjourn

- Kelly (Weston) made a motion to vote and adjourn; Shin-Yi seconded the motion. All (33) communities voted to concur, approve spending, and to adjourn at 12:00 pm.