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By K Battles at 10:30 am, Nov 07, 2022

# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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## MEETING MINUTES

### Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health (GBPH)

#### Advisory Board Agenda

January 12, 2022 at 2:00pm by Zoom

PRESENT VOTING MEMBERS: Kristin Black, PhD, MS (Northborough), Jennifer Sullivan (Westborough), Heather Alker, MD, MPH (Southborough)

PRESENT ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER: Chelsea Malinowski (Southborough)

OTHER: Isabella Caruso, MPH

#### **2:02 – Call to Order**

Black called the meeting to order. A roll call of voting members took place; Black, Sullivan, Alker, all present.

#### **2:03 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

It was decided that going forward, meeting attendees' titles would be listed at the top of the meeting minutes. Sullivan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 8, 2021. Seconded by Alker, all in favor.

Sullivan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 17, 2021. Seconded by Alker, all in favor.

#### **2:05 – Contact Tracing Grant**

Black provided an update on the contact tracing grant. The state has communicated that the funds are not to be used for vaccine clinics. For now, the focus should be on long-term care facilities, schools, and seniors. Black will provide more info as it becomes available. As the scope of the grant has changed a bit, Black reminded everyone to tell their schools administrations that the GBPH is here to help support them in any way they can.

Black provided an update on current staffing within the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health. Isabella Caruso, the new Epidemiologist introduced herself to everyone on the meeting. A discussion regarding Caruso's role took place. Caruso shared a COVID-19 dashboard that she has been creating which display COVID-19 data for all of the towns within the GBPH. This dashboard will be published weekly and will be pushed out to residents.

## **2:28 – Public Health Excellence Grant**

Black provided an update on the Public Health Excellence Grant. Black reminded all members to let her know if they have equipment/items that need to be ordered, as the grant funds are in a Northborough bank account.

Black discussed current vaccine clinic efforts. The plan is to have residents of the GBPH towns fill up all appointments needed before opening registration up to other towns.

## **2:34 – COVID-19 Testing**

Black mentioned that it would be great if each town within GBPH has a similar program to avoid confusion across the towns. Currently, Northborough uses antigen for the testing of employees. If the antigen comes back negative but the employee is symptomatic, a PCR test is done. Each town has been experiencing several false negatives on antigen tests. A discussion continued regarding plans for continued COVID-19 testing. When more PCR tests are available for purchase, the discussion will be continued.

## **2:46 - Mask Mandates**

A discussion about mask mandates and advisories within each town took place. Black, Sullivan and Alker shared what their towns are currently doing with regards to masking and discussed when the mandates will be revisited.

## **2:50 - Additional Funding Opportunities**

Malinowski shared that she had asked a firm to analyze public health related opportunities within baker's ARPA bill, she will keep everyone posted when she hears more.

## **2:53 – Confirm Future Meeting Dates**

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and June 8<sup>th</sup>. Sullivan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:55. Alker seconded the motion, all in favor.