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By K Battles at 12:43 pm, Apr 20, 2023

TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health (GBPH) Advisory Board December 14, 2022 at 2:00pm by Zoom

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

PRESENT ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER: Chelsea Malinowski (Southborough)

PRESENT NON-VOTING: Taylor West, RN (Southborough), Isabella Caruso, MPH, Erin Couillard, RN, Michael Seager, CP-FS, Chief Joe Flanagan (Boylston), Ann Marie Muckenstrom, RN

2:01 – Call to Order

Kristin Black called the meeting to order. A roll call of voting members took place; Kristin Black, Jennifer Sullivan, and Heather Alker, all present. (At time of the roll call vote Sarah Barrette was not present; however, she joined the meeting later.)

2:05 – Public Health Excellent Grant

Kristin Black provided an update on the Public Health Excellence Grant for shared services. GBPH is fully staffed under this grant, which includes Michael Seager, Health Agent, and our nursing contract with Salmon VNA, which includes 15 hours of nursing services weekly to each community.

Black updated the board that the Town of Northborough has been designated as a Community Naloxone Purchasing Program. This program allows public health nurses to distribute Narcan to the region. Erin Couillard provided an update on the first Narcan training at the Northborough Public Library on December 12th. The training was successful, and 19 kits distributed. There will be upcoming Narcan trainings in each of the towns. Nurses are also available to complete individual Narcan trainings. Public health nurses continue to conduct home wellness checks for residents upon request or referral.

Black reviewed the supplies budget for the PHE grant, which includes health communication, inspection supplies, membership fees for staff, nursing supplies, and technology hardware. There are available funds in this 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.

Fiscal Year 2023 is year 2 of the Public Health Excellence Grant, which is a three-year grant. Black anticipates we will receive the same award, which is renewal for another three-year term.

2:11 – COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Grant

Kristin Black provided an update on the COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contract Tracing grant. This grant supports 40-hours of contracted nursing each week through Salmon VNA and Isabella Caruso, regional epidemiologist. Contact tracing is no longer required for COVID-19, so nurses are shifting to work on other public health programs.

Funds from this grant can be rolled over into the Fiscal Year 2024. Black proposed rolling over funds to keep staff, including epidemiologist, Isabella Caruso, and public health nurse, Penny Giacobbi through Fiscal Year 2024. The Public Health Excellence Grant requires a program coordinator role, which we currently do not have. Kristin Black proposed increasing Caruso's hours to take on some of the program coordinator roles. The advisory group was agreeable.

Isabella Caruso discussed discontinuing the COVID-19 dashboard at the end of the year. No objections were raised. Caruso will continue to send weekly public health updates via emails to the region.

2:18 –DPH Capacity Assessment

Kristin Black provided an update on the DPH Capacity Assessment. All towns in the region completed the Phase 3 capacity assessment. BME will meet with the region to discuss the data collected in mid-February.

2:20 –GBPH Website

Kristin Black provided an update that the website domain www.gbph.org was purchased to be used as the Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health's website. Northborough is currently working on creating the website, but currently, we will use a temporary website. Black discussed the website will have information and flyers for our shared programming and other resources for the region. The website will also have all upcoming events, including vaccine clinics with registration.

2:23 –IMPACT Melanoma Sun Safety Resources and Program

Isabella Caruso shared information on a potential partnership with IMPACT Melanoma to install sunscreen dispensers throughout the region. Caruso has met with the manager at IMPACT Melanoma to discuss programs that the non-profit offer. Caruso shared a sample project proposal for 6-8 sunscreen dispensers. Kristin Black shared an overview of potential funding opportunities for the towns. Caruso will be the point person for this project and will share information and additional slides with the advisory group.

2:30 –Flu Vaccine Ordering for Next Year

Kristin Black provided an update on the flu vaccine ordering for next year. Under our contract with Salmon VNA, they will purchase the flu vaccine, run the clinics, and bring additional nurses. Salmon VNA will need to know approximately how many vaccines each town will need by the end of the year to guarantee availability. Erin Couillard will be coordinating this information for each town and will be able to assist with estimating the number of vaccines in the next couple of weeks. Towns must make requests to Erin by the end of December.

2:32 – Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2022

Sarah Scheinfein's last name was misspelled and will be fixed in the meeting minutes.

Jennifer Sullivan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 15, 2022. Seconded by Chelsea Malinowski, all in favor.

2:35 – Confirm Future Meeting Dates

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for, March 8th, June 14th, and September 13th.

Jennifer Sullivan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:35. Heather Alker seconded the motion, all in favor.