



TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5009 • 508-393-3130 Fax

MEETING MINUTES

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health (GBPH) Advisory Board

June 15, 2022 at 2:00pm by Zoom

PRESENT VOTING MEMBERS: Kristin Black, PhD, MS (Northborough), Jennifer Sullivan (Westborough), Sarah Scheinfein (Boylston)

PRESENT ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER: Chelsea Malinowski (Southborough)

PRESENT NON-VOTING: Isabella Caruso, Epidemiologist (GBPH), Ariella Levisohn, Summer Intern (GBPH), Taylor West, RN (Southborough), Katie Holt, Admin Asst (Northborough)

2:03 – Call to Order

Kristin Black called the meeting to order.

2:05 – Public Health Excellence Grant for Shared Services

Kristin Black reviewed the budget for the Public Health Excellence Grant for Shared Services. Black mentioned some minor revisions to budget line items that were discussed during previous meetings. A discussion took place regarding what types of supplies can be ordered with the medical supplies line item in the budget. Black suggested ordering child size masks, Sullivan suggested ordering thermometers.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed budget for FY23. A shared Health Inspector will soon be hired and Erin Couillard (Public Health Nurse) will be returning from maternity leave in August.

Black mentioned the potential of getting involved with Department of Public Health (DPH) regional training hubs – the state is looking to set up ten regional training hubs across the state. Senior trainers (DPH employees) plan to provide training through these hubs on food safety, housing, and septic. Black is currently waiting for more info from the state and will keep the advisory board members updated as information becomes available.

2:20 – Local health support for COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing

Black explained that unused funds from the Local Health Support for COVID-10 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing grant can be rolled to fiscal year 2023. Money will be available if there is a need for masks, sanitizer, etc. A brief discussion continued.

2:23 – Home Wellness Checks

Home wellness checks are underway in Northborough, Westborough, and Boylston. Southborough's Senior Center is working on pulling together a list of senior residents that may be interested in wellness checks. Black

showed the board members a 2-sided cardstock pamphlet going over what a wellness check includes and who GBPH is, which will be provided to residents.

2:26 – Summer Internships

Isabella Caruso described the projects that the interns are working on, which includes working on health education materials. Caruso mentioned to the board members that they should reach out with any suggested tasks or projects for the interns to work on throughout the summer. Ariella Levisohn introduced herself. Levisohn is a first-year student at Tufts University. Levisohn is currently helping with the planning for covid vaccines for children under age 5 with local physicians to see what kind of support they need. Levisohn has collected list of pediatrician offices in Northborough, Southborough, Westborough, Hopkinton, and Holliston. Levisohn said that based on her findings, it seems that bigger providers are planning to administer the vaccine but only for current patients. Most of the practices are still trying to figure out what the demand will be as they are running into some vaccine hesitancy with the patients under age 5. A brief discussion continued regarding the COVID-19 vaccine for under age 5.

2:32– COVID-19 Vaccinations

Black shared that Ashland is running a weekly “catch up clinic” for school-required immunizations. These clinics are meant for people that need to “catch up” and may not have a primary care doctor. Black will reach out to the Ashland Health Director and get more information for residents.

2:34– Community Health Assessment

Jenn Sullivan shared that she had spoken with her Town Manager about pursuing a Community Health Assessment (CHA). Westborough has decided that due to cost, they would keep the process on hold until other towns decided what they would be doing. The CHA is more costly than anticipated but could be less expensive if multiple towns do it together. Westborough may be interested in a CHA at a regional level. Southborough also expressed interest if funding is available or if it was pursued at a regional level. Scheinfein will touch base with Boylston to get feedback on interest. Black discussed setting up a zoom meeting with vendor Health Resources In Action to get more information and discuss options.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9th, 2022

Sullivan moved to approve the March 9th, 2022 minutes as recorded. Malinowski seconded, all in favor. Sarah Scheinfein abstained.

Confirm Future Meeting Dates

September 14th, December 14th, March 8th, June 14th

Questions and discussion

A brief discussion regarding Erin Couillard’s return from maternity leave took place. Black reminded everyone to communicate what their nursing needs may be.

At 2:43, Sullivan made a motion to adjourn. Malinowski seconded, all in favor.