

JAMES MULLEN, Chair
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NATHANIEL W. KARNS, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

MEETING NOTES

Berkshire Public Health Alliance District Incentive Grant Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2011
6:00 – 8:00 (Refreshments at 5:30)
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
1 Fenn Street
Pittsfield, MA
2nd Floor Conference Room
(directions at: <http://www.berkshireplanning.org/about/directions.html>)

Towns/Cities Represented

Chester and Windsor – Erin Kirchner (BOH Agent/BOS Member)
Dalton – Lois Bessette (Public Health Nurse)
Egremont – Sandra Martin (BOH Agent/also BCBOHA Staff) and Laura Allen (Finance Committee)
Lanesborough – Nancy Simonds-Ruderman (BOH Agent)
New Marlborough – Scott McFarland (BOH Agent)
North Adams – Manuel Serrano (BOH Director)

Peru, Washington, Windsor – Valerie Nickerson Bird (BOH Agent)
Richmond – Andy Fisher (BOH Member)
Richmond – Tony Segal
Richmond/West Stockbridge – John Olander (BOH Agent)
Sheffield – Priscilla Cote (BOH Chairperson)
Washington – Jim Huebner (BOH/BOS Chairperson)
Williamstown – Ron Stant (BOH Member)

Partners Present

BCBOHA – Laura Kittross and Diane Persson
BRPC – Tom Matuszko

CHA – Emilie Jarrett
MDPH – AJ Juarez

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- ❖ Approval of Meeting Notes from August 25, 2011 meeting
 - T. Segal motioned, J. Huebner seconded, unanimously approved meeting notes

 - ❖ Reports / updates from municipalities
 - Sheffield – reports positive feedback from lawyer, but no formal review was written
 - Lanesborough – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - Williamstown – recommended by BOH on 9/6, BOS meet 9/12
 - Washington – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - North Adams – BOH and Mayor are all positive, City Council is aware of it
 - Peru – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - Richmond – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - Windsor – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - Chester – very interested and moving forward with becoming participants
 - West Stockbridge – two people are on the BOH and also the BOS, both approved
 - Dalton – BOH and BOS meet 9/12
 - Egremont – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
 - Alford - recommended by BOH and approved by BOS

- Savoy – BOH and BOS are one body – will meet later this month
- Hancock – BOH meets 9/13
- Becket – BOH and BOS meet 9/2
- Adams – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
- New Marlborough – recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
- Sandisfield - recommended by BOH and approved by BOS
- Hinsdale – BOH did not recommend to BOS – not moving forward

❖ Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMA) update

❖ Role of Public Health Nurse – Emilie Jarrett

- Community Health Association formed in 1928 to help new mothers in the community
- CHA was a VNA; but, because it is a small agency and costs of operation were so high, it let that piece go about five years ago
 - Decided to go back to its roots
 - What does the community need and how can a public health nurse help?
- CHA activities
 - Education – conferences are held several times a year
 - Childhood obesity – working in the schools focusing on nutrition, exercise, family dinners, and screen time (tv, video games, computer, etc.)
 - Council on Aging luncheons – talks about Lyme disease, flu, arthritis
 - Collaborated with BCBOHA during H1N1
 - Health Fairs with screens for cholesterol, vision, hearing, diabetes
 - Communicable disease reports and follow up
 - Emergency planning
 - Flu clinics
 - Blood draws and prothrombin (clotting time) checks
 - House calls (basic nursing services and assessment)
 - Public Health Nurse can fill the gaps when insurance won't cover home visits
- Q & A
 - What is the population that CHA serves?
 - Approximately 3,000; but that can double in the summertime
 - How many staff is there?
 - One at 20 hours per week
 - Does CHA get referrals from the VNAs?
 - Yes
 - Does CHA direct bill to insurance?
 - No – everything is provided free of charge
 - What is the budget?
 - \$58,000 per year
 - Spring fundraiser nets ~ \$16,000 and the Winter fundraiser nets ~ \$12-13,000
 - How many visits are made per year?
 - There can be 15-25 visits per week
 - How do you determine who gets a visit?
 - All visits have to have a doctor's order
 - Does the BOH ever call or refer, i.e.: go with a health agent during an inspection?
 - No, but she would go if asked to
 - What do you think about a Public Health Nurse for the Alliance?
 - Would at least need disease surveillance and follow-up
 - Most can be done over the phone
 - Follow up with hospital discharges
 - What about liability?
 - Because all visits are done with a doctor's order and because CHA carries insurance, it is covered
 - Do mothers and newborns get follow up?
 - VNAs take that on
 - Age group of clients?
 - Elderly

- How do physicians know about CHA?
 - Word of mouth, clients request services
 - Do you feel like you have enough time to do everything?
 - Yes
 - So 20,000 people could be covered by one full-time nurse
 - AJ Juarez suggested that the group look at the MA Health Study recently done and the Public Health Outcomes on demographics, prevention, education and risk factors for a baseline to determine Public Health Nursing focus
 - E. Jarrett said she would love to have a Countywide focus on promoting health and get creative with programs, techniques, and outreach
 - She believes that a key to CHA success is that the employees lead by example by participating in healthy activities in the community
- ❖ Public Health Nurse Consultant
- Had advertised for a consultant to help develop plan
 - Received two responses
 - 1 backed out
 - The other is not certain, mainly because of the timeline
 - M. Serrano asked why group was looking for a public health nursing piece.
 - L. Kittross said that the group had identified it as a need/gap
 - Saw Implementation Grant as an opportunity to try out the program
 - Grant cannot supplant town money, meaning you can't use the grant money to pay an employee's salary; but, you can use the money in a different way or to add to programs
 - M. Serrano and S. Martin agreed that another option might be for the group to collectively bargain with the VNAs
 - AJ Juarez suggested looking at the population based expenses and compare with what services are being provided vs. what is not
 - Is public health nursing something that the group still wants to pursue?
 - Yes
- ❖ Review of Implementation RFR
- Alliance can move forward however the groups wants
 - Implementation Grant has restrictions
 - If group applies for and gets grant, it will provide a cushion while cost, demand, etc. is figured out, minimizing the risk to the towns
 - J. Huebner motioned, T. Segal seconded to apply for Implementation Grant
 - Discussion:
 - S. Martin handed out a summary
 - Group needs to decide on vision, mission, goals
 - BOHs need to take one of two trainings
 - MAHB – October 22
 - BCBOHA can help with mileage and ½ of food cost
 - LPHI – online training
 - Food Safety component
 - Community Health Assessment
 - M. Serrano suggested getting info from annual reports
 - Who is the applicant?
 - Can be BRPC or a lead municipality
 - Group decided that it should be BRPC
 - Application is due November 18th
 - Bidders conference – 9/20 from 10:30-12 at MDPH in Northampton
 - S. Martin will try to go
 - Funding – step down over 4 years, running January 1st – December 31st, contingent on funding and proof of performance for each year
 - 1st year – \$100,000
 - 2nd year – \$100,000
 - 3rd year – \$75,000
 - 4th year – \$50,000

- Requirements – have to meet at least one of the three:
 - 50,000 population
 - 150 square miles
 - 5 towns involved
 - Training and Credentialing Requirements
 - Required for anyone receiving grant funds
 - New hire – has one year to complete
 - Existing employee – has two years to complete
 - Narrative – description of what to include begins on page 11 of RFR
 - Cannot be more than 15 pages long
 - A. Fisher suggested adding attachments as needed to keep narrative short
- ❖ Business Planning
- How long does it take to do a restaurant inspection?
 - 2 ½ - 3 hours – it does not matter how many seats there are – the same things need to be inspected
 - How long does it take to do a convenience store?
 - 2 ½ hours
 - Review of plans for construction permit?
 - Should be hourly fee with a minimum of 1 hour
- ❖ Next Meeting
- Scheduled for September 22, 2011
 - Agenda items
 - Implementation Grant
 - Apply for it?
 - If not, how does group move forward?
- ❖ Homework
- Section 4
 - Long term vs. short term goals
 - Objectives (have to be measurable)
 - Vision – ideal dream
 - Mission – implementation of dream
 - Goals – more specific
 - Objectives – measurable tasks to achieve goals
- ❖ Adjourn
- J. Huebner motioned, N. Simonds-Ruderman seconded, unanimous approval to adjourn

More Information:

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RSVP:

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