

Foothills Health District - Sept. 21, 2022 meeting minutes

Present: Fran Fortino (FF) chair, Donna Gibson (DG), Helen Symons (HS), Mike Kurland (MK), Tiffany Marcinek (TM), Josh Lafond (JL), Katch Bachelor (KM), Robby Armenti (RA), Mark Bushee, Health Director, (MB), Doc Pruyne, Reminder newspaper.

- 1) Meeting call to order at 6:40 p.m.
- 2) FHD minutes of June 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 3) MB updated the Board as follows:
 - Digitization of BOH files now occurring, Williamsburg's file done, Whately next, then Westhampton & Goshen; working on where to host the digital files for BOH access.
 - PHE FY23 budget template revised and more difficult to complete. It is due Sept. 30. Plan is to put all of Niki Vaughan's time on the PHE grant and increase it to 40 hours/week.
 - PHE Phase 1 capacity assessment for FHD is done, but not without concerns for variations within FHD towns. It is also due Sept. 30.
 - PHE Phase 2 workforce survey out next week to be filled out by all FHD staff and BOH members and their direct employees, i.e. transfer station attendants, etc. Likely due by mid-Oct. Phase 2 intent is to find out what training and/or credentials may be needed for BOHs and FHD to meet the standards MA DPH would like to see in place according to the Blueprint for Public Health Excellence in MA: www.mass.gov/orgs/special-commission-on-local-and-regional-public-health. There is on-your-time online training in Foundations of Public Health, the basic training DPH wants all BOH members to have, check: <https://sites.bu.edu/masslocalinstitute/training/on-your-time-trainings/>
 - Given DPH concern for enforcement of tobacco regs, both state and local, FF and MB recommend the 3 FHD towns join the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Control Coalition - Whately is already an active member. The PVTC does tobacco sales compliance checks; provides education and required signage; and helps with local BOH anti-nicotine regulations - all for free. It would relieve MB from doing this intense work, and our 4 towns would meet DPH standards for this BOH responsibility.
- 4) Mike Archbald, FHD public health nurse out this evening. MB mentions that the PHN wellness clinics are set up in all 4 towns. RA reported 6 covid cases in their school, TM said kids and staff in Goshen were also affected. FF asked for a report from PHN on covid in our communities which MB will get. All agreed there is an undercount of covid cases in schools without required reporting to BOH. We discussed adding a sticker to contact our PHN if someone tests positive using the free antigen test kits received by all 4 towns.
- 5) FF gave an update on the status of the FHD bylaw revisions, and we set a date for the FHD personnel committee to review the almost final version on 9/29 at 9 a.m. via zoom. FF to send link.
- 6) FF gave review of 2 FHD standing committees: personnel & PHE/Finance where new members needed
- 7) RA asks the Board to start thinking about how to pool opioid settlement funds to towns for greater impact, particularly in schools. More at the next FHD meeting.
- 8) Next meeting: Oct. 19 via zoom, 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned 7:41 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted, Fran F.