

# Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health

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## MINUTES

October 18, 2023 – 1pm

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED ON JANUARY 8, 2024**

*This meeting was held remotely under the provisions allowed by Acts (2021) Chapter 20, An Act relative to extending specific COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency (<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2021/Chapter20>) approved on June 16, 2021*

Attendees: Connor Robichaud, Mishel Caisapanta – CMRPC; Colleen Strapponi – Blackstone; Jack McLellan – Mendon; Jeanne Gniadek – Northbridge; Sherry Grant – Millville; Diane Tiernan – Upton; Erin Hightower and Dr. David Tapscott – Uxbridge; Agnieszka Podstawka – Douglas; Deb Vescera, Dan Markman, Jack Sullivan – BVPPH

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Erin made a motion, seconded by Agnieszka, to approve the minutes of the Sept 12, 2023, BVPPH meeting. The motion to include this adjustment and approve the minutes passed unanimously.

### **2. Inspection Staff Update**

Accompanied Jodi from the tobacco alliance on an inspection. 8 out of 9 of the participants passed the last SERV Safe test.

### **3. Public Health Nurse Update**

Deb is putting together a resource list for hoarding. She is also doing presentations for Narcan. She did a disease report for the towns and sent it to Jack for his review.

### **4. Epidemiologist Updates**

Our best barometer for COVID-19 has been wastewater. Uxbridge has been the best data because they are sampling regularly. The latest sample has fallen into the medium-risk category. Douglas has not had a sample report in a couple of weeks. Some mobile vax events have been canceled because of the lack of availability of vaccines. More private providers seem to have it available. Jack noted that school immunization is self-reported, so keep that in mind when reviewing reports. A school in Mendon may need to be reminded to submit their report. On tick-borne disease, Jack will work with Deb to visualize data.

### **5. Shared Service Coordinator Update**

## **Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health**

- a. Brainstorming Inspector Goals for FY24: Continue serve safe training and provide more opportunities as possible; Continue building relationships with coworkers and establishment owners;

Work toward CHO, Asbestos, Lead Inspector, and other relevant certifications as training are available; Improve scheduling organization across towns to ensure inspections are completed in a timely manner; Work with the CMRPC Training Hub to develop SOPs as laid out in the BVPPH work plan, especially around housing. BVPPH asked that inspectors use time outside working hours to study for certifications, though attending training during work hours is allowable.

Jeanne motioned to give Dan a 3% merit increase effective October 19<sup>th</sup>. Erin seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jeanne motioned to give Danielle a 2.5% merit increase effective October 19<sup>th</sup>. Diane seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Most towns plan to attend Sen Fattman's meeting on Opioid Settlement Funds. BVPPH also asked that Connor attend to provide input.
- c. Towns are skeptical of using Housing Code Pro, but Uxbridge is willing to try it while it is free.
- d. BVPPH is interested in interviewing all three applicants who have applied for the open positions.

### **6. Unanticipated business**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 15 at 1 pm.

### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm