MINUTES

May 1, 2024 – 12:30 pm

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE BVPPH ON MAY 14, 2024.

Attendees: Connor Robichaud, CMRPC; Jeanne Gniadek – Northbridge; Diane Tiernan – Upton; Erin Hightower – Uxbridge; Julie Kessler and Kristin Harris– Douglas; Jack McKlellan – Mendon; Colleen Strapponi – Blackstone; Jack Sullivan, Deb Vescera, Dan Markman, Jenna Gouin, Emily Whittaker-Smith - BVPPH

1. Approval of Minutes
   Colleen made a motion, seconded by Jeanne, to approve the minutes of the April BVPPH meeting. The motion minutes passed unanimously.

2. New Inspector Welcome
   Emily Whittaker-Smith introduced herself to the group and will soon be sworn in by member town BOHs.

3. Shared Services Coordinator Updates
   a. IMA
      Towns plan to have their IMAs executed by the end of June
   b. Year-end spending
      The group would like to purchase spray disinfectant, liquid enzyme, and protective boot covers for inspector safety.
      Jeanne made a motion, seconded by Diane, to shift the part-time Community Outreach Worker position to a part-time Community Health Worker position to better organize the community health work, with each employee serving as a lead for certain towns. On the Communications Planning consultant, the group favored Issues Management Group; CMRPC will move forward with the contracting process.

4. Inspection Staff Updates
   Most towns are caught up or will be by the end of June. Dan noted a concern around the regulation of CBD and THC beverages and will follow up with BOHs to provide more information.

5. Community Health Worker - Focus on creating relationships with Police, fire EMS, food pantries, local task forces, and provider collaboratives. These contacts are being memorialized in a spreadsheet. Question about whether a CHW can handle HIPAA-protected information in relation to frequent users of EMS services

6. Public Health Nurse Updates
Deb has developed a new program on depression, isolation, and anxiety, and has shared with the group. She noted an increase in Lyme disease. She also has a Narcan training scheduled.

7. **Epidemiologist Updates**
   Jack also noted the concern with H5N1 (avian flu). Areas of concern in New England are mostly in dairy production.
   Wastewater levels for COVID-19 are still down. Biobot has been analyzing RSV, flu, and substances for Douglas. There is still an increase in nicotine.
   Jack also noted DESE’s increase in religious exemption requests.

8. **Unanticipated business**
   a. The next meeting is May 14 at 1 pm, to be held virtually. It will likely focus on the Communications project. Subsequently, there will be a BVPPH meeting on June 4 at 1 pm, also virtual.

9. **Adjourn**
   a. Adjourned 1:35 pm