

## *Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses Western Mass. Chapter*

Minutes from: Wed., February 18, 2009  
Regional DPH Office - Northampton

Meeting Began: 12:30 PM

In attendance: Sherry Petrucci (Agawam), Marija Popstefanija (MDPH), Debra Mulvenna (Westfield), Linda Dion (Westfield), Sandy Zieminski (Holyoke), Patricia Abbott (Northampton/ Easthampton), Kathleen Placek (Chicopee), Fran LaMountain (West Springfield), Francine Rusiecki (Ludlow), Sandy Johnson (Springfield), Elizabeth Porchelli (Springfield), Michelle Beaudoin (Springfield), Helen Taugher (MDPH), Katie Sullivan (Chicopee), Glynnis LaRosa (MDPH), Magda Ahmed, (DPH), Mary Allen (West Springfield), Catherine Andrews (Elms Student), Jennifer Cochran (DPH), Mohamed Alsaedi (Outreach).

### **New Business:**

- Jennifer Cochran spoke with the group regarding services available to refugees and immigrant populations in Western Mass.
- Refugee placement is through the U.S. State Dept of Immigration. 60,000 are resettled annually, 2% of which are resettled in Massachusetts.
- Immigration Department has Co-op agreements with two Volags (Voluntary Resettlement Agencies) in Western Mass. (Jewish Family Services of W. Mass and Lutheran Services). These agencies have a 30 day commitment to secure housing, school enrollment, assist with the application for social security number, and refer for medical care and employment services.
- Issues were presented to Ms. Cochran related to sub-standard housing that refugees are placed into upon arrival. Also, crowded conditions as well, multiple families living in the same units.
- Suggestion from the group was for federally funded Health Centers to provide all of the medical care to these individuals and families; Tb testing, immunizations, well and sick care and not have them moving from one place to another to obtain care.
- Magda Ahmed spoke about the Refugee and Immigrant Consortium that meets the last Friday of each month starting 10:30 at the Community Room of the Springfield Library.

### **Old Business:**

- Financial Report: \$594.83 remains in account.
- MAPHN annual conference is scheduled for April 30, 2009- W.Mass raffle donation this year will consist of a combination of gift cards and lottery tickets \$75.00 value.
- April Meeting will begin with a tour of the State Lab in Boston at 9:30, lunch on your own in the cafeteria and then tour of Lemuel Shattuck. Head count was six; Barbara Coughlin will make arrangements for transportation.
- Request was made from Areatha Lawson – Springfield TB Clinic to ask when was the last time LBOH received DOT payment for their services. Results revealed 2006 possibly 2007. No community has received payment for Latent TB –B visits.
- March meeting will be a potluck luncheon with a presentation from Helen Taugher.