

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

Minutes from: Wed., December 17, 2008
Red Rose Pizzeria - Springfield

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), Mary Allen (West Springfield), Francine Rusiecki (Ludlow), Stephanie Buzigian-Merrick (MDPH), Sandy Johnson (Springfield), Ann Marie O'Keefe (Springfield), Michelle Beaudoin (Springfield), Fran LaMountain (W. Springfield).

New Business:

- Our annual Holiday Luncheon took place at the Red Rose Pizzeria in Springfield. This year our goal was to fill and distribute "Hope Totes" to the Springfield Rescue Mission homeless population. As a group of Public Health Nurses we filled close to 30 bags. The contact person for the Hope Tote program was Julie and she personally spoke to our group about the tremendous effort and support we provided. Thank you to everyone that helped with this cause.
- Amherst has a new public health nurse. Welcome Keith Carlson!
- Have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family! See you next year....

Next meeting is;

**Wednesday, January 21st. @ 12:30,
Northampton Regional DPH Office**

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

Minutes from: Weds, April 16, 2008
Northampton Regional DPH Office

Meeting Began: 12:30 PM

In attendance: Sherry Petrucci (Agawam), Debra Mulvenna (Westfield), Linda Dion (Westfield), Sandy Zieminski (Holyoke), Patricia Abbott (Northampton/ Easthampton), Katie Sullivan (Chicopee), Kathleen Placek (Chicopee), Mary Allen (West Springfield), Selena Kaplan (Springfield), Francine Ruciecki (Ludlow), Julie Federman (Amherst), Stephanie Merrick (MDPH), Marija Popstefanija (MDPH), Nancy Gilbert (Elms), Sandy Johnson (Springfield), Michelle Beaudoin (Springfield), Denise Perlaky (Longmeadow).

New Business:

- Marija has been working on the statistics related to strep pneumo on the morbidity rates for less than 18 year old cohorts. The FDA is using the Massachusetts data to approve a new "PCV 13" vaccine by the end of 2009 beginning of 2010. When reviewing the data it has shown an increasing number of cases of strep pneumo related to 19A and 7F strains not usually seen in the USA.
- MDPH continues to work with a decreased budget funding and has eliminated one epi position.
- MDPH immunization program has a new division director, Larry Medoff, MD, who is also the editor for ProMed.
- Holyoke- Planning to set up tables on May 7th at high school regarding teen pregnancy, awaiting approval from principal.
- Ludlow- Still working on Medicare billing awaiting their provider number.
- Chicopee- Immunizing police & fire with Hepatitis B.
- Westfield- \$5.00 Tb charge is going to the city council for approval.
- Westfield- Intermittent billing Medicare for influenza vaccination.
- Amherst, Northampton, Easthampton & Southhampton- Have a grant to provide Employee Wellness programs that was through Mt Tom Tobacco Coalition.
- Agawam- Awaiting approval from Medicare for revalidation of application.

Old Business:

- Tb clinic operations. Continue to submit your monthly "B" visits on your submission forms with attached copies of your pink sheets at the end of each month.

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Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses Western Mass. Chapter

Minutes from: Weds, March 12, 2008
Northampton Regional DPH Office

Meeting Began: 12:30 PM

In attendance: Sherry Petrucci (Agawam), Debra Mulvenna (Westfield), Linda Dion (Westfield), Sandy Zieminski (Holyoke), Patricia Abbott (Northampton/ Easthampton), Katie Sullivan (Chicopee), Kathleen Placek (Chicopee), Mary Allen (West Springfield), Selena Kaplan (Springfield), Francine Ruciecki (Ludlow), Julie Federman (Amherst), Amanda Knox (Elms student), Stephanie Merrick (MDPH), Marija Popstefanija (MDPH), Patricia McGrath (Pittsfield), Soloe Dennis (PVPC), Myrna Leiper (MDPH).

New Business:

- Soloe Dennis, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, for PVPC spoke to the group on his role in Emergency Preparedness. He will be visiting LBOH to review their EDS sites and plans. He was asked to include the public health nurses in these meetings because the nurse is the one that will be setting up the clinics in these sites and should have input in the design and needs. He will also be available to help with COOP plans should the need arise. Soloe's phone is 413-781-6445.
- Myrna Leiper, RN-TSA, gave clarifications to the new Technical Instructions/ Classifications for Class A/B TB arrivals. In short all Medical evaluations, laboratory and treatment should now occur overseas prior to the arrival of refugees and immigrants. (Countries included in these changes to date are Burmese refugees, Mexican, Philippine, Viet Nam, Kenya, Iraq, China, and Nepal, ? Turkey) Additional countries will be added in the future as WHO funds are made available to set up medical evaluation clinics. The only needed procedure on arrival should be a follow-up x-ray. However, there is always some exception to the rule, if the individual is in imminent danger or death, then INS would be the deciding agency that could allow entry without treatment and evaluation. Any confusion, questions can be directed to Myrna.
- MAPHN has asked each chapter to inventory the location of equipment. To date, Sherry Petrucci has the laptop, projector and printer secured in her office. Mary Allen has the display board and table skirt.
- MAPHN has two vacancies for 2nd VP to replace Sandy Zieminski, and the membership secretary. Ballots will be arriving in the mail shortly.
- Nomination for the PHN award during the MAPHN conference should be sent to Charlotte Stepanian at cestep25@verizon.net with a brief history.
- May 2nd is National Pregnancy Prevention Day.
- Pittsfield has secured a MOA with Red Cross for traffic control in the event of an emergency. Contact Pat McGrath at pmcgrath@pittsfieldch.com for more information.
- MAPHN is looking for Newsletter articles; submissions are due by April 1st.
- Ashfield has a PHN, Marija will send along contact information to Sherry.
- Medications should not be placed in sharps containers for disposal. It is uncertain where or how these containers are disposed of. Some medications are very combustible upon incineration.
- Amherst DPW received a grant to provide sharps disposal. Residents can purchase quart size containers for \$2.00 and 5 quart containers for \$10.00 this fee includes the container and disposal fee.
- It was discussed that on the months when we do not have a speaker, a topic of discussion will be preplanned and all members will discuss a plan of action each community can use to handle a concern. Example: Hoarding. What recourses, action plan, and solutions does each town use to handle this concern? Please e-mail Sherry with topics of concern that you would like included in a discussion. We can start with April's meeting. So get your topic in ASAP.

Old Business:

- Tb clinic operations update. A meeting has been arranged for Monday, March 17th at 9:30, W. Spfld room at BSMC. Mary Allen and Sherry Petrucci will be attending on behalf of the PHN's attending the Springfield Tb Clinic.

- **Tuesday, April 1st at 12 noon, Agawam Health Department Conference Room.** Area Public Health Nurses are meeting to formulate a press release on “National Pregnancy Prevention Day” and strategize on getting recognition for Public Health Nurses in our area. May 2nd is around or during Nurses week. Get your resource information together and bring to the meeting.

March 19th DPH office “Surveillance and control Training” come and support our great public health nurses Sandy Zieminski and Julie Federman.

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Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses Western Mass. Chapter

Minutes from: Weds, February 20, 2008
Northampton Regional DPH Office

Meeting Began: 12:30 PM

In attendance: Sherry Petrucci (Agawam), Debra Mulvenna (Westfield), Linda Dion (Westfield), Sandy Zieminski (Holyoke), Patricia Abbott (Northampton/ Easthampton), Glynnis LaRosa (MDPH), Laurel Pelis (Cooley Dickenson Hospital), Katie Sullivan (Chicopee), Kathleen Placek (Chicopee), Mary Allen (West Springfield), Selena Kaplan (Springfield), Helen Taugher (MDPH), Michele Beaudoin (Springfield), Denise Perlaky (Longmeadow), Sandra Johnson (Springfield), Cindy Croce (BVNA), Francine Ruciecki (Ludlow), Julie Federman (Amherst), Jessica Rodriguez (Elms student), Elizabeth Lindsay (Elms student), Nancy Gilbert (Elms).

New Business:

- Helen Taugher, MDPH Regional Immunization Nurse, provided a power point presentation on the soon to be implemented VMBIP system. Start date still remains June 2008. Anyone in need of assistance in calculating their proposed vaccine need can contact Suzanne Long in Amherst at 413-545-6600.
- Denise Perlaky from Longmeadow mentioned if you have a provider in need of replacing their refrigerator Merck Pharmaceuticals may be of assistance with financing.
- The W. Mass Chapter is in receipt of the \$2000.00 grant from Sanofi to do a presentation. Topics were discussed and the consensus was Shingles. Suggested speakers were Dr. Donna Fisher or Dr. Barbara Stechenberg, Infectious Disease. Sherry will contact either physician or both to inquiry about speaking and the cost. Arrangements based upon remaining funds will determine site of presentation and invited guests.
- MAPHN conference is May 1st at the Doubletree in Westborough.
- W. Mass Chapter Raffle Basket for the MAPHN conference will be gift certificates again this year. It was voted that the cost will be \$75.00 this year, broken up among three cards.
- Glynnis LaRosa gave her Senior Nursing report. Electronic copies can be requested from Glynnis.
- March 19th is the Annual Surveillance training in Northampton. MAPHN has requested a PHN from each region do a presentation during this training. Sandy Zieminski and Julie Federman have offered to be the presenters. Glynnis is developing a slide presentation for them.
- Reports from Individual towns: Ludlow is trying to develop a revolving account in her community. Northampton has lost its Health Agent and Sanitarian. The department now consists of a Full time clerk and Part time Public Health Nurse. Longmeadow currently has a personal listening system that assists the Public Health Nurse with communicating with hearing impaired elders. Chicopee now has Holyoke Catholic in their community, and has some concerns with the School Enhancement Grant funding that may not fund parochial school health. West Springfield has its first MRC – 101 occurring on Feb. 26th in their auditorium at city hall. Westfield was informed by their legal council that in 1991, legislation was passed regarding the setting of fees for service in cities and towns. As assumed it was felt each local health department and BOH could set their own fees without getting council approval. Apparently, not so unless the council passed an ordinance back in 1991 allowing the Health Departments and BOH to do so. Berkshire VNA has a mobile van –RV with 2 exam rooms, vision and hearing machines and ect. Funded in part by Berkshire Health Systems. Berkshire VNA also sited an increase in Lyme disease follow-up forms from MDPH. It was agreed by each community they are seeing an increase as well, however the forms lack needed information to fully follow up on. Lacks the lab report and date, physician, and other identifying information. Agawam is holding MRC training as well on NIMS 700 and IS 100 and has opened it up to W. Springfield, Westfield and Longmeadow MRC members also.
- 2008 Immunization Updates are scheduled for May 2 in Pittsfield, May 28 at K or C Chicopee, May 30 at Greenfield Community College.

Old Business:

- Tb clinic operations update. A meeting has been arranged for Monday, March 17th at 9:30, location TBA. Mary Allen and Sherry Petrucci will be attending on behalf of the PHN's attending the Springfield Tb Clinic.

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Minutes from: Weds, January 16, 2008
Northampton Regional DPH Office

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Matters Discussed:

New Business:

- Marija Popstefanija gave a CEU presentation on “ Pertussis Case Investigation & Disease Control”
- VMBIP (Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project) is now anticipated to kick-off on June 23. It will take 2-3 weeks for delivery of ordered vaccines with this new program. LBOH will most likely have to keep at least a 2 month supply for local providers anticipating miscalculated shipments.
- Immunization Updates are anticipated to occur in Chicopee, Berkshires, and Franklin County possible in May.
- MAPHN conference is slated for May 1st at the Doubletree in Westborough.
- Raffle ideas for the Conference should be sent to Sheila Miller at smiller@townofsharon.org
- MAPHN has a new look to the website. www.MAPHN.org
- Sue Etkind is now the MAPHN treasurer, replacing Anne Fleming.
- MAPHN elections will be taking place soon for 2nd VP and membership secretary
- Selena Kaplan is developing a marketing plan to assist and promote public health nursing.
- Intense discussion arose regarding the Springfield TB clinic operations as it relates to PHN.

**Next Meeting: Weds. February 20, 2008, 12:00 pm – 4:00pm.
Regional DPH Office- Northampton.**