



# The Pulse of MAPHN



*"Making a difference to improve and protect the health of our communities."*

Summer 2022

[maphn.org](http://maphn.org)

Volume 6, Issue 2

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Ruth Mori, MAPHN President**



Dear Members,

As we all are enjoying the summer season, it seems like yesterday when many were able to attend our first conference in two years. A huge shout out to those on our MAPHN Board, Speakers, and Exhibitors, who planned a fabulous conference for all.

For those who attended and are new to Public Health Nursing, I hope you left feeling more informed and connected to the organization. As PHN's we all support each other and the importance of workforce

development remains an ongoing goal the organization is dedicated towards. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your neighboring PHN, your Chapter President, [info@maphn.org](mailto:info@maphn.org) or [President@maphn.org](mailto:President@maphn.org) should you have questions and need assistance with resources. MAPHN is currently working with the American Public Health Association (APHA) Public Health Nursing Section as the 125th Anniversary starts their kickoff at the Boston conference this year in November. MAPHN is both proud and excited to have a large representation of PHN's able to attend this year.

This will be the last time I participate in this Newsletter as your President. For those who may not be aware, I have taken a position at MDPH as a Regional Immunization Nurse. Although I remain working as a PHN and have consulted with the MA Ethics Committee who has informed me that I may continue as MAPHN President, the potential for perceived conflict indicates that for the benefit of the organization, I should step down.

President-Elect Gail Johnson, PHN from Westford will be taking over the role as President at this point. Please know that the President's MAPHN organizational email ([president@maphn.org](mailto:president@maphn.org)) will easily be transferred to her and all communications to that email will remain in place. As always, we do our best to provide a seamless transition for our membership.

I thank each of you for allowing me the privilege to serve as organizational President and will always be involved as an active MAPHN member. It is an exciting time to be a Public Health Nurse in the Commonwealth!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful rest of summer and start of Fall.

Please take care and thank you,

Ruth Mori MSN, RN

Ruth

## **MEET YOUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**

Your **Officers** are elected by the membership to serve you and vote on issues at the BOD meetings. Officers who are filling a vacancy are appointed by the BOD and serve for the remainder of the designated term.

Feel free to contact any of the Board about anything MAPHN! And BOD meetings are open to all MAPHN Members to attend! The Board meets quarterly; contact any of the leaders listed below for the next meeting date.

**President:** Gail Johnson [president@maphn.org](mailto:president@maphn.org)

**Immediate Past President:** Ruth Mori [mjm3mom2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mjm3mom2003@yahoo.com)

**Vice President:** Sarah Harris (2022-2024) [vicepresident@maphn.org](mailto:vicepresident@maphn.org)

**Treasurer:** Angela Kramer (2022-2024) [treasurer@maphn.org](mailto:treasurer@maphn.org)

**Secretary:** Caitlin Pettengill (2021-2023) [secretary@maphn.org](mailto:secretary@maphn.org)

### **Chapter Presidents:**

Chapter Presidents are elected by each chapter to attend and vote at BOD meetings.

**Metrowest/Central Chapter:** Taylor West [twest@southboroughma.com](mailto:twest@southboroughma.com)

**Northeast Chapter:** Gail Johnson [gjohnson@westfordma.gov](mailto:gjohnson@westfordma.gov)

**Southeast Chapter:** Tiffany Zike [tzike@needhamma.gov](mailto:tzike@needhamma.gov)

**Cape & Islands Chapter:** Maurice Melchiono [maurice.melchiono@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:maurice.melchiono@barnstablecounty.org)

**Western Chapter:** Anne Mistivar [amistivar@springfieldcityhall.com](mailto:amistivar@springfieldcityhall.com)

### **Other Non-Voting Leaders who attend BOD meetings:**

MAPHN Administrator: Amanda Glaser [admin@maphn.org](mailto:admin@maphn.org)

Executive Aide: Caroline Kinsella [executiveaide@maphn.org](mailto:executiveaide@maphn.org)

Communications & Webmaster: Kitty Mahoney [kitty.mahoney@maphn.org](mailto:kitty.mahoney@maphn.org)

MDPH PHN Liaison: Glynnis LaRosa [glynnis.larosa@mass.gov](mailto:glynnis.larosa@mass.gov)

Committee Chairs



***New Members since our Winter 2022 PULSE Issue***

**Metrowest/Central**

Michelle Andrade, Hudson BOH

Elizabeth Elkind, Marlborough BOH

Sarah Griffin, Student

Bailey Iannucci, Hudson BOH

Sheila Lucia, Marlborough BOH

Michele Fronk Schuckel, Weston BOH

Jessica Twardowski, Hudson BOH

**Northeast**

Lauren Buck, Revere PHD

Kelliann Coleman, Lexington HD

Leeann Costa, Community Nurse Home Care

Kathleen Cunningham, Gloucester HD

Julie Genova, Bedford HD

Lisa Golden, Lowell HD

Rachel Lee, Eastern Essex Regional PHC

Ashley Pavlakos, Tewksbury BOH

Meriem Sadi, Lowell HD

Mary Ting, Wenham BOH

Kristin Wood, Lowell HD

**Southeast**

Allison Brum, Attleboro BOH

Anne-Marie Devaney, Weymouth HD

Christine Gagnon, Community Nurse Home Care

Rachel Gerold, Hull BOH

Margaret Goldstein, Canton BOH

Geraldine Hamel, Rehoboth HHS

Nicole Mello, Student

Lindsay Miranda, Raynham BOH

Stephanie Reis, Rehoboth HHS

**Western**

Michael Archbald, Foothills Health District

Ashley Boudreau, Longmeadow BOH

Denise Corrigan, Northampton HD

Svenja Danforth, Chicopee HD

Bridget Diggins, Easthampton HD

Leslie Drager, Berkshire PH Alliance

Katherine Kelly, Northampton HD

Patricia Tremblay, Pittsfield BOH

Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Health District

Allison Willette, Northampton

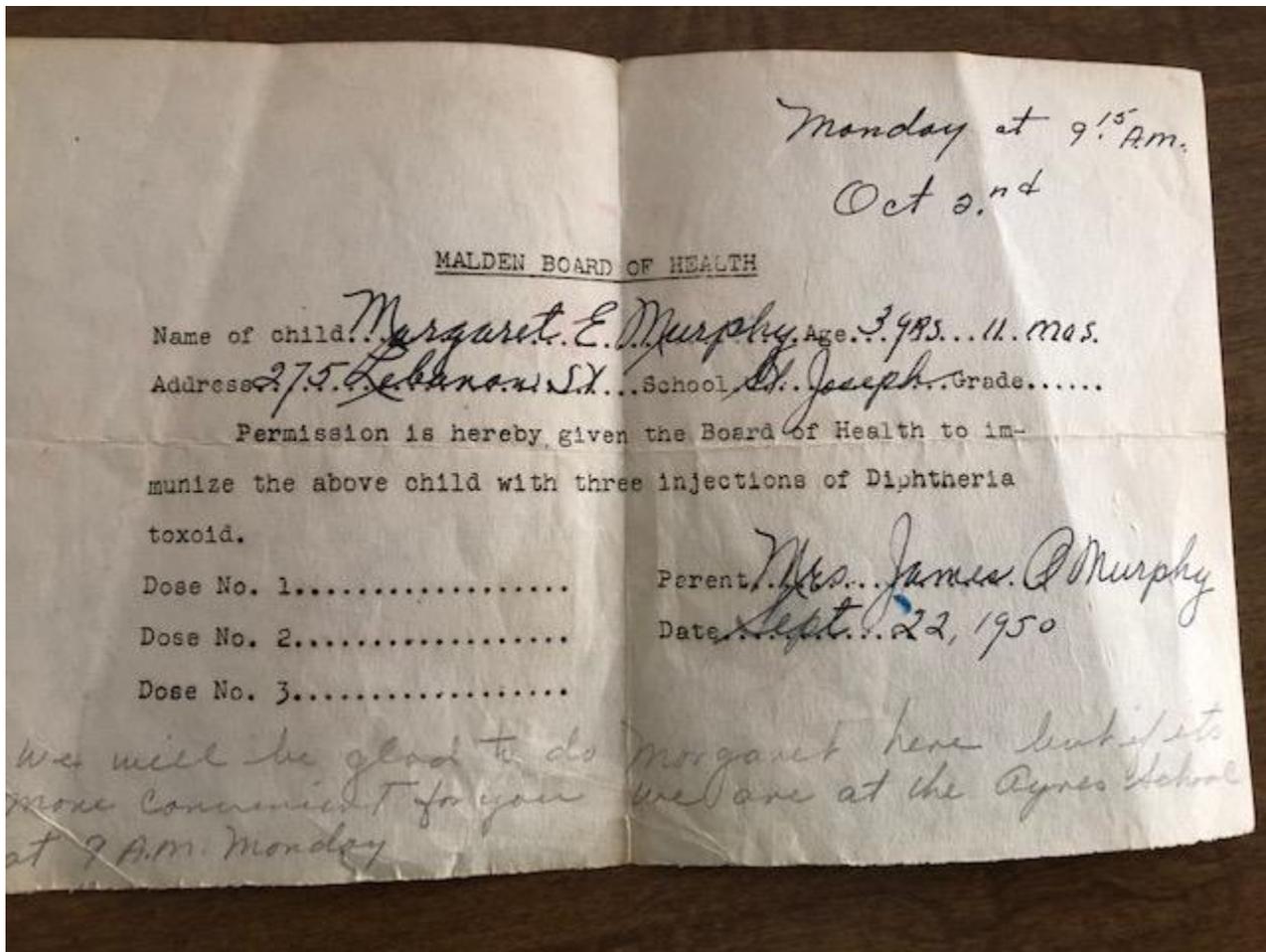
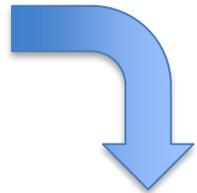
Anne Mistivar, Springfield HD

## MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

I guess I was meant to work at the Board of Health!!

Peg (Margaret Murphy) Drummey, Northeast Chapter

Stoneham BOH



# Chief Public Health Nurse Mahoney Retires From City of Framingham

Framingham Source  
August 3, 2022

FRAMINGHAM – Yesterday, August 2, was the last full-day of work for City of Framingham Chief Public Health Nurse Kitty Mahoney. Mahoney submitted her retirement papers in July and a small retirement party was held for her in the Ablondi room at the Memorial Building yesterday evening. Mahoney has been the Chief Public Health Nurse, for the City of Framingham for more than 15 years.

The Ashland resident is a registered and board certified nurse, and has overseen the Framingham Medical Reserve Corps.

In 2018, the American Public Health Association bestowed the prestigious Public Health Nurse Creative Achievement Award to Kitty C. Mahoney at a ceremony in California.

The City of Framingham needs a public health nurse to issue vaccinations and flu shots.

It is unknown what the plans are for the Medical Reserve Corps.

The position has yet to be advertised by the City's HR Director.

The City's Chief Informational Officer Ryan Egan said the "City is currently reviewing all functions of the position and working on ensuring all immediate or time sensitive responsibilities are taken care of in the interim."

Mahoney was very active in the City of Framingham as the chief public health nurse during the COVID pandemic.

SOURCE asked her how the job of public health nurse has changed.

"I started in Framingham in November of 2004 and worked with another full time nurse who retired a short time after. There were two part-time nurses off and on for the next 16 years but a second full time nurse was never hired after that," said Mahoney.

"The space for my office changed a half dozen times in my tenure landing at Fuller School for a time, and then eventually, with the Commonwealth's first ever Office of Public Health Nursing at 113 Concord Street in August of 2019," said Mahoney.

"Since 2004, I placed an emphasis on engaging the community and community partners as a cornerstone of my work. These partnerships, which I started as an effort to roll out flu vaccine, health programs, and establish pathways of important / emergency health related information actually served us well with our immunization efforts during COVID-19. We met or exceeded most every state benchmark," said Mahoney.

The organization of my work falls into three categories: Infectious Disease, Immunization Outreach and Emergency Preparedness,” said Mahoney.

“My work evolved over the years to address public health targets including childhood obesity, teen pregnancy & reproductive health, emergency preparedness and response in a post 9/11 climate, advances in heart health with cholesterol screening, addressing issues of substance abuse, refugee health, social determinants of health, health equity, and new vaccines introduced such as shingles, meningococcal vaccines, an adolescent/adult pertussis containing tetanus vaccine, and a flu vaccine administered as a nasal mist... and more as new vaccines are added into our arsenal of vaccine preventable disease,” said Mahoney.

SOURCE asked Mahoney what is the biggest challenge facing public health nurses today?

“I have seen a large number of seasoned, experienced Public Health Nurses retire in the last 3 years. Certainly, many endured extreme demands throughout the pandemic (myself included) which perhaps promoted or at least contributed to a surge in public health nursing departures this past year,” said Mahoney.

“The shortage of Public Health Nurses was a trend that MAPHN (Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses) saw and forecast in each quadrennial survey of public health nurses in Massachusetts done over the last decade. With this knowledge, MAPHN has placed an even greater emphasis on educational opportunities, training, mentoring, PHN support and alignment with other Public Health agencies and organizations to onboard new nurses to Public Health and our need to demonstrate the value of having Public Health Nursing represented in each community. PHNs

are committed and dedicated professionals for their city or town. Being valued as a specialty practice and a nursing discipline goes a long way towards retention,” said Mahoney.

The Ashland resident said “I have had the pleasure of working under some great directors like Robert Cooper, Sam Wong, and currently Alex DePalo. They provided the opportunity to practice my nursing with a fair degree of autonomy and allowed me to participate in organizations which ultimately served to strengthen my work in Framingham.”

Mahoney said she had “many opportunities over the years to work beside an incredible team of nurses at the Framingham Public Schools, private schools and our regional vocational school. Again, these alliances served the city well during the pandemic when their focus and work shifted to COVID-19 investigations and tracing efforts.

“Additionally, it was my honor to serve with each and every Medical Reserve Corps volunteer I worked with over the years, growing from a group of 20 or 30 to over 200. The Framingham volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps are an incredible resource for the City,” said Mahoney. “The success of our COVID-19 campaign is due in no small part to all these collaborations, partnerships, nursing colleagues and organizations. I deeply appreciate all the honors, awards and recognitions I have received over the last 18 years marking my contributions to the field of Public Health Nursing at the local, state and federal levels.”

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual MAPHN Conference

May 18 – May 19, 2022



*“The Many Hats of Public Health Nurses”*

**Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center**

**Southbridge, MA**

***Our first in-person conference since 2019 was a fabulous success!***

What a great gathering of 114 Public Health Nurses, both Novices and Veterans, as well as our Supporters! We were warmly welcomed and uplifted by opening remarks of Erica Piedade, MDPH Office of Local and Regional Health Director of Workforce Development. Peer



Presentations by fellow members Leila Mercer, Jessica Tracy, Gail Johnson, Jen Bolton, Taylor West, and Hanna Burnet provided insight and practical applications for our practices. And we laughed until we cried with our Keynote Speaker Loretta LaRoche, who challenged us to

embrace the stress of our lives and professions with irreverent humor!

2022 MAPHN Awards were presented; those who received awards in 2021 also received their plaques and our retired members received their commemorative clocks.

Please acknowledge our well-deserved recipients of the **2022 MAPHN Awards!**



**Congratulations!**

Public Health Nursing Award: Karen DaCampo, Northeast Chapter

Lifetime Achievement Award: Elaine Silva, Northeast Chapter

Presidential Award: Amanda Glaser, MAPHN Administrator

Champion of Public Health Nurses: Dr. Daniel Doyle

## UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



### 2022 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo November 6-9 This year in BOSTON!!!!

Join us in Boston, November 6 - 9 for APHA's 2022 Annual Meeting & Expo and 150th anniversary celebration! The Meeting blends the legacy of APHA with innovative and exciting opportunities to help you reach your goals. Engage with public health experts, collaborate with other colleagues and grow professionally.

MAPHN is very involved as we are in charge of the local arrangements for APHA's Public Health Nursing Section and we have members who are working on this with us.

For details and to register, go to: [2022 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo](#)

It is a conference like no other! There is a lot of public health nursing as well as other public health areas of interest. This is planned to be an in-person conference with virtual availability as well.

MAPHN has always encouraged and assisted members to attend who are interested.

If you can commit to attending the Conference with your Health Department approval, Email your Chapter President AND [President@MAPHN.org](mailto:President@MAPHN.org) ASAP!

MAPHN is providing a level of funding, which will include the cost of hotel lodging and the PHN Nursing Luncheon on Tuesday, November 8.

This is a considerable opportunity for **ALL** Public Health Nurses in any position!

**TIP:** Signing up to be an APHA member and then registering for the Conference is recommended, since the cost is similar to registering at the nonmember rate. Becoming an APHA member allows you to participate in APHA for a full year.

Reach out to [President@MAPHN.org](mailto:President@MAPHN.org) should you have questions.

**NEXT ISSUE OF THE PULSE: Winter 2023**

**We need YOUR INPUT!**

**Send submissions anytime to [newsletter@maphn.org](mailto:newsletter@maphn.org)**

**[Check out our Website!](#)**



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