

January 2025 Report

Unit: Public Health Excellence - Shared Services, Contact Tracing & Local Public Health Training Hub

Date: 2/7/25

Staff members: Kerry Dunnell, Samantha Menard, Jennifer Casey, Amy McInerney, Jennifer Gangadharan

Activities and Accomplishments

Activity	Notes
Shared Services- Charles River Public Health District (Towns of Dover, Medfield, Needham, and Sherborn)	<u>Continuing Education and Training</u> - Jenn Gangadharan completed a Vaccines for Children (VFC) Compliance/Vaccine Storage and Handling training. - Jenn G. also completed the Local Public Health Intensive Training online course Recreational Camps for Children Program for Regulators. - Amy McInerney completed the Tier 2 Local Public Health Housing Training. The program included 1 in-person day in Salem and 3 virtual half-days of learning. Next step will include completing Tier 3 of the program when available. - Sam Menard and Amy attended a lunch and learn 1-hr webinar hosted by MA Environmental Health Association (MEHA) on the topic of Accessory Dwelling Units.
	<u>Community Support & Engagement</u> <i>Regional Public Health Nursing -- Disease Control & Prevention including MA Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN)</i> - Responded to disease surveillance questions that arose in Dover and in Medfield. - Prepared a pre/on-boarding public health nurse checklist and a document entitled Considerations for launching a public health nursing Program for use by Dover & Sherborn to welcome their new public health nurse who starts February 10. - Continued to provide MAVEN coverage for Medfield (effective December 3, 2024). - Due to a lack of available resources in Dover and Sherborn via their Visting Nurses Association (VNA) contract, Jenn G began providing MAVEN coverage for those communities effective January 28, 2025. A new public health nurse begins work in Dover on February 10 and will begin training on MAVEN promptly. - Provided a review of MAVEN and reporting examples at the January 28 Advisory Board meeting.

- Developing staffing charts to plan for the requirement of having two people per jurisdiction trained in MAVEN (primary, secondary and back up).
- Collaborated with other Regional Public Health nurses regarding professional organizations and upcoming conferences.

Communications & Outreach

- The Charles River Public Health District Collaborative webpage is now live at <https://www.needhamma.gov/5474/Charles-River-Public-Health-District>

Environmental Health -- Regional environmental health agents support environmental health activities and conduct inspections in all member communities as requested

- In January Sam Menard, and Amy McNerney, conducted food establishment and Title V inspections in Needham, Dover and Sherborn
- The Environmental Health Working Group (EHWG) met on January 21. Representatives from Dover, Needham and Sherborn were present.
- A final draft of a common variance application form was prepared to be presented to the Advisory Board.
- Amy McNerney compiled results of the Self-Assessment responses
- The EHWG reviewed self-assessment tool responses to ensure common understanding of questions and requirements.
- Amy has developed a food establishment permit application for review by the EHWG and possible recommendation to the Advisory Board.

Strategic Planning

- Met with Arissa Ruano and Meghan Russell from BME Strategies prepare for the strategic planning process.
- Provided requested documents including Capacity Assessment (CART) results, current workplan, progress on self-assessments.
- Held first monthly meeting on Thursday January 30. These meetings of the full advisory board and membership will occur monthly through June.
- At the January 30 meeting, consultants introduced the strategic planning process and led the group in discussions about why communities and staff are engaged in the work, what people identify as important about the work, and opportunities for future collaboration.
- Consultants will be conducting interviews with representatives during February and March.

Fee Cost Study

- Janice Chen and Rebecca Han of BME Consulting provided a final presentation to the Advisory Board at their January 28, 2025, meeting.
- The Town of Dover has used the tool and shared information with the Dover Board of Health. The tool was helpful for a fee review discussion in that community.

**Training Hub-
North Central &
MetroWest
Local Public
Health Training
Hub**

Serving the 40 communities in the Charles River Health District, Greater Boroughs, MetroWest Public Health Coalition, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, Norfolk County-8 Public Health shared services arrangements, and the communities of Bellingham, Holliston and Marlborough.

Staff members:

Kerry Dunnell, Samantha Menard, Jennifer Casey, Amy McInerney, Jennifer Gangadharan, Padraig Martin

Padraig Martin began work on January 6th as the Environmental Health Trainer. Staff are working closely with him while he completes his onboarding work. The North Central MetroWest Local Public Health Training Hub is now fully staffed.

Continuing Education & Training

Local Public Health Intensive Training (LPHIT) Housing.

- Pat completed Tier 1 (online) and Tier 2 (classroom) training. Tier 2 included one in-person day in Salem and three virtual half-days of learning.
- Sam provided facilitation for break-out groups during the in-person Tier 2 Housing Training day.
- OLRH will offer the Tier 3 Step 1 Housing Train the Trainers in late February or early March 2025. Both Pat and Jenn Gangadharan will attend.
- When all three trainers have completed Tier 3 Step 1, the Training Hub will begin conducting training for eligible housing inspectors in each of our forty-three assigned communities.
- Jenn Gangadharan attended a meeting of the MA Public Health Nursing Association Southeast chapter which included a presentation on Hoarding.

Local Public Health Intensive Training (LPHIT) Food Inspection Training

- Pat has scheduled his Tier 3 food inspections with the Central Trainers for the month of February. Once complete Pat will be eligible to begin conducting training and Tier 3 Food Assessment Inspections.

Training Hub outreach, communication & support activities

- The Training Hub staff met with the new Greater Boroughs Shared Services Coordinator and regional inspector on January 9th to introduce the Training Hub program.
- Amy finalized the webpage for the North Central MetroWest Local Public Health Training Hub. It is now live and viewable at <https://www.needhamma.gov/5595/North-Central-MetroWest-Local-Public-Health-Training-Hub>
- Staff are gathering information about community characteristics, demand for specific kinds of training, and inspectional needs of each of the forty-three communities assigned to the North Central MetroWest Training Hub. In support of this effort and in preparation for camp season, Jenn G. obtained a list from MA DPH of all camps licensed by a Board of Health within the Hub.

Training Delivery

Sam continues to work with multiple Tier 3 Food Inspection trainees.

In January, there are three trainees actively working through the training requirements with Sam. Additionally, one trainee completed all the requirements for Tier 3 Food Inspection and one new candidate began the training process.

Funder Communication & Collaboration

Kerry and Sam participate each month in work groups as well as two monthly meetings of the ten training hubs led by the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH). Workgroups include Evaluation and satisfaction surveys and Assessment tool development. Monthly meetings include discussion of curriculum development and coordination with the Tier 1 and Tier 2 trainings, as well as efforts to align the ten training hubs on job descriptions and communication with Hub communities.