

Foothills Health District Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Attending: Michael Archbald, PHN (MA), Robby Armenti (RA), Katch Bacheller(KB), Mark Bushee, Health Director (MB), Fran Fortino, Chair (FF), Donna Gibson (DG), Mike Kurland (MK), Janet Scully, Office Manager (JS), Helen Symons (HS), Niki Vaughn, Health Agent (NV)

Guests: from DPH Cassandra Andersen (CA), Ileana Carrion (IC), Aimee Petrosky (AP), , Alison Speshock (AS); from BME consultants Brian Murphy (BM) & Jessica Sorcher (JeS)

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

1. Capacity Assessment Results Toolkit (CART) Data Review Meeting

General Notes

- Fran: How were the recommendations prioritized? (points/ranking system?)
 - Bryan: SMEs took into consideration many factors in ranking the recommendations – will discuss further in later slides.
- Robby: Important context for the CART: BOH members are not paid to do this work, often asked to perform PH functions/services in rural areas with limited/no staff, without trainings and learned through in-the-field experience. With limited training, BOH defer concerns to the trained staff.
 - Aimee: CART identifies needed resources/areas to focus on. This process is an attempt to create a system where all residents can receive the same level of services
- Fran: Tobacco Control data incorrect: Whately and Williamsburg are in the coalition. Goshen and Westhampton are not - trying to join (they have 1 tobacco retailer) -see more below.
- Fran called out that the second slide indicates only 25% of their tobacco inspections are conducted – can't be possible given that 50% of them are in the tobacco coalition. This suggests data need to be changed.
 - Aimee: Reminder, even if coalition is doing the work, BOH is responsible for enforcement. If a BOH indicated they don't follow through on enforcement actions due to staffing/training, that would be shown here.
- Fran: Foothills answered as one unit for some survey questions, they may have lowballed with the goal to provide a common baseline.
- Donna: Problems in carrying out work (COVID-19 response) consistently. What is possibility of sharing services like Emergency Preparedness across districts?
 - Referred group to PC to talk through allowable expenses.
- Mark: No municipal staff, staff are all shared and paid by the district or by the grant.
 - Ileana will aid in identifying priorities for shared services. Work with Ileana for timeline, use data correction form to correct FTE information.
- Robby: FTE data: overlap of services from other shared funding sources (vaccination clinics, Mass in Motion staff)
 - Aimee: Slide shows shared staff funded by PHE grant.
- Fran: Clarification on demographic data – page 11 component 5.
 - Census data of the Foothills regional grant area in both counties are represented in that census data
- Donna: Clarification on Hispanic community in Foothills. Spanish as a primary language or additional language? Not clear what is being shown.
 - Spanish language demographic denotes Spanish as primary language.
- Mark: Foothills working off just towns money for a long time. Supported very limited staffing.

- Bryan: Foothills data may be more useful looking at total dollar amount and not per capita. Recommends looking at the \$100,000

From Chat:

- Westhampton has zero tobacco permits and Goshen has 1. Fran reached out and PVTC/South Hadley tobacco collaborative might be at its cap of participating towns. Foothills total have around 7 tobacco permits across the district.

Edits to be Made

BME:

- Correct Tobacco Control Coalition towns- opposite of what is currently listed- Whately and Williamsburg ARE in the Coalition. Goshen and Westhampton are NOT in coalition.
- Edit demographic slide for clarity regarding language (Spanish).
- Clarify geography on demographic slide.

Foothills:

- Submit Data correction form to edit health district staffing being all shared.

Challenges/Concerns expressed

- Training needs
- Financial needs
- Equity Issues- rural population

Next Steps/Action Items

Foothills:

- Fill out BCA correction form (FTE, etc).
- Submit FY24 Workplan and budget (OLRH to support).
- Follow up with Program Coordinator with additional questions.

2. Minutes from last meeting need to be reviewed at next meeting.

3. Report from PHN

- MA will be leaving at some point.
- He will help us look for someone to replace him
- HS wonders if someone can be found who will specialize in senior care.
- MA points out that transportation is a problem and needs to be stressed to replacement
- MB – would like to look into telehealth possibilities
 - RA brought up that we talked about this at last Westhampton mtg.
 - Library, other town offices may be possibilities
 - Good in terms of privacy
 - “Hot spots” for telehealth visits.

4. Discussion of Job Descriptions Possibilities

5. Health Director Report

- MB will meet with MK and FF to work on budget.

- B. FF asks the Board to contribute ideas
- C. KB will join MK and FF and MB on PHE committee.

6. Opioid Funds

- A. More money coming
- B. Fran will send articles to Board

7. Tobacco Control

- A. DG and FF will contact South Hadley
- B. MB will also contact South Hadley

Meeting adjourned: 7:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robby Armenti