

NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETING



Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance

Date: November 19, 2024

Time: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meeting Location:

Virtual: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89841685287>

DRAFT AGENDA FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Voting Attendees:

- a. Dan Syriala, Attleboro
- b. Barbara Catabia, Dighton
- c. Anne Marie Fleming, North Attleboro
- d. Geri Hamel, Rehoboth
- e. Danielle Edmands, Taunton

Non Voting Attendees:

- f. Michelle Borello, Taunton
- g. Cynthia Boland, Nurse Candidate
- h. Erika Syokau, BME Strategies

I. Call to Order

- a. Anne Marie motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:04 am, Dan seconds. The meeting opened with a quorum of 5/6 voting members present. (Attleboro, Dighton, North Attleboro, Rehoboth, and Taunton)

II. Past Meeting Minutes

- a. Geri made a motion to approve the minutes, Dan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all voting members present (Attleboro, Berkley, North Attleboro, Taunton) in favor.

III. Hiring Update

- a. Erika introduced Cynthia Bold to the group as one of the regional public health nurse candidates.
- b. Erika informed the group that this would be an opportunity for a final discussion and interview before voting on a candidate for the regional public health nurse role.



BME STRATEGIES



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- i. The group introduced themselves and Cynthia introduced herself and gave a brief background.
 1. Cynthia expressed that she is interested in global health, and continuing to help people on a larger scale.
 2. Cynthia is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Nursing, with a focus on becoming a psychiatric mental health practitioner. She expressed that she is very passionate about mental health first aid.
 3. Anne Marie Fleming asked Cynthia the biggest challenges she thinks people are experiencing today.
 - a. Cynthia answered that she thinks health literacy and understanding medical diagnoses for patients is a current challenge.
 4. Anne Marie Fleming asked if Cynthia would be open to building out programs and having the ability to be flexible in a role that changes every day.
 - a. Cynthia responded that she is open to working individually and in groups and is very flexible.
 5. Cynthia asked what a day-to-day would look like in this role.
 - a. Anne Marie answered and told Cynthia that each day would look different, we want someone who can conduct home visits as well as build out programs for the community.
 - b. Geri agreed that each day would be different and dependent on the needs of the community.
 6. Erika wrapped up the informal discussion and informed Cynthia that the group would be in touch with a final decision soon.
- c. The group discussed both candidates. The group unanimously agreed that Melissa Silverman has more experience in this role.
 - i. Danielle mentioned that she was thankful that all nurses were present to ask such insightful questions and allow for a space to get to know them both. However, Melissa has more experience and interviewed confidently which was appealing.
 - ii. Michelle agreed with Danielle that having confidence is a key aspect of the role. The candidate may be expected to deal with DPH directly, the community, and anyone who you may come across.
 - iii. Geri also agreed with Danielle, although Cynthia's experience is too narrow and focused on one demographic. Cynthia does not have a solid clinical background





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and that would be beneficial for this role. Melissa is well-rounded and has different experiences.

- iv. Anne Marie stated that Melissa's skills are more refined and would allow her to start quicker on MAVEN.
 - v. Barbara noted that she also feels Melissa is a better candidate and could see her assisting each community.
 - vi. Dan stated that he could see Melissa being a better fit in the communities as she is meeting people with different personalities.
- d. Anne Marie made a motion to formally vote on Melissa Silverman public health nurse candidate. Dan seconded that motion.
- e. The formal vote on Melissa Silverman being offered the role of regional public health nurse for the Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance was approved unanimously by all voting members who were present.
- i. Erika will reach out to Berkley to work on on hiring letter
 - ii. Erika informed the group that Melissa will have to give her employer a 30-day notice and that we expect Melissa will start in January if she accepts the offer.
- f. Erika let the group know that we expect to hire a regional inspector and a community health worker/epidemiologist for January.
- i. Erika worked on adjusting the budget allowing for the inspector position to be at a higher salary.
 - 1. Dan, Danielle, and Barabara need support from a regional inspector.
 - ii. Michelle noted that a community health worker is a great resource and a lot easier to recruit. Anyone who is multilingual would be a huge help.
 - iii. Anne Marie noted that an epidemiologist would be beneficial and that she was always interested in an individual who could provide in-depth data for program planning and work alongside the public health nurse.
 - iv. Dan mentioned that having staff translate documents would help as well.
 - 1. Erika reminded the group that we have budgeted a language line for interpretation services and that is something she can start to look into.

IV. Website Costs

- a. Erika shared with the group that she received three proposals for the NBCPHA website. The three vendors are Slocum Studios, Revize, and Lady Bugz.





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- b. Erika showed the 8 different requirements that were asked for each vendor and each vendor can fulfill the requests.
 - i. Dan noted the price differences are quite different
- c. Erika shared the NBCPHA website spreadsheet and showed an example website of each vendor
 - i. Danielle asked if we as a group would be responsible for updating and keeping track of the website and knows it may be difficult to be responsible for that.
 - 1. Erika stated that the proposal will outline the responsibilities we have as a group but users can have access to the back end of the website to update things and work with the vendor on various challenges.
 - 2. Erika will share the proposals with the meeting minutes for folks to take a look at.
- d. The group will come back on December 3rd to formally vote on which website vendor they like to move forward with.
 - i. Dan mentioned he won't be in attendance on December 3rd.

V. Community Updates

- a. Ordering Journey Works, Narcan kits, and anti-choking devices
 - i. Allison is looking to order journey works and wanted to check if anyone needs to order any pamphlets.
 - 1. Erika shared with the group that Allison is looking into purchasing:
 - Dealing with Anxiety: English 5822-J2 (50 pamphlets)
 - Dealing with Depression: English 5013-J2 (50 pamphlets)
 - Social Media & Your Mental Health : English 5944-J2 (50 pamphlets)
 - Nutrition & Your Mental Health: English 5930-J2 (50 pamphlets)
 - 2. Michelle mentioned that Mass Clearing House has free pamphlets that can be ordered and Danielle may have ordered some pamphlets that are stored in Taunton.
 - 3. Danielle noted that she can double check
 - 4. Dan let the group know that he would let Allison know of the free pamphlets as the group seems to be interested in using the free pamphlets rather than using funding for them.
 - ii. The group will circle back on the journey works pamphlets;
 - iii. Barbara mentioned anti-choking devices
- b. Foundational Public Health





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- i. Erika shared with the group that DPH is rolling out the foundational public health standard review. OLRH and LPH are on a journey to ensure that every person in MA can equitably access foundational public health services
- ii. BME will work with them to move collaboratively through a stepwise process to review current services, sharing of resources, identify local needs, and respond to gaps. Through a structural data collection consisting of two parts:
 - 1. Cost tool
 - 2. Service delivery toll
- iii. BME will be working with the group to gather information and data to help with analysis, guided discussion, and planning to build out the next steps on ways to ensure we are ensuring foundational public health needs are met. More to come in the next few months.

VI. BME Next Steps

- a. Erika to work with Berkely on hiring Melissa Silverman.
- b. Erika to work on onboarding materials and prepare regional documents for early next year.
- c. Erika to work on the regional inspector role and regional community health worker/epidemiologist role.
- d. Erika to share website proposals with the group.
- e. Erika to look into CPR training.

VII. NBCPHA Next Steps

- a. Group to review website proposals

Adjournment

Please Note: There will be no public participation in speaking at this meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE MAY ACT ON ITEMS IN A DIFFERENT ORDER THAN THEY APPEAR ON THIS AGENDA. ALSO, IF IT SO VOTES, THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION DURING THE MEETING.





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PERSONS INTERESTED ARE ADVISED THAT, IN THE EVENT ANY MATTER TAKEN UP AT THIS MEETING REMAINS UNFINISHED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, IT MAY BE PUT OFF TO A CONTINUED SESSION OF THIS MEETING, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

