



Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance & BME Strategies  
Meeting Minutes

---

**Date:** Tuesday, July 25th, 2023

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 am

**Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87979991206>

**In attendance:**

Allison Brum, Attleboro

Geri Hamel, Rehoboth

Adam Vickstrom, Taunton

Meghan Russell, BME Strategies

Sharon Jamieson, Berkley

Mike Hugo, MAHB

Nicole Mello, Dighton

**I. FY23 Reporting**

- a. Completed narrative report based on input at last week's meeting and some other feedback from AnneMarie. This is considered complete unless there is other feedback.
- b. Completed the budget report this morning. Have a few formatting questions for DPH and then will send it out to the group. Also waiting to finalize purchases with the North Attleboro accounting department.
- c. Reports are due on Monday, July 31st. AnneMarie gets back from vacation that day. Will review the final reports with her and then submit them to DPH.

**II. FY24 Workplan**

- a. Meghan to meet with DPH SME at 11am for additional feedback on how to improve the workplan

**III. IMA**

- a. Updates from each town on status of IMA
  1. Rehoboth - sent IMA to Town Administrator to forward on to legal department
  2. Attleboro - sent IMA to the City Lawyer. Have updates to the signatures section. Two signatures from Attleboro should be the Health Director and the Mayor. Also questions on what the difference is between this IMA and other PHE groups.

- a) We have a section specific to independent contractors as that is how we are planning on hiring staff
  - b) Some of the “Whereas...” comments at the top vary between PHEs based on the kinds of services they are planning to provide and how they want to highlight them.
- 3. Dighton - Nicole reported that Mike M said he would send it to legal today
- 4. Berkley - Jim Romano is reviewing the IMA
- 5. Taunton - no update or question on IMA.
- b. Continue to request timelines from legal departments. If you have any questions let Meghan know. Can loop in MAHB and Rich Mucci as needed. MAHB works very closely with KP Law so they should be very familiar with the process and language.

#### **IV. Racial Justice Competency Model Grant Opportunity**

- a. Concerns about how involved this group would be in the hiring process, otherwise the group does not see a downside to applying for the grant
- b. It is the first year of the grant and they do not have a lot of guidelines and no specifications on how money will be spent.
- c. Meghan will follow up with the Public Health Training Center Network to clarify the expectations and their involvement in our processes.

#### **V. Haitian Refugees in Taunton**

- a. Shared Services Coordinator for the Plymouth-Norfolk 5 (PN5) group (Abington, Avon, Brockton, Stoughton, Whitman) reached out to Meghan to learn more about a group of Haitian refugees living in the Clarion Hotel in Taunton that are going to Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton for care to see if there is any collaboration we can do between the two PHE groups to help.
  - 1. She also works for Partners in Health and received some questions from Haitian contacts that volunteer with the group and wanted to learn more.
- b. Taunton has been involved with this group

1. Initially the local safety officials were being called out frequently but that has slowed down
2. Their public health nurse is overseeing a TB patient at the hotel and makes regular visits and attends calls with the city
3. Manet Health has set up a twice weekly mobile clinic
- c. It seems one of the bigger issues for the group is transportation to and from medical care, for which they are dependent on volunteers. Others in the group expressed that this is an issue in some of their communities as well. Potentially this is something that we can investigate and follow up with although it is an expensive problem to solve.
- d. We will be better equipped to provide support
- e. Mike H responded that the state has a lot of resources to support these groups and other PHE groups with similar issues were told not to spend their grant money on this, that the state had other funds to support the refugee populations.
- f. Group agreed that it is good to keep up to date on emerging issues in each other's communities so that we can help brainstorm and provide support as needed.

## **VI. Next Steps**

### **a. BME**

1. Reach out to PHTCN with questions on grant
2. Finalize budget reporting and send to group
3. Update workplan with feedback from DPH and SME
4. Prep Inspector job descriptions for discussion next week

### **b. NBCPHA**

1. Send IMA to legal departments and ask for timeline to review
2. Think about what kind of inspectional assistance is needed in your town and what you are looking for in a regional inspector