



**Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance & BME Strategies**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 26th, 2023

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

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

**In attendance:**

Allison Brum, Attleboro

Geri Hamel, Rehoboth

Sharon Jamieson, Berkley

Mike Hugo, MAHB

Nicole Mello, Dighton

Meghan Russell, BME Strategies

AnneMarie Fleming, North Attleboro

Karen Contador, BME Strategies

**I. Updates**

**a. IMA**

1. Ahead of schedule, but still need to finalize the insurance piece
2. AnneMarie will connect Meghan with the right staff in North Attleboro to get questions answered

**b. FY23 Purchases**

1. Channing-Bete
  - a) Going back to an RFP process - post on COMMBUYS on 10/10, close on 10/24

**c. FY24**

1. Submitted Shared Services Coordinator (SSC) waiver to DPH on 9/26
2. Funds have not been received yet

**d. Project Dashboard review**

1. Presents the high-level objectives, next steps, due dates, status of the project, risk, mitigation, and next steps, and budget information (budget, money spent to date, remaining funds).
2. Will be updated every week and sent out with the meeting minutes.

**II. Inspector Hiring Process**

- a. Have feedback from Taunton, Dighton, and Berkely. Attleboro is scheduled for 11am today, North Attleboro Thursday morning at 9am. Need to schedule time with Rehoboth.

1. Conversations will be used to make any updates to the job description, prep interview questions, and develop a sharing process.
- b. Going to move forward with deciding what the screening and interview questions are going to be
- c. Meeting with Mike and AnneMarie on Monday 10/2 at 8:30 am

### **III. Social Worker Hiring Process**

- a. Would like to have a general conversation about what role(s) we see this person having and then maybe have one on one conversations like we did with the inspector.
- b. What are the needs you are seeing in your communities that you could see a regional social worker addressing?
- c. Community needs looking to fill
  1. Rehoboth
    - a) Been working with outreach coordinators and they've said it can be difficult to obtain section 8 housing for senior citizens
    - b) Also doing home visits with a social worker to ID needs that PHNs might not be familiar with.
  2. Attleboro
    - a) Hoarding Disorder - looking for someone to go out and make assessments and visit these persons and touch base with them.
    - b) Also need support for our Library, it's become a safe haven for people with substance use disorder. They would like someone to be there as a presence to assess if someone is considered a threat to themselves or others.
  3. North Attleboro
    - a) Establishing regional support. We don't have a regional or local hoarding task force. Barnstable is a good example of this type of work. Conduct a needs assessment for our communities to identify what the social worker can support. Homelessness is another issue in North Attleboro.

4. Creating a regional task force

- a) This is happening in other groups, the social worker would do the needs assessment and identify needs, they'll go out and get additional grant money to build out the program.
- b) What we see with Hoarding Disorder is a lot of motivation and we can use skills we'll learn from that training. What we need most are resources to clean out the home (i.e. dumpster).

**IV. Training**

- a. Foundations training was identified as a course that not a lot of staff in the Alliance have taken.
- b. Reached out to Bethany to ask about training options and paying people for their time to take the training.
  - 1. She is passing on our feedback about the trainings to the Workforce Development team - in person options and Foundations tailored to the role.
  - 2. Hourly employees can be compensated for their time taking the Foundations training
- c. It is broken up into sections - admin, legal, environmental health, community health. The goal is to give everyone an overview of what other people do. It is a heavy lift but can be very helpful.
- d. Concerns about the time consuming nature of the training and whether the content is relevant for everyone.
  - 1. Specifically looking at Health Department employees. There are some trainings tailored specifically to administrative staff.
- e. There is an opportunity to address this training this fiscal year. Need to think through the best goal, timing, approach, and messaging.
  - 1. Will continue to think through how to address this as a PHE. Especially with the conferences and Title 5 trainings, may be something we look at in 2024.



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2. You have to complete the sections within 6 months to get the certificate. Don't want to tell people to do one section and then have them need to repeat things later.

### **V. Next Steps**