



WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2025 VIRTUAL MEETING

Attendance *Tom Hibert; Ryan Paxton; Bri Dupras; Tammy Spencer; Phoebe Walker; Laura Kittross; Rebecca Jurczyk; Colton Garelli; Anne Mistivar*

TH opened the meeting at 11:38 am

Minutes Review and Approval:

PW made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 executive committee meeting; RP seconded the motion; all approved.

Treasurer's Update

Financial Report:

Checking: 16,319.36

Savings: 10,617.39

DPH Grant Funds: 2,659.81

FY 25 Grant: 975.46

FY 23 Grant: 1,684.35

CLPH - PW & LK

On October 23, from 9:30 am – 12 pm, there will be a Public Health Excellence Event at the State House to promote the continuation of public health funding.

Discussed vaccine reimbursement at the Aug 11 CLPH meeting. CLPH will be asking for clear prioritization of vaccination groups and messaging.

Discussed the Federal COVID test website – www.covid.gov/tests

Legislative Update

RP brought up two bills for discussion which would modify the definition of clean energy to include wood burning – S.2287 and H.3548. Group discussed whether BOH's should consider endorsing opposing the bill.

PW mentioned that the Cannabis Control Commission opened public comment period for social consumption.

WMPHA Logo Discussion

Discussed final ideas for logo. PW motioned to approve TH to bring the final ideas to designer. LK seconded the motion; all approved.

MHOA Conference

BD gave update on sessions suggested by WMPHA for the MHOA annual seminar. MHOA would like to have TH give his Title 5 for Health Departments presentation.

Membership

Discussed Dan Hassett's interest in becoming an Executive Committee member. PW moved to except Dan Hassett as a member; TS seconded the motion; All approved, with LK abstaining.

LPHIT (Local Public Health Intensive Training)

RP and RJ attended the LPHI meeting. They both plan to continue attending as representatives of WMPHA. RP signed up to be on their waste water subgroup.

Contract with FRCOG

WMPHA is currently at the end of a three-year contract with FRCOG and will need to renew. PW shared a potential contract and scope of services. LK motioned to have TH read the contract and scope of services, approve and sign. RP seconded the motion; all approved with PW and BD abstaining.

Training Hub Update - BD

- Both Western Mass training hubs are hiring trainers
- Tier 3 Housing – First section completed. Second section scheduled for August.
- BD attended recent Code Enforcement Training and spoke to the Assistant Clerk Magistrate about conducting an in person session.
- Spring 2026 will begin trainings for Camps, Pools, Tanning, Body Art, and Title 5.

DPH Update – Anne Mistivar

DPH is working on Tier 1 of the Public Health Nursing training. An outline of the training has been developed and shared with the advisory board.

They continue to work with nurses on identifying electives in their PHE work plans. Many are choosing Maternal/Child Health.

Work continues on the Vaccine Hub. Looking for a new Shared Services Arrangement to take on the Hun.

There will be a special topic webinar on Vaccine Access on August 26, 2025.

RS/REHS Book and Course Update – BD

Six courses are still unused. Courses should be accessed by December 25, 2025. PW will send out availability in next newsletter.

Power Hour Ideas

Extreme Heat. PW suggested we hold it in the early spring.

Totally Title 5 Idea

Having the Title 5 Central Trainer speak about their role.

Adjournment

LK made a motion to adjourn; PW seconded the motion; all approved.

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in person at the Montague Town Hall Annex (1 Avenue Turners Falls, MA, 01376), **at 11:30 am on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Spencer, Secretary WMPHA