

Minutes

1. Welcome!

- We're glad you are here.
- If you are here, and you are committed to the mission of "being catalysts for change and advocates for the underserved", you are a member of JCOH!

2. Agenda review

- Accountability for Hospital Essential Services
- Elders Climate Change Action
- Brief Update: HEALing Community Study

3. Virtual introductions: Please take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat. Name, Affiliation and/or reason you are joining us today

Contact info shared by attendees:

- ✓ Angela Gore Cleanslate Centers Manager, Greenfield and Athol, agore@cleanslatecenters.com
- ✓ Athena Haddon, Central MA Regional Coordinator for Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery Athena@MOAR-Recovery 508-981-4091
- ✓ Cathy Gaudet, North Central MA National Alliance for Mental Illness and Leominster Public Schools. I am happy to be here to reconnect with everyone
- ✓ David Nefussy, VP of Payor Relations, Spectrum Health Systems and the New England Recovery Center david.nefussy@spectrumhealthsystems.org
- ✓ Denise Santaigo, Community Health Connections, Fitchburg
- ✓ Garry Gleckel - SHINE Counselor, UMassMemorial HealthAlliance-Clinton Hospital Patient-Family Advisor, Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass (CHNA 9) Board Member, Three Pyramids, Inc. Board Member, SURJ North Central Massachusetts Member
- ✓ Jane Carpenter, Community Data Manager on the HEALing Communities Study at Boston Medical Center
- ✓ Jenna Montgomery, LCSW, Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, jmontgomery@nashoba.org, (978) 772-3335 Ext. 342
- ✓ Julie Nowak (she/they/xe) BayPath Elder Services jnowak@baypath.org 508-573-7288
- ✓ Jenna Montgomery (she/her/hers), Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. We provide public health environmental and nursing services to sixteen towns in N Central MA on behalf of local elected boards of health.
- ✓ Jennifer Dellasanta COO for Inspire Counseling and Support Center, Jennifer@thetransitionhouse.org 774-253-2575 www.inspiresupportcenter.com
- ✓ Jessica Fortier-Goss, Clinic Director Fitchburg, Comprehensive Treatment Center, (Methadone, etc.) Jessica.FortierGoss@ctcprograms.com
- ✓ Kelsa Zereski, Reliant Foundation
- ✓ Lauren Geanacopulos, NM Cares in Townsend
- ✓ Lynne LaPointe, Outpatient Intake Manager Spectrum Health Systems
- ✓ Nate Erwin (Boston Medical Center) Community Engagement Facilitator with Shirley and Townsend
- ✓ Mary Dayotas Assistant Director of WCSO Fitchburg Community Justice Support Center, 774-256-1768 mdayotas@sdw.state.ma.us
- ✓ Peter C McConarty MD, retired Family doctor, formerly at CHC and Residency in Fitchburg, currently in Worcester, Buprenorphine provider, petermccconarty@gmail.com
- ✓ Shelley Modzeleski, Territory Outreach Manager for Washburn House / Promises Behavioral Health. Shelley.Modzeleski@promises.com
- ✓ Susan Buchholz, Spanish American Center, JCOH, Coordinator, HEALing Communities Study
- ✓ Sue Lowe, Director of Patient Services and Community Outreach, slowe@chcfdc.org 978-878-8572
- ✓ Tina Grosowski, Elders Climate Action – Massachusetts Chapter

4. Accountability for Hospital Essential Services

Quiz: True or False?

1. *When non-profit hospitals decide to close units, beds, or hospitals, there is a mandatory review process conducted by DPH which includes assessing whether the services being eliminated are “necessary for preserving access and healthcare status”.* **True**

True or False?

2. *If DPH decides that the proposed closures are “necessary for preserving access and healthcare status”, non-profit hospitals are prevented from closing those services, beds, units, etc.* **False**

If you would like to support amendment 190, “Accountability for Hospital Essential Service Closures”, please contact your State Rep.

<https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>

“The loss of essential health services in communities across the Commonwealth is a crisis. For years, we have seen hospitals and healthcare corporations eliminating essential health services- things like pediatric units, emergency departments (EDs), in-patient behavioral health services and in some cases, full scale hospitals. These closures happen over the objections of the communities and, in most cases, despite the determination of the Department of Public Health (DPH) that the loss of the services are necessary for preserving access and health status within the service area. But hospitals that say they cannot sustain these essential health services, will sometimes quickly find the funding to open a new, more profitable service. This amendment would prevent any hospital that closes an essential health service determined to be necessary for access and health status by the DPH from opening a new service for a period of three years unless the shuttered service is restored.”

Jenna Montgomery:

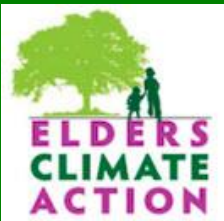
“SECTION XXXX. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking subsection (4) of section 51G and inserting in place thereof the following section:- Any hospital discontinuing an essential health service shall not be eligible to have an application approved pursuant to section 25C for a period of three years from the date the service is discontinued, or until the essential health service is restored, or until such time as the department is satisfied that a plan is in place for which the hospital provides to the department evidence of support or non-opposition to the proposed change from each municipality to which it provides the service as a health care resource, as determined pursuant to section 16T of chapter 6A of the General Laws. Any information given without meeting the requirements of this paragraph shall not constitute notice to the department for the purpose of establishing the earliest date on which the hospital may close or discontinue an essential health service.”

The group engaged in a lively discussion about the need to old hospitals accountable for closing essential services. Many in the group expressed an interest in taking action personally and/or on behalf of the coalition. Next steps: Susan will gather additional information and share at next meeting if not before.

5. Elders Climate Change Action

Climate Change: What Can I do? Presented by Tina Grosowsky, Elders Climate Action – Massachusetts Chapter

Tina Grosowsky, long time member and friend of JCOH, presented on behalf of Elders Climate Change Action, a non-partisan movement of elders determined to change our nation’s energy policies while there is still time to avoid catastrophic changes in the earth’s climate.



What Can I Do About Climate Change?

Engage with family, friends, colleagues....and your kids and grandkids:

- ✓ Talk to others about climate change. Form a book/study group
- ✓ Use social media to promote awareness & action opportunities
- ✓ Write letters to the editor in response to climate coverage

Lead by example. Reduce your carbon footprint:

- ✓ Replace your heating/cooling with an electric heat pump. Make your next car electric
- ✓ Insulate your home, upgrade heating systems and appliances
- ✓ Eat less red meat and use more seasonal produce from local farmers markets
- ✓ Reduce automobile, airplane travel; use public transportation, walk or ride a bike
- ✓ Recycle, reduce use of plastic packaging, plastic bottles & compost food waste

Support eco-restoration:

- ✓ Work to preserve and expand wetlands, forests and fields
- ✓ Eliminate use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- ✓ Plant trees, replace lawns with gardens and native plants
- ✓ Buy food at farmers' markets when available

Become a climate voter:

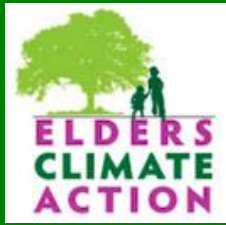
- ✓ Write/meet with your legislators to show your support for climate legislation.
- ✓ Ask where legislators/candidates stand on climate change
- ✓ Make climate change your #1 electoral priority. Vote!

Get Involved:

- ✓ Join a local grass roots climate change organization (e.g., Elders Climate Action, 350Mass, Mothers Out Front, Mass. Climate Action Network)
- ✓ Support a national climate organization (e.g., 350.org, Sierra Club, Sunrise Movement)
- ✓ Attend public hearings on the environment to show your support

Align investments with values:

- ✓ Switch away from investments in fossil fuel companies
- ✓ Encourage your college or religious organization to align investments with their values
- ✓ Advocate state and local pension fund divestment from fossil fuels



What Can I Do About Climate Change?

Speak out. Act up:

- ✓ Participate in climate change protests
- ✓ Resist business as usual with boycotts & civil disobedience

More Connections & Resources

- ❖ Check us out on the web: www.ecamass.org
- ❖ Write us and sign up for our newsletter: [Click on Contact Us at our website](#)
- ❖ Join/like us on Facebook: [Elders Climate Action – Massachusetts Chapter](#)
- ❖ Inside Climate News: www.insideclimatenews.org
- ❖ Living On Earth [WBUR 7AM Sunday](#)

6. HEALing Communities Study update/resources

What's new: Lauren Geanacopulos provided an update on the Townsend Drop-In Center which was recently established with funds from the HEALing Communities Study.

- ✓ <https://www.townsenddropin.com/>
- ✓ Lauren is the Director and can be contacted at northmiddlesexcares@gmail.com for more information.

What's on the horizon? Nate Erwin, shared updates regarding upcoming outreach and learning opportunities.

- ✓ Addiction 101 trainings have been planned in Shirley and Townsend and will be presented by Tara Rivera,
- ✓ HEAL will participate in Health Fair (Wellness Fest) planned for Saturday, May 21st.
- ✓ An anti-stigma campaign is currently being planned.

For more info about the NIH funded HEALing Community Study, please reach out to Susan Buchholz or Nate Erwin Nathan.Erwin@bmc.org

7. Thank you all for attending and participating in this meeting!

Additional notes from chat:

- Jennifer Dellasanta COO for Inspire Counseling and Support Center, located in downtown Leominster. Operating in several states. Outpatient services/Inspire Counseling, residential programs and work release centers/The Transition House Inc. We are here to provide information & resources to help our communities. Feel free to contact me with any questions Jennifer@thetransitionhouse.org 774-253-2575 www.inspiresupportcenter.com
- Jenna Montgomery (she/her/hers), Public Health Educator/Communications Specialist, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. We provide public health environmental and nursing services to sixteen towns in N Central MA on behalf of local elected boards of health.
- Kelsa Zereski, Reliant Foundation, checking in on North Central MA. We remain focused on children's and adolescent mental health and behavioral health, recovery from substance use disorder, and reducing stigma around these issues. We are an independent non-profit which makes community grants, and our next deadline is October 3.

Additional notes from chat continued:

- Julie Nowak (she/they/xs) BayPath Elder Services: 5/16 (National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day) – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM -- GRAY PRIDE: WELCOMING & WORKING WITH LGBT ELDERS cultural competency training FREE and LIVE on Zoom, hosted by Julie Nowak (she/they), LGBTQ+ initiative Coordinator for BayPath Elder Services. Next open session at 11 on 6/13 or ask to schedule a FREE training for your group. jnowak@baypath.org or 508.573.7288 (confidential direct line w/vmail). You are always welcome to contact Julie if you are seeking support/resources/info related to the rainbow community! Thanks to Title III funding received under the Older Americans Act, there is never any cost for our Pathways events/programs or consultations.
- Cathy Gaudet, NAMI North Central Mass only. We are looking for people interested in being facilitators for our family support groups and for our Consumer support groups (those with mental illness). You can email me at c_e_s13@yahoo.com if interested.
- Nathan Erwin, Community-based example of food justice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWukl6lgyJI>

Reminders:

Next JCOH meeting: Thurs. 5/19, 9-10 Link for 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81389913883?pwd=OEI2ZU9LVXhldXJuY1BKNnhBcy9Sdz09>

Agenda:

- **Accountability for Hospital Essential Services - an update**
- **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** – a presentation by Joanna MacGugan, Ph.D. & Dr. Peter McConarty
- *HEALing Community Study Highlight:*
 - o The RiseOn recovery App – Presented by Izzy Rivera, Justice Resource Institute

For those who are new to the coalition, JCOH...

- *Is an all-volunteer, community health coalition which has been active in the region for 20+ years*
- *Is coordinated by Susan Buchholz who also co-chairs with Irene Hernandez. Tara Rivera leads JCOH's addiction-related work*
- *Meets virtually, 3rd Thursday of each month, 9-10am*
- *Is open to all / no RSVP is necessary*

If you have any suggestions for future meeting topics – please reach out and share your ideas. This is your Coalition.

<https://jointcoalitiononhealth.org/> "Catalysts for Change and Advocates for the Underserved since 1998"

Facing Addiction in North County [Facing Addiction in North County | Facebook](#)