

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!*
- Agenda review
 - Recognition and Reflection: Indigenous People
 - Coalition updates including collaboration with NIH HEALing Communities Study
- Virtual introductions: *Please take a moment to introduce yourself in the chat. Name, Affiliation and/or reason you are joining us today*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Joanne Calista, Executive Director, Center for Health Impact, icalista@centerforhealthimpact.org ✓ Chief Sequan Pijaki aka Chief George Spring Buffalo / Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation / Watuppa Reservation/ Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust Inc. ✓ Peter C McConarty MD, family doctor, formerly of Fitchburg, now living in Worcester. Buprenorphine provider, petermccconarty@gmail.com ✓ Ulum Pixan Athoh'il (She Her), Indigenous Peoples Network, ulumpixan@gmail.com ✓ Tara Rivera, Treatment Advocate, 978-870-7734 1-800-RECOVERY, TMRivera@RecoveryCOA.com ✓ Fred Hutchings, Community Member, general interest in health care particularly mental health 978-696-5965 fredhutchings27@comcast.net ✓ Irene Hernandez, Active Life Adult Day Health Program Director, Civil Rights and Equity Consultant (978) 353-9571 ✓ Jane Carpenter (she/her), Community Data Manager at Boston Medical Center ✓ Francisco Ramos, Director of Community Organizing, NewVue Communities, 470 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420, framos@nvcomm.org, Direct: 978-288-0166, Office Main Line: 978-342-9561, www.newvuecommunities.org ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Jessica Fortier-Goss Clinic Director Fitchburg CTC ✓ Jackie Buckley, COO, Community Health Connections, Inc ✓ Nate Erwin, Community Engagement Facilitator @ Boston Medical Center ✓ Jennie Blake, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts ✓ Susan Buchholz, Spanish American Center, JCOH, Coordinator, HEALing Communities Study ✓ Julie Nowak (she/they/xe) BayPath Elder Services, jnowak@baypath.org 508-573-7288 ✓ Jenny Smith, Substance Use Prevention Coordinator with LUK ✓ Liz Benard, Substance Use Prevention, LUK, Inc ✓ Alexis Walls, MA Public Health Association ✓ Lynn Faust, Executive Dir., Metro Community Development Corp. lynn@strongcommunity.org. Referrals welcome for economic mobility programs for Mass. residents, and about ClearPath Hoarding programs. 508-658-0880. ✓ 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 |
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2. Recognition and Reflection: Indigenous People - Irene Hernandez, Co-chair, JCOH

- Irene provided context and intention for the conversation e.g., to acknowledge, reflect, begin a conversation, commit to shared learning. She also reflected on her Taino heritage.
- Irene introduced Chief George Spring Buffalo, Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation/ Watuppa Reservation.
- Chief George Spring Buffalo Indigenous Peoples provided insights on what it means when we use the term "Indigenous" including clarifying common misconceptions and share a map of "Turtle Island". (See resources below).
- Chief George Spring Buffalo introduced Ulum Pixan, Education Director at NOFA/Mass (Northeast Organic Farming Association). Ulum provided her perspective on what it means to be Indigenous. She also reflected on her Guatemalan and Jewish ancestry.
- Irene provided wrap up and shared that this is a topic we plan to discuss further in the new year.

3. Coalition Updates – Tara Rivera, Director of Addiction Initiatives for JCOH

- Tara Rivera thanked guests for their presentation and encouraged the group to reflect on the topic of gratitude.
- Tara provided broad overview of JCOH's collaboration with [NIH funded HEALing Communities Study](#).
- She also acknowledged that although we got off to a rocky start, Nate Erwin has done much to restore the trust of the community. Tara thanked Nate and introduced him.

4. HEALing Communities Study Highlight – Nate Erwin, Community Engagement Facilitator, HEALing Communities Study Boston Medical Center.

- Nate provided overview of the HEALing Community Study including how it is currently being implemented in North County in the communities of Shirley and Townsend.
- Nate provided an overview of a recent addition to the Action Plan: A Post Overdose Program
- Susan facilitated a short Q&A.
 - Ulum Pixan Athoh'il. I am sorry but why is this a post- response? I think it makes sense to start this way but are you thinking on instead of an reactive response vs a proactive response and also what you mean when you say the type or response? harm reduction?
 - Susan and Nate responded and provided brief definition of harm reduction.
 - ❖ Susan: Meeting people where they are. Not making assumptions that people want what we have to offer.
 - ❖ Nate: Proactive outreach, recovery coaching, supports. Clinical supports. Working with Emerson Hospital and Nashoba Hospital
 - Ulum shared the perspective that when “help” offered to the community can sometimes do harm if not offered with a full understanding of the communities, it's needs and also realistic acknowledgement of what can be offered. Ulum shared that she didn't want to insult anyone.
 - Susan: Thank you, Ulum. Excellent point. Not insulted. I appreciate you speaking up. Definitely a "Savior complex". I recognize it in myself.
 - Irene Hernandez: Trauma unpacking or unpacking trauma
 - Genuine community engagement is hard!! We make mistakes, apologize and try to do better.
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 - Peter C McConarty MD: How is this program engaging with the data system for Worcester County to identify people who have overdosed and reach out to them (?CIPS?)??How many overdoses have there been in Townsend in the past year?
 - Susan: Yes – we are working in collaboration with SIMs
 - Jane Carpenter: We don't know how many total overdoses there have been, but there were 5 fatal overdoses in Shirley and Townsend from July 2020-June 2021
 - Nate invited those interested to join Data Meeting on Fri and or reach out with questions.
 - ❖ Invite info: Shirley & Townsend Working Group Open Meeting: Time: 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada). Every month on the Fourth Fri, until Jun 24, 2022, 10 occurrence(s)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bostonmedicalcenter.zoom.us/j/99759637468>

5. Wrap Up – Susan Buchholz

- Susan shared a pre-colonization map <https://native-land.ca/> and encouraged attendees to locate their current location on the map.

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

7. Additional notes from the chat:

- Julie Nowak (she/they/xe) BayPath Elder Services: Good morning! LGBTQ+ Initiative Coordinator for BayPath Elder Services. You are warmly welcome to reach out to me if you are seeking programming/events or support/resources/info for your consumers, loved ones, or your own journey!
 - FREE training live on Zoom: GRAY PRIDE: Welcoming & Working with LGBT Elders
Link should be good for any upcoming trainings; next one is 12/6 @ 11 (90m appx. with questions welcome throughout the presentation). This training meets EOEA standards, contact me to schedule a session for your group. jnowak@baypath.org or 508-573-7288 (direct line w/vmail)
 - Join GRAY PRIDE Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/93721642347?pwd=amxtbXBVZlJtUVpCenRwQihxeEtKUT09>. Meeting ID: 937 2164 2347.
Passcode: R4inbows
- Garry Gleckel: from Ashby (Nipmuc/Pennacook land). Thank you Chief, Ulum, Irene for your sharing.
- Irene Hernandez: Thank you ... WE GET TO LIVE!
- Susan Buchholz: This is a safe place. We will have time to circle back for Q&A before we conclude today.
- Nate Erwin: Thank you so much for having me!
- Alexis Walls (she/her), MA Public Health Association. Hi all, I have to jump. Thank you so much for this information and the rich perspectives shared around healing and harm reduction. Susan and Irene, I look forward to the notes!

Additional Resources:

- [First People of America and Canada – Turtle Island](#)
- [Indigenous Allies Toolkit](#)
- [Turtle Island Map](#)
- Shared by JCOH Member, Fred Hutchings: Mark Charles - "[Race, Trauma, and the Doctrine of Discovery](#)"

Reminders:

- Mtgs are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 9-10 via Zoom. No mtg in December. Next mtg. January 20th. 2022
- We are an all-volunteer coalition. We have no paid staff. We are proud of all we are accomplish together and always welcome new members and new voices.
- If you would like to volunteer or become more involved in JCOH, please reach out and let us know.
- Our strength is our diversity!
- Our email: JointCoalitionOnHealth@gmail.com
- JCOH Overview available at <https://jointcoalitiononhealth.org/>
- Reminder: Facing Addiction in Fitchburg and Beyond is now Facing Addiction in North County. Visit us on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/FacingAddictioninNorthCounty>