**Date:** October 31, 2023

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual via Teams

**Attendees:** Michelle D’Amico, Maeve Edwards, Kathryn Ashe, Phil Litch, Quendia Martinez, Ilya Ablavsky, Lynn O’Neal

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| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Assignment/Task** | **Point Person**  | **Notes** |
| INTRODUCTIONS  | We all introduced ourselves at the beginning of the meeting, as Kathryn hasn’t met everyone yet.  |  |  |  |
| Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes | September meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.  |  |  |  |
| Treasurer’s Report | Michelle updated us that our current balance is $617.65. This is the lowest we've been in a long time and likely need to consider fundraising soon. We did not spend anything last month.  |  |    |    |
| Local Community Services Updates | **DMH:** They had staff appreciation day recently to celebrate diversity and the heritage of the staff in each area. They are also working on MassHealth redeterminations; everyone needs to be recertified for MassHealth. This is difficult for a lot of individuals so the sites are working with people to make sure that they meet the deadline for recertifying and they are helping people with providing the paperwork necessary to not have any service interruptions. **GLSS:** Lynn shared that they are able to help with benefits as well if someone is over 60 and needs help recertifying MassHealth. The Phoenix Food Hub is starting nutrition classes for people to teach them how to prepare healthier food. This is available to people of all ages. They have also joined the Food Policy Council to focus on food insecurity in the City. November is Caregiver Month and they are doing a retreat for people who are in a caregiving position. This will be a day where respite care is provided, they are doing some classes, some relaxation activities and providing food. She will send us a flyer on this.**Pathways:** Quendia shared that there is a new church in Lynn that is offering Spanish services in person or on Facebook Live. They are sharing Spanish speaking services regularly through this method, so if anyone has resources to share, they can do that this way. The pastor is Eduardo Caceres, the show is from his Facebook personal account. Radio Torrente de Vida, program from the Iglesia de Dios de la Profesia from Lynn is on the radio and they share resources to the Spanish community, every Monday from 10:00 to 10:30 AM.They started classes in September for ESL classes but they are looking for more students for a few classes, like Spanish HISET. They are doing another recruitment in January. But they can enroll on a rolling basis. **Lynn Housing:** The Thanksgiving Project is underway. Lynn Housing has been partnered with United Way for a long time. They do 15000 bags of food for Thanksgiving or a turkey. They get 1125 bags in Lynn that come with food and a gift card to Market Basket. For families in Lynn online for families of 3 or more. They are doing live in person sign ups. The last sign up is November 7th 5-7 PM at 10 Church Street. The distribution happens on the 18th, the last Saturday before Thanksgiving. There are difficulties with EA shelter spaces throughout the state. This is going to be a very difficult situation for families who are looking for shelter. The governor’s office is putting out 1200 vouchers for families who have been in shelter for over 18 months in order to get people into housing and open some shelter beds. The HomeBase package is also likely going to be expanded to try to help with this shortage. There are some other programs that are coming down the pike and she will keep us posted on these things. The Homeless Count is in January. **CPCS:** Trial backlog from COVID is pretty much cleared now.  |  |  |  |
| Old Business | * Election of Site Board Officers: We were supposed to have reelection around when Dee left. We will plan to do reelection at our next month. We can email our nominations to Kat.
* Recruitment of New Board Members: There are some people who used to participate who can no longer. We are looking to bring people from the Lynn Police Department and LCHC specifically. Ilya suggested that we reach out to past board members and see if they have ideas about people who might be interested. Kat will do this. Maeve will reach out to the officer who runs the LPD Community Meeting. We would also be interested in adding someone from the school committee.
* Virtual/In-person board meetings: Virtual is definitely easier, but maybe we can try to do a quarterly in person meeting or something. No one is opposed to doing occasional in person meetings. January makes sense for an in-person meeting.
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| New Business  | * Goals: One of the major goals in the past was to host an event in the spring and fundraising in the fall.
* Future Speakers: Phil wants to have a psychiatrist come in to speak with us about their perspective. He is also willing to look into other people who might want to come and speak. Lynn and Kat are willing to work with Phil on this. They will aim to have 2 names for Kat to approve by February.
* Fundraising: We used to do a community even in May and then one fundraiser per year. We haven’t been able to do a lot of fundraising since before the pandemic. We received a donation from the United Way that kept us afloat since then, but nothing since before COVID.
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| ADDENDA AND MATERIALS PROVIDED | * October 2023 Site Board Agenda
* September 2023 Meeting Minutes
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| ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING | Next meeting: November 21st at 9:30 a.m. via Teams.  \*\*note the new time and platform\*\* |   |   | .  |

**DMH staff:** Minutes should be emailed to **DMH-DL – Open Meeting Notices** after they are approved by the Public Body.