

News & Updates

September 2026

Public Health Nursing Spotlight



Tummy Time at the Medfield Public Library

With the inspiration and support of Kathy McDonald, M.ED, MSW, LICSW, Director of Health and Human Services, PHN Emily Dellaglio is bringing a creative, accessible outreach program to moms, babies and caregivers in Medfield.

Working collaboratively with the town's outreach worker, Kim Norgren, MSW, LCSW, Emily offers a monthly drop-in 'Tummy Time' at the Medfield Public Library.

Emily provides health education and together with Kim, they co-facilitate relaxed, engaging discussions that encourage parents and caregivers to ask questions, share ideas, and exchange resources. For the little ones in attendance, primarily pre-walking infants and toddlers, the program supports healthy growth and development while providing valuable opportunities for early social interaction.

This initiative is a wonderful example of a PHN meeting people where they are. By leveraging a trusted community partnership with the library and embracing interdisciplinary collaboration with social work, Emily has created a safe, welcoming, and accessible space that strengthens connections, supports families and promotes community well-being.



LPHNC Program Update

As you know, Jessica Tracy will remain in her current role with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH). We are grateful for her continued dedication to strengthening public health across the Commonwealth and look forward to continued collaboration to support our PH workforce.

We are happy to share that we have finished updating our coverage areas to ensure that every PHN and community has a primary point of contact on our team. We are confident the updated model will work well. Consultants have sent an email communication to our Eastern region PHNs to introduce themselves. We welcome your questions, thoughts, or feedback you wish to share.

Thank you for the important work you do in your communities and for your ongoing partnership and support.

A look back in time ...

"The people are what matter to government, and a government should aim to give all the people under its jurisdiction the best possible life."

Frances Perkins, born and raised in Massachusetts, was a 1902 graduate of Mount Holyoke College. In her final year, she toured a Connecticut River Mill and was deeply impacted by the working conditions she saw. While working as a teacher in Chicago, she volunteered at Hull House and Chicago Commons, two settlement houses that served the poor and immigrant populations. She spent time in Philadelphia working for an organization that sought to protect immigrant and Southern black migrant girls from being pulled into prostitution before moving to New York City (NYC) where she researched childhood malnutrition as part of earning her Master's degree from Columbia University. She went on to work for the NYC Consumer League where she focused on sanitary regulations for bakeries, fire safety in factories and legislation to limit the work week for women and children. She witnessed the Triangle Shirt Waist Fire in 1911 and later commented "The New Deal was born that day".



Frances Perkins' early education and experiences fostered a deep sense of purpose, a belief in social reform, and a dedication to worker's rights and safety. Her work, especially in New York City, provided the opportunity to hone her skills as an effective lobbyist and advocate for labor and social reforms.

From the time I was in college I was horrified at the work that many women and children had to do in factories. There were absolutely no effective laws that regulated the number of hours they were permitted to work. There were no provisions which guarded their health nor adequately looked after their compensation in case of injury.



When President Roosevelt, was elected in 1933, he invited Perkins to serve in his cabinet as Secretary of Labor. She provided a list of policy priorities and tied her acceptance to his full endorsement of her priorities. She was the first female cabinet member and held the position for 12 years.

She is credited as the driving force behind the Social Security Act, the establishment of unemployment insurance, and compensation for work-related injuries. She drafted the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 which banned child labor and established a 40-hour work week.

We recognize and honor Frances Perkins ahead of the Labor Day holiday for her advocacy, service, and work to protect vulnerable populations, workers rights, and her commitment to improving all lives.

(References available upon request.)

Save the dates! Upcoming Webinars and Meetings

2026 Greater Boston Stand Down is scheduled for Friday, September, 11th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at Boston City Hall Plaza. It is not too late to volunteer at the foot care tent in support of homeless and at risk veterans. To volunteer or for more information go to: **Foot Care Tent Information and Registration**.

We are hosted a very special 1 hour training titled **Foot Care: A Nurse Led Model on Wednesday, September 2nd**. The webinar recording and slides will be made available later this month.



Communities of Practice & Networking Meetings

Monthly Maternal Child Health Workgroup

The workgroup meeting is open to all local Public Health partners!

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 6TH 9:00 -11:00 AM

- Chassea Robinson, Northeast Region PHN Consultant
- Anne Mistivar, Western Region PHN Consultant

New Nurse Network Quarterly Meeting

This virtual meeting is open to all new public health nurses in Massachusetts

Next meeting: Tuesday September 15th 10:00 - 11:00 am

- Alyssa Kaiser, Southeast Region PHN Consultant

Regional SSA PHN Connection Group

A virtual gathering space for Regional SSA nurses to network and share resources.

Next meeting: Monday, September 14^h 1:00 - 2:00 pm

- Tamara Bedard, Central Region PHN Consultant

Massachusetts Public Health Nurse Resource Library (Padlet)

The PHN Resource Library is a dynamic compilation of resources to support Public Health Nurses and their colleagues. Content is organized by topic and updated on a regular basis. Please reach out with feedback or content suggestions. To explore the Library double click **[HERE](#)**

[For more information about the LPHNC Program visit our webpage](#)

Resources and Training Opportunities

2026-2027 Respiratory Illness Season Update

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 12:00 PM

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register for the webinar.

31st Annual MIAP Pediatric Immunization Skills Building Conference

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Visit the [conference website](#) for more information and registration

Join the UMass Amherst, Elaine Marieb College of Nursing graduate program staff to explore flexible online graduate degrees programs to advance your nursing practice. The Elaine Marieb College of Nursing [Doctor of Nursing Practice \(DNP\) program](#), rated as one of the top online DNP programs in the country, prepares advanced practice nurses for increasingly complex evidence-based advanced nursing practice. Our online [Master of Science in Public Health Nursing \(MS-PHN\)](#) track prepares registered nurses for leadership position as public health nurses in community health organizations, public health departments, visiting nurse, home care and Federal agencies.

- [In person Session](#): Wednesday, **September 16, 6pm – 7pm** on the Charles River Campus, Conference Room, 100 Carlson Avenue Newton, MA, 02459. Refreshments provided!
- Virtual Session: Wednesday, **September 23, 6 pm – 7 pm** [Virtual Registration and information](#)

[Questions? Email \[kayotte@umass.edu\]\(mailto:kayotte@umass.edu\)](#)

Not sure who to contact? Email us at: lphnc-program@umass.edu

If you are not on our email list and would like to be added please fill out this [FORM](#)

Contact us:

Anne Mistivar, DNP, MSN, RN, LNC
Western Consultant
amistivar@umass.edu

Chassea Robinson, MPH, MSN, RN, CPH
Northeastern Consultant
chassearobin@umass.edu

Meg Burch, MS, RN, NCSN
Program Manager
mtburch@umass.edu

Tamara Bedard, BSN, RN
Central & Metro West Consultant
tbedard@umass.edu

Alyssa Kaiser, BSN, RN
Southeastern Consultant
ahkaiser@umass.edu

Ann Becker, RN, DNP, PHNL
Program Director
Annie@umass.edu