

Many thanks to Beth Eisenberg for writing this month's summary.

WMM4A Meeting Summary - August 8, 2018

The meeting was smaller than usual but there were several new attendees

Local Updates

The Green River Festival went well. Lots of stories, some new sign-ups for email list.

The Amherst area hub's provider group is sponsoring a forum for providers on September 24. Details to follow. Contact Melanie: melaniewlewis@gmail.com

The Hilltown hub is seeking a Coordinator in each town for events. There will be a Fix it showing in Huntington in October, time and place TBA.

Holyoke hub has been canvassing and though it is a lot to cover they find it useful. They are establishing a resource center for canvassers. They are also trying to set up another meeting with Rep. Vega, with whom they feel they are engaging positively.

Northampton hub is a presence at candidate forums and has a centrally-located box of resources for events.

One member wears a Medicare-for-All sign on her daily walks and finds that people engage with her frequently.

Springfield is on pause for the summer. They have had two events with Senator Eldridge.

The southeast corner of Hampden county was represented at the meeting. They are approaching senior centers about Fix It showings. They are getting more positive response from Hampden and Wilbraham, less so from other towns.

Training report:

The two trainings went well; about 40 people have attended in total, with good feedback.

Suggestions made for trainings in Springfield and Greenfield. Beth Eisenberg, Training Coordinator, indicated requests from hubs are welcome and also that we are seeking input for future training needs. Contact Beth: jubilada@icloud.com

Single payer candidate updates

Some voters have received Islamophobic mailings regarding Tahirah Amatul Wadud. Some candidates are speaking out against this. We all should.

Don Berwick has endorsed John Hine, the only candidate in the 2nd Hampshire State Representative race who does not support M4A. He was apparently unaware fully of the issues and campaigns are working on this.

Report on Candidates Single Payer Survey.

17 candidates returned surveys out of 48 invited to participate. Results will be posted soon on the WMM4A website and a press release will be sent out.

The survey results should underscore the very real (though under-reported) differences between the candidates. Jon emphasizes that we will not take a negative stance towards non-responders.

Candidate Forums:

Visibility teams from WMM4A have been present at many forums over the past several weeks, distributing literature, talking to people, and submitting questions for the candidates. Here are the remaining forums we are aware of:

1st Franklin (Kulik)

- Saturday August 25, 10-12am, First Congregational Church, 43 Silver St, Greenfield (Racial Justice Rising, focusing on issues of racism and racial justice)
- Monday August 27, 7pm, Dunphy school(Williamsburg Democratic Club)

3rd Hampshire (Goldstein-Rose)

- Monday, August 20, Bangs Community Center, Amherst

Senate Seat (formerly Rosenberg)

- Monday, August 13, Deerfield Academy Hess Center, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, August 14, Shea Theater, 6:30-8:30pm (Food Bank)

Progressive Democrats of America and Franklin County CPR will sponsor a picnic at which many candidates will be present. Sunday August 19, 1-4 p.m. at Groff Park in Amherst, rain or shine.

Safe Patient Limits Ballot Initiative

Discussion about distributing literature for the Nurses' Safe Patient Limits Ballot Initiative along with Medicare for All information as we talk to people about the Single Payer ballot question.

The consensus was that this is a hub decision. Holyoke hub has found it fruitful. WMM4A has endorsed the Safe Patient Initiative and encourages participation. We will look into training from the MNA.

Treasurer's Report: we have enough money to cover current printing costs, but the campaign is continuing and we can reach more people with more resources. Please consider a donation.

Logo discussion concluded that we do want a graphic logo. Committee formed.