

Wellesley Board of Health
90 Washington St
Wellesley, MA
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2019

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, Chairman
Marcia Testa Simonson, PhD, Vice Chairman
Lloyd Tarlin, MD, Secretary
Carol Hannenberg, Associate

Staff:

Wanda Alvarez, Community Social Worker
Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, Nursing Supervisor

In attendance:

Alison Cross, resident, Food Rescue and Recovery Coordinator
Mary Gard, Advisory Committee, Liaison
Jim Rodrigue, resident and clinical psychologist
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

The Board of Health approved the meeting minutes for November 6, 2018 and November 8, 2018.

1. Administration

a) Chairman's Report

Shep Cohen reported on the following:

- Mr. Cohen clarified that the Town of Wellesley will be finalizing the FY19 Charles River contract.
- Mr. Cohen congratulated Alison Cross for her leadership (in the Commonwealth) on food rescue programs.
- Mr. Cohen reported that two residents have taken out papers for a seat on the Board of Health: Linda Grape and Jim Rodrigue are the candidates for election.

b) Directors Report

- Leonard Izzo reported that the Wellesley Public Schools have proposed a new full time social worker position in their FY20 Budget request.

c) Human Resources

Leonard Izzo reported that the Human Resource Department would be posting the clerk position next week. M.r Izzo noted that although he requested that the job be posted before the holiday week, Cheryl Daebritz of the Human Resources Department reported that recruitment posts are not done during prime vacation periods.

d) FY20 Budget and Advisory

Leonard Izzo reported that copies of the FY20 Budget and memo were forwarded to the Advisory Chair, Tom Skelly.

The Board of Health will be presenting their finalized FY20 Operating Budget to Advisory on January 23, 2019.

2. Community Health

a) Community Social Worker Report

Wanda Alvarez provided a provided a brief summary of the services rendered since she began her employment in September. Ms. Alvarez reported that the holiday season is a difficult time of year for residents with mental health issues. Ms. Alvarez reported that she is busiest working with the housing authority families. Key issues are mental health issues and financial issues. Transportation remains a barrier for families, as well as for individuals. Ms. Alvarez reported that she has many non-housing authority residents who want to be able to stay in the community, however face difficult financial issues in doing so. There are also mental health issues among these residents.

Ms. Alvarez reported that she works closely with the social worker from the schools and she has some contact with the outreach worker for the Council on Aging.

b) Nursing Report (December)

Ann Marie McCauley reported that there has been an increasing level of flu activity. Ms. McCauley feels that the flu vaccine has been effective this year.

Ms McCauley continues to vaccinate anyone requesting a vaccine.

c) Mental Health Awareness

The Board of Health reviewed the revisions made to the original memo dated 11/23/2018 by Blythe Robinson, Executive Director of Government Services. Mr. Cohen provided a draft version with multiple revisions. Additional edits will be made by Marcia Testa Simonson and Cheryl Lefman will review the final document before the next meeting.

Shep Cohen reiterated that it is important for the town to understand how the complicated services are coordinated and how collaboration works among the various departments. In addition, social workers for different populations (i.e. schools, COA, Health) address very different needs and issues. It should be recognized that all social worker services are strained. It is also necessary to stress that social services and behavioral health are addressed by different services and are not one and the same.

At today's meeting, Beth Sullivan Woods reported that there has been a limited understanding within the community of how the various social services in Wellesley operate. The purpose of this recent review of services has been to better understand how the services work and to determine if there is a need to shift resources within the community.

Leonard Izzo reported that the Wellesley Public Schools have proposed a new full time social worker position in their FY20 Budget request. This positioning will be for the high school and middle school populations.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the social and mental health services meeting will be on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 9 a.m.

3. Environmental Health

a) Vaping and E-cigarettes

Leonard Izzo reported that he will be inviting DJ Wilson (Tobacco Control Director and Public Health Liaison for the Massachusetts Municipal Association) to attend a Board of Health meeting in the near future, to discuss revisions to Wellesley's current tobacco regulations.

Lloyd Tarlin reported that the City of Somerville recently passed an ordinance that forbids anyone under the age of 21 to enter a store if e-cigarettes are on display.

b) New Food Establishment

Leonard Izzo reported on the following:

- Whites Bakery has yet to open and there is no opening date scheduled.
- Door Seven opened last week. Fiorella's and Marks are expected to open soon.
- The Cottage Restaurant voluntarily temporarily closed due to a ventilation issued.

c) Food Rescue and Recovery

Alison Cross reported that that she is currently working with Newton Wellesley Hospital on food rescue from that institution.

Ms. Cross reported that she would like to upload the Standard Operating Procedures for food donation on the Health Department website. She will be working with Cheryl Lefman to achieve this.

Wanda Alvarez believes that there are approximately thirty families who would benefit from the Mass Bay Community College Food for Free Program.

d) New Food Code

Leonard Izzo reported that Berger Food Safety Consulting is offering a new food code educational training. Steve Calichman, Holly Detroy and Vivian Zeng will be attending this free program.

Mr. Izzo provided a brief summary as to how the food code has changed. The new code is difficult to read, with no index page, inspections reports have increased to three pages long. Many changes also are evident in the general inspection to include product date marking, time and temperature controls, vomit and diarrhea spill kits etc.

In addition to the letter going out to food establishments that there is a new food code in place, staff members Vivian Zeng and Cheryl Lefman prepared a two sided briefing paper that is being distributed.

The Health Department will be planning educational seminars and training sessions in the months to come for the Wellesley food establishments.

4. Emergency Preparedness

a) Emergency Preparedness Programming

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be On January 10, 2019 at 9:30 am.
The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

Documents reviewed during this meeting and on file in the Health Department:

- Blythe C. Robinson- memo dated 11/23/2018, Social and Mental Health Services- An Overview of Service Delivery in Wellesley- updated, tracked version by Shepard Cohen
- December 2018 Nursing Report