

Wellesley Board of Health
90 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 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

In attendance:

Mary Gard, Advisory Committee, liaison
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectman

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

The Board of Health approved the following meeting minutes:

November 29, 2018

December 13, 2018

January 3, 2019

1. Administration

a) Chairman's Report

Shep Cohen reported on the following:

- Mr. Cohen reiterated that two residents have taken out papers for the one seat on the Board of Health: Linda Grape and Jim Rodrigue are the candidates for election. Mr. Cohen reported that he has been in touch with Ms. Grape.

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) Environmental Health

Mr. Cohen reported that Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Agent (EHA) has announced her upcoming retirement at the end of January, early February. Mr. Cohen reported that Ms. Detroy would possibly like to retain a part-time on-call position. Should Advisory approve the additional hours in the FY20 budget request, the funding may be available.

d) Town Meeting Warrant

Mary Gard reported that Blythe Robinson, Executive Director for the Town of Wellesley, presented the warrant articles in preparation for Town Meeting. The Board of Health did not have a place holder for a revolving fund (Article 55). An email requesting a placeholder had been forwarded to Ms. Robinson on October 25, 2018 and a second email requesting the same had been sent to Sheryl Strother on November 1, 2018. Beth Sullivan Woods asked to be copied on these emails. Mr. Izzo will prepare the language to establish a new revolving fund.

e) FY20 Budget and Advisory

At the last meeting 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.

Mary Gard reported on the most recent Advisory Committee meeting noting that there was pushback from the committee in regard to the request for additional hours in the Environmental Health personnel line item. Ms. Gard reported that the Advisory Committee continues to question the need for these additional twelve hours.

Mary Gard reported that she will be preparing a list of questions that the Advisory Committee may be asking at the meeting on January 23, 2019.

2. Community Health

a) Community Social Worker report

Wanda Alvarez provided a provided a brief summary of recent services rendered. The Board of Health reviewed Ms. Alvarez's 2018 fourth quarter report.

Ms. Alvarez reported on a handicap, nonverbal child living in public housing who has not been able to attend school since early December, as he has outgrown the wheelchair. The child attends an out of district school in Natick and the transportation van is unable to take him as he needs a bigger wheelchair and harness. His current wheelchair presents a danger if the van is in an accident. The out of district transportation coordinator has contacted Ms. Alvarez for assistance.

b) Mental Health Awareness (draft memo dated 11/23/18)

The Board of Health again reviewed additional revisions made to the original memo dated 11/23/2018 by Blythe Robinson, Executive Director of Government Services. Marcia Testa Simonson provided a draft version with a Board of Health explanation of revisions and modifications.

The Board reiterated that it is important for the town to understand how the very 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. Social services and behavioral health are addressed by different services and are not one and the same.

Again, Leonard Izzo reported that the Wellesley Public Schools have proposed new full time social worker position in their FY20 Budget request. This position will be for the high school and middle school populations. This information is not provided in the memo dated 11/23/2018.

Mr. Izzo presented a draft job description for mental health coordinator that had been prepared in June 2011. It is apparent that this same conversation has been taking place since 2011 with no action by the Town.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the social and mental health services meeting will be on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

3. Environmental Health

a) Vaping and E-cigarettes

Leonard Izzo reported that he intends to invite DJ Wilson (Tobacco Control Director and Public Health Liaison for the Massachusetts

Municipal Association) to attend a Board of Health meeting to discuss revisions to Wellesley's current tobacco regulations.

4. Emergency Preparedness

a) Emergency Preparedness Programming

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be announced.

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 version by Marcia Testa Simonson
- Community Social Worker - 2018 fourth quarter report.
- Mental Health Coordinator Job Description – DRAFT – June 2011