

Wellesley Board of Health  
Remote Meeting via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2021  
12:00 PM

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair  
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair  
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary  
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

Staff:

Wanda Alvarez, Community Social Worker  
Jessica Cliff, MHA, Environmental Health Specialist  
Deadra Doku Gardner, MS, Administrator  
Leonard Izzo, MS, RS, CHO, Director  
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator  
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor  
Joyce Saret, LICSW, Senior Community Social Worker  
Vivian Zeng, REHS, RS, CP-FS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Bob Brown, The Swellesley Report  
Linda Chow, Chair, School Committee, Wellesley Public Schools  
Linda Corridan, Director of Nursing, Wellesley Public Schools  
Shira Doron, MD, Resident  
David Lussier, Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools  
Beth Sullivan Woods, Member, Select Board  
John Lanza, Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM

1. Community Health
  - a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley provided a COVID-19 update. Numbers are coming down in the community as they are within the state.

Ms. McCauley reported she is concerned about yesterday's Superbowl parties that took place and the upcoming February school vacation week. She is hopeful that residents will follow guidance and not gather with those outside of their immediate household.

Leonard Izzo reported on Babson College. The school will partner with the Health Department if needed. Ann Marie McCauley reported that the numbers at the college are also coming down. The College is doing their own contact tracing.

Shepard Cohen reported that the Select Board has scheduled a call with the President of Wellesley College on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

b) COVID-19 – Wellesley Public Schools (WPS)

David Lussier and Linda Corridan reviewed school testing for the last week. Very few students and staff tested positive and/or are in quarantine.

Dr. Lussier reported that the teacher's union will be meeting to discuss the school dashboard later this week. Next week is (February) school vacation.

Marica Testa Simonson said there is no update on staff and teacher vaccinations, and they remain in the third group in Phase II.

c) COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

Leonard Izzo reported on multiple complaints he received regarding the lack of vaccination clinics in Wellesley.

Mr. Izzo reported on vaccine distribution in the Commonwealth, noting the Health Department received 100 doses to provide second doses of the vaccine for first responders, but the department was denied an additional 100 doses for a local clinic for eligible groups.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that first responder second dose clinics are being held this week. Three of the staff nurses will be vaccinating.

Shepard Cohen reported that his contacts over the age of 75 years old have been able to schedule appointments and receive the vaccinations.

Linda Oliver Grape reported there continues to be many complaints and confusion in regards to scheduling and obtaining vaccinations. She suggested that another public notice be posted informing residents that Wellesley does not have vaccine available. Marcia Testa Simonson reported that the State will be making it clear that local public health does not have vaccine. She said the supply chain and distribution is very difficult to manage and it is easier for the State to distribute large vaccine allocations to regional sites rather than to individual health departments.

Cheryl Lefman reported on the Council on Aging's (COA) efforts by staff and volunteers, to assist seniors 75+ schedule appointments at clinics. Volunteers have reached 125 families and scheduled 225 appointments thus far. There are only a few they have not been able to connect with. The COA has also offered to train volunteers from Temple Beth Elohim, so they may offer a similar resource for congregants.

Dr. Shira Doron reported that Tufts Medical Center (TMC) has been experiencing issues with the MIIS system. The system has been rejecting entries with missing information; thereby undercounting vaccines that have been administered. This is creating havoc in the hospital's allotment numbers. In addition, Dr. Doron reported that some people are scheduling themselves for clinics at TMC and are not showing up. This could be due to some that have scheduled appointments at TMC, as well other locations, and have not canceled their appointment at TMC, leaving them in a situation where they have to scramble to find patients to come in at the last minute.

Dr. Doron reported on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. The vaccine requires only one dose and no special refrigeration. This vaccine may be a gamechanger in terms of logistics.

Cheryl Lefman reported on Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. Many residents with both medical and non-medical skills have signed up on the statewide system MA Responds to become MRC volunteers. Some medical professionals noted they have been vaccinated.

d) COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics – Low Income Congregate Housing

Leonard Izzo reported that those eligible age restricted low-income residents in Wellesley Housing Authority properties will be vaccinated in the next tier of Phase II.

e) Social Work

Joyce Saret reported the social workers are offering another virtual support group to parents of adolescents this Friday, 2-12-2021.

2. Environmental Health

a) Complaints

Vivian Zeng reported she has been following up on housing complaints that came in over the weekend.

b) Camps- February School Vacation

Vivian Zeng reported that Puddle Stompers will be reducing their camp hours. Charles River Aquatics will be running a camp in the pool.

3. Administration

Shepard Cohen confirmed that the Board will be presenting to the Advisory Committee at their meeting on February 24, 2021.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on February 10, 2021, 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deadra Doku Gardner  
Administrator