

Town of Wellesley  
Board of Health Meeting (online remote)  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM

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:**

Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator  
Jhana Wallace, MOH, Community Health Coordinator  
Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator  
Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director  
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor  
Joyce Saret, MSW, Senior Community Social Worker  
Wanda Alvarez, Community Social Worker  
Vivian Zeng, Senior Environmental Health Specialist  
Adam DiPrisio, Environmental Health Specialist

**In attendance:**

Shira Doron, MD, Resident  
Christina Dougherty, Advisory Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 10:03AM.

1. Citizen Speak

There were no requests to speak.

Any individual addressing the Board during Citizen Speak shall be limited to two minutes. Please email [ddokugardner@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:ddokugardner@wellesleyma.gov) to participate in Citizen Speak or to observe the meeting live and joining instructions will be sent.

2. Director's Report

- a. Mr. Izzo discussed the 2021 MetroWest Foundation Adolescent Health Survey. In regard to future surveys, Mr. Izzo requested support from the Board of Health in gaining access to the survey results prior to its release to the general public to

understand priority health issues among youth in Wellesley. Mr. Cohen volunteered to speak to the Chairperson of the School Committee.

- b. Mr. Izzo updated the Board on current tobacco control measures and funding. Newton Health and Human Services will no longer be providing tobacco enforcement in Wellesley due to changes in the State grant program requirements. The Environmental Team will investigate State tobacco enforcement requirements and next steps for the Health Department.

Mr. Izzo and Ms. Zeng updated the Board on challenges in enforcing new tobacco products. Ms. Zeng reported that the Environmental Team is researching new tobacco and marijuana products being sold and potential local level prevention including regulations and educational programs.

### 3. Chairman's Report

- a. Mr. Cohen moved to approve the minutes from 1/11/2023 Dr. Testa Simonson seconded. Ms. Oliver Grape voted yay. The motion passed.

### 4. Nurses Update/Community Health

- a. COVID/Flu/RSV- Ms. McCauley reported that COVID cases are currently averaging 3-4 cases per day vs. forty cases per day at this time last year. Flu cases are averaging three per day vs. sixty per day in December 2022. Mr. Cohen requested a check in with schools for any surges or upticks on absenteeism due to Flu/COVID/RSV. Ms. Oliver Grape suggested the Health Department remind community members that Federal support for COVID testing, vaccines and illness will end on May 11, 2023 when the emergency declaration ends. The Health Department will remind the community that free rapid tests are available for residents. Dr. Doron reported little to no Flu, RSV, COVID or Norovirus at Tufts
- a. Mr. Cohen requested that the Health Department receive routine ER reports from Newton Wellesley Hospital. The Department will inquire about receiving the reports.
- b. Mr. Izzo reported discussions with the Fire Department regarding using opioid funds to place NARCAN (Nalaxone) at all AED stations.

### 5. Social Work Update

- a. Mr. Cohen requested a meeting with HRS to understand recent activity and needs.

### 6. Environmental Health Update

- a. Ms. Zeng reported on local openings and the establishment of an online permitting system being developed with IT.

7. Administration

- a. Ms. Dougherty submitted a draft FY24 budget for review. No vote has taken place.
- b. The Next Board of Health meeting will be Thursday, March 2, 2023, 8:30AM
- c. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator