

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
April 5, 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, LSW, Community Social Worker
Jessica Cliff, MHA, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku Gardner, MS, Administrator
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
Eric Fudeman, Resident
John Lanza, Advisory Committee
Debra McConnell, Resident
Lloyd Tarlin, MD, Resident, former Board member
Beth Sullivan Woods, Member, Select Board

The following meeting minutes were approved: March 29, 2021.

Citizens Speak

Eric Fudeman and Debra McConnel reported that they are residents and public-school parents. They addressed their concern about the Wellesley after-school programs, which have not been operational since the start of the pandemic. They said many families depend on these programs for childcare after school. There has been no indication that these programs will be operating in the fall.

1. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the number of positive cases continues to increase in the State and in town. She reported there were many new cases in the community since the last meeting and noted that the community is now averaging eight new cases a day. Many cases picked up by testing were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms. The majority of cases were between 14 and 21 years old and some were between the ages of 54-62. Ms. McCauley said that none of the cases resulted in hospitalization (that she was aware of).

Ms. McCauley said that Babson College reported 28 new cases over the weekend and Wellesley College reported two cases.

Ms. McCauley said she received the first report of a re-infection. She said this individual was PCR tested in December after being symptomatic. The individual is now two weeks past the 90-day immune period, has retested and is positive. The individual was exposed in the home and is symptomatic.

b) COVID Vaccine and Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported that a second dose clinic for housing was held last Thursday. The clinic went well. Another second dose clinic will be held this Thursday (4/8/21).

c) Babson College – COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported on her meeting with Babson College this morning. In addition to the recent cases reported, there are still 31 individuals in isolation; 11 of whom are student athletes. An additional 28 individuals are in quarantine; 20 of whom are student athletes. Ms. McCauley said that most of this is largely due to social activities and parties surrounding sporting groups/teams. Babson College administration has sent out warnings and suspended some students.

Ms. McCauley reported that undergrads graduation will be held on May 1 and graduate students on May 2. No guests will be allowed.

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

Linda Corridan reported three new cases last week at the High School and Schofield School. Transmission among these cases were within family members; there was no in-school transmission.

Ms. Corridan reported that beginning last week, grades 3-5 began surveillance screening each week as they are now in school full-time.

Ms. Corridan said that 733 staff members are either fully vaccinated or have had one dose of vaccine. 75% of the teaching staff have been vaccinated in some form. There was a designated clinic for educators last Saturday, and additional educator clinics are scheduled next weekend. She expects that by the end of next week a good portion of the remaining staff will be vaccinated. Ms. Corridan was not aware of any vaccine hesitancy among staff. She noted that most teachers have been in the classroom every day; the difference is that there are now more children in the classroom. There are some teachers that have been fully remote that are now returning to the classroom.

Linda Chow reported that 70 students that were previously in remote learning have now gone to in-person learning; mostly in the elementary level.

Dr. Shira Doron suggested that documentation of student vaccination records be provided to WPS, as there are frequent emails requesting that teachers and students provide this information. Linda Corridan said they are already receiving this information through their MIIS system. The information is automatically entered into students' medical records.

Dr. Doron reported on the definition of a close contact (6 feet) which she reported does not align with the definition of safety. The medical community is in favor of the 3-foot rule in schools; yet quarantine is currently based on the 6 ft rule. Dr. Doron has addressed the definition with the Massachusetts Education Commission, as well as the Department of Public Health. She noted that many children could be exposed within six feet and end up in quarantine based on the three-foot rule thus increasing the quarantine numbers. She noted that students from each positive pool of 7-10 kids are being sent out on quarantine.

Linda Corridan reported that METCO and out of town students are not having problems getting a PCR test when needed. In addition, she reported all students that are being sent home with symptoms are asked to have a PCR test before returning to school. This has not been a problem regardless of the child's home-base.

e) Social Services/Mental Health

Shepard Cohen reported that he completed a report from the Friday, March 19 Mental Health and Social Services meeting; the report has been forwarded to the participants for comment.

2. Environmental Health

a) Mobile Food Truck- temporary permit fees

Vivian Zeng reported on the need to increase the temporary permit fees for mobile food trucks.

The Board of Health voted to approve the increase of temporary food truck permit fees from \$25 to \$75. Temporary food permits last for 14 days. This increase will be effective immediately.

b) Camps

Vivian Zeng provided a brief update on Babson camp operations noting that they will be capping camps at 800 campers.

c) Morses Pond

Recreation will be operating Morses Pond similarly to last year. Advance reservations will be required for a specific block of time, for ten people within their own designated spot on the beach. The Recreation Commission is considering opening the bath house for restroom use. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

d) Microblading

Vivian Zeng reported on the increase in microblading permit requests noting that the Health Department does not have a plan review fee for this activity. She said there is an extensive amount of review necessary and microblading practitioners may spend many hours reviewing regulations and plans with an Environmental Health Specialist. Often, they decide not to operate in Wellesley and move on to another community.

The Board of Health asked Ms. Zeng to prepare a proposal of suggested plan review fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on April 12, 2021, 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator