

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2020
2:30 pm

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Carol Hannenberg, MD, Associate Member

Staff:

Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Steven Calichman, Environmental Health Specialist
Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Joyce Saret, Community Social Worker
Vivian Zeng, Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 pm.

1. Administration

a) Directors Report

Leonard Izzo provided the following updates:

- Mr. Izzo reported that Linda Oliver Grape will not be attending this conference call today.
- Mr. Izzo elaborated on recent issues surrounding Coronavirus in the Town of Wellesley (see below).

b) Budget Impacts

Beth Sullivan Woods reported there will be a tightening of budgets in the coming year. She stated that the Board of Selectmen have been reviewing the recent pandemic budget impact. All departments should anticipate a letter from Financial Services outlining a request for budget reductions.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that the state will be issuing a \$2.8 billion grant to supplement boards of health.

c) RedCAP

Marcia Testa Simonson described the use of RedCAP (a contact tracing data service) as a sister system to MAVEN.

d) Complaints

Leonard Izzo reported there have been calls from residents with complaints about information in the daily updates. Mr. Izzo has spoken with the Selectmen's office and will follow-up with the town's communication manager Stephanie Hawkinson.

2. Community Health

a) Mental Health Services/ Social Services

Mark Kline, director of Human Relations Service will attend the Board of Health conference call tomorrow - Thursday, April 16, 2020.

b) Death Certificates

Leonard Izzo reported on the conference call he attended earlier today; one of the topics was "cause of death" on death certificates. There is confusion as to whether COVID-19 can be listed as a primary cause of death.

3. Public Health Nursing

a) Coronavirus – cases etc.

Leonard Izzo and Ann Marie McCauley reported that the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) notified boards of health that the COVID-19 website will now include a breakdown of coronavirus cases by city and town each Wednesday. They will not release the number of positive cases if there are fewer than five cases in populations of 50,000 or less, to protect individual privacy.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that there was one additional case reported today. The total number of cases in Wellesley as of this afternoon is 69. This figure does not include the six original cases.

Ms. McCauley reported that she and her staff are contacting the facilities on a regular basis.

b) Nursing Facilities/Group home

As noted at the last meeting (4/14/20) Leonard Izzo reported that PPE supplies (gowns, gloves, googles and masks) were given to the long-term care facilities in Wellesley.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she will be providing contact information for the facility; this for volunteers interested in helping out with tasks including making beds, assisting residents with dressing and possibly reading and playing games.

4) Environmental Health

a) Food Establishments and Supermarkets

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for April 16, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE