

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020
2:30 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:

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Administration

a) Director's Report

Leonard Izzo provided the following updates:

- Mr. Izzo elaborated on recent issues surrounding Coronavirus in the Town of Wellesley (see below).

b) Essential Services

Leonard Izzo reported that the Board of Selectmen are still in the process of defining guidelines for essential services in regards to landscaping activities. Mr. Izzo reported that the Board of Selectmen cannot go beyond

the Governor's order. As noted during yesterday's meeting the Board of Selectmen will wait until next week to provide guidelines.

Mr. Izzo reported that he has completed the draft letter (regarding landscaping) as requested by the Board of Selectmen. The draft has been forwarded to Meghan Jop for review.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the Board of Selectmen have received several letters from landscapers opposing additional guidelines.

c) RedCAP

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

d) Complaints

Leonard Izzo again reported that there have calls from residents with complaints about the information included 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.

Shep Cohen directed the staff to have complaints forwarded to him.

2. Community Health

a) Mental Health Services/ Social Services

Beth Sullivan Woods reported on the newly created Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund (Fund for Wellesley). Details are available on the Fund for Wellesley website. Ms. Sullivan Woods reported that a promotional document is going out in the MLP mailer to 9800 households about how residents and businesses can remain informed.

Ms. Sullivan Woods believes there is currently \$10k in the fund.

b) Council on Aging (COA)

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the COA had a board meeting this morning. She noted that staff has been reaching out to seniors in the community focusing on those living alone. Kate Burnham has been in contact with 41 residents she works with on a regular basis.

The COA has been organizing programs on Zoom aimed at reducing social isolation in seniors. The newsletter will encourage residents to call

in with Wellesley stories, past and present, that can be posted/presented at a later date.

Ms. Sullivan Woods reported that upcoming programming will be virtual.

c) Human Relations Services (HRS)

Dr. Mark Kline, Director, HRS reported that the agency has moved to a telehealth model. All services have moved to Zoom or other virtual platform. Staff training, programming, meetings, intake and referrals, as well as client sessions have all moved to virtual/online platforms.

Dr. Kline reported that kids are accustomed to working, chatting and conducting daily activities online. Dr. Kline noted that the majority of children are not experiencing a huge amount of cabin fever. Children seem to be doing well with on-line learning and social interaction. Dr. Kline noted that the COVID19 pandemic has surprisingly been working in favor of many kids and for HRS.

Dr Kline reported that HRS is in the process of developing different modalities, noting that not everyone that needs help, wants to access it via telehealth. Staff is creating programs that will help those clients in a different way. Dr. Kline noted that HRS has been working with the COA to develop programs targeted at Wellesley seniors. In addition, a module is being developed for parents which will address issues pertaining to children from a wide spectrum of ages, from young children to college aged adults. The Board of Health agreed that emotional trauma and mental health issues stemming from the pandemic will continue for a long time.

Dr. Kline reported that he has been having bi-weekly calls with Joyce Saret. Dr. Kline noted that HRS has been approved for a small grant (\$3500) for technology etc., from the MetroWest Foundation. Dr. Kline said they will face a fundraising challenge, as they had to cancel their annual fundraising dinner scheduled in June. Susan Wornick is a regular host of the event and in lieu of the event she will provide a video message to potential donors.

Dr. Kline reported on conversations which took place in the fall between the Town of Wellesley Treasurer and the Human Resource Director, in regards to an increase in the town contract; in which every employee has access to HRS resources and services. In the last few years there has been a noted increase in the number of town employees accessing

HRS services. HRS will continue to encourage employees to utilize their resources and services.

Dr Kline said there has not been an increase in requests for services since the onset of COVID-19. He believes that people are hunkered down and concerned about other things.

Linda Grape reported that Whole Foods has donated \$400 in gift cards to the town for residents in need. Meghan Jop, Executive Director (on behalf of the Board of Selectmen), has accepted the gift.

Linda Grape will pick up the gift cards and give them to Maura Renzella, who will be responsible for disseminating them.

3. Public Health Nursing

a) Coronavirus – cases etc.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that there were an additional six cases reported today – one resident in his/her own home, and five at a long-term care facility.

Ms. McCauley reported that the office has been taking calls from businesses requesting protocols on employees returning to work.

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

b) Nursing Facilities/Group home

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 both long-term care facilities are in need of assistance, as they have become short-staffed due to illness. Cheryl Lefman has forwarded a request for volunteers.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

4) Environmental Health

a) Pleasant Street residence

Vivian Zeng reported on a homeowner that had a sewage issue in the basement. Ms. Zeng stated that she has spoken with the contractor doing the work.

b) 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 17, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE