

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022 – 9:30a

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary

Staff:

Adam DiPersio, 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 Nursing Supervisor
Jhana Wallace, MPH, Community Health Coordinator
Vivian Zeng, MPH, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Stephanie Hawkinson, Communications Manager, Town of Wellesley
Ashley Hulme, RN, Director of Nursing, Wellesley Public Schools
Shira Doron, MD, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 9:36a.m.

The Board of Health approved the meeting minutes of April 27, 2022.

Director's Report

Leonard Izzo introduced the two new staff members. Adam DiPersio (Environmental Health) and Jhana Wallace (Health Communications).

Mr. Izzo provided preliminary information about the Bio-safety lab scheduled to move to Route 9. He will provide additional information as it becomes available.

1. Administration

a) Announcements – Communications Manager

Stephanie Hawkinson announced that she will be leaving her position in Wellesley in the next week.

2. Community Health

a) COVID update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the number of COVID cases are remaining steady. Ms. McCauley compared the last week of April as averaging 18 cases per day with a third of these being college cases. Today the average is 15 cases per day. Ms. McCauley reported that these are PCR reported tests and that the actual number of cases is higher as home testing is not reported.

In addition to COVID cases, Ms McCauley noted that she has a fair amount of reported influenza in children.

Shira Doron reported on the status of covid cases and hospitalization at Tufts New England Medical Center. She reported that there are more employees with Covid. Dr Doron reported that the new variants make it are hard to predict what is coming next.

Linda Oliver Grape reported that there is no shortage of anti-viral medications available in the Commonwealth. She elaborated those anti-viral medications are an option and should be used early on after diagnosis.

Linda Oliver Grape inquired about wastewater testing. Leonard Izzo reported that he has discussed this with the DPW and cost is associated with the testing. It does not appear that the state will offer financial assistance.

b) COVID Vaccine Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported on upcoming COVID clinics. One is scheduled for Thursday May 12, 2022. This clinic is fully booked

Another clinic is scheduled for next week for May 17th and was intended for town Town of Wellesley employees however interest has been lacking so it was opened to the public.

c) Mental Health

Joyce Saret and Wanda Alvarez reported that May is Mental Health Awareness month. Ms. Saret reported on programming that was recently offered on depression and awareness and how to speak to your teen. Next week programming is planned on mental health and nutrition. The suicide awareness display is at the library.

Ms. Saret reported that the results from the substance abuse survey have been received. She will review the data and report back on her findings.

d) FY23 HRS contract

Shep Cohen reported that he has sent the first revisions of the HRS FY23 contract.

e) Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) Update

Ashely Hulme reported that the schools have updated the way in which they report cases. The school reporting dashboard after April 15 is now accurate. Ms Hulme reported that there is an average of 10 positive COVID cases a day in the schools.

Ms Hulme reported that there is a general concern about bringing masks back. Currently mask wearing is optional. The WPS will be mandating masks for indoor events. Ann Marie McCauley reported that if someone is concerned that they should protect themselves with a mask. People need to take responsibility for themselves and their family.

2. Environmental Health

a) Food Establishment Updates

Vivian Zeng reported that the Laughing Monk Café opened and there are several other new establishments expected to open in the next few weeks.

b) Pools and Camps

Vivian Zeng reported that seasonal pools are re-opening and camp binders were due this past week.

c) Body Art

Vivian Zeng reported two new body art establishment applications are being submitted. One will require a variance request for a handwashing

sink as well as a janitorial mop sink. The operation believes they have a plan that will meet the sink requirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator