

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 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
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Joyce Saret, Community Social Worker

In attendance:

Bob Brown, Swellesley Report
Mark Kline, Director, Human Relations Service
John Lanza, Advisory Committee, Liaison
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 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.

b) Social Worker Position

Leonard Izzo reported on a successful discussion with Human Resources regarding fast tracking the hiring of a second social worker.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

c) Department of Public Health

Leonard Izzo reported on the reports and guidelines provided by the Department of Public Health. Mr. Izzo reported there has been conflicting messages on the opening of Massachusetts.

Mr. Izzo reported on complaints and requests from residents and businesses. Calls have come from tanning businesses, hair salons and barber shops around guidelines and protocols.

d) Morses Pond

Leonard Izzo reported that at their meeting last night, the Recreation Commission voted to keep Morses Pond beach closed this year. There will be no lifeguards on duty and park rangers will be hired to patrol the area.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

e) Advisory Update

John Lanza provided an update regarding issues related to the upcoming Town Meeting. He reported the Advisory Committee is concerned about the number of participants as well as votes at Town Meeting.

Mr. Lanza reported there has been discussion about moving funds to support the softball field efforts. CPC funds are permitted for three different community matters, one of which is for housing. There is a question as to whether funds may be needed to support residents who are unable to pay their housing costs, i.e. rent. There is a possibility that CPC may be able to assist.

2. Community Health

a) Human Relations Service (HRS)

Mark Kline provided an update of services being provided.

Dr. Kline reported that HRS has been successful in transitioning to clinical telehealth. He reported that it was a difficult start however things are running smoothly now.

Dr. Kline reported there have been multiple (4-6 week) programs put into place for various populations, including those that assist parents of children moving on from the high school to college, as well as a group for parents of upcoming seniors. He elaborated on a program

for young adults who anticipate going to college in the Fall, however not certain if they may actually go. Dr Kline reported that HRS is also conducting multiple forums at the public schools for parents.

Dr Kline said he is evaluating how HRS staff will see clients in their office. He believes they will eventually be able to see clients at their office, and they will continue to offer telehealth in the future.

- b) Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH) Town Hall
Cheryl Lefman reported on today's NWH Town Hall regarding COVID-19 response and status at NWH. Hospital representatives reviewed data related to the timeline of onset of COVID-19 patients, surge and current status. Information regarding ethnicity, age, capacity, etc. was included, as was community health efforts. Ms. Lefman reported the hospital is currently seeing fewer COVID-19 patients and a greater number of patients are seeking treatment for non-COVID-19 issues. The Town Hall session was recorded and available for viewing.

- c) Mental Health
Joyce Saret provided a summary of the social work services provided. She reported she has been taking the calls from the Council on Aging, as their social worker has been out. She has also been receiving calls from families of school aged children.

- d) COVID-19 Funding

Marica Testa Simonson reported that funding can be used for mental health services, i.e. panic, isolation and anxiety, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lenny Izzo reported he has spoken to Meghan Jop about how to use the funding; Wellesley qualifies for 2.7 million.

3. Public Health Nursing

- e) Coronavirus – cases, etc.
Ann Marie McCauley reported that the numbers are decreasing. Staff are receiving calls from barber shops, hair salons, and tennis court operators, looking for guidance.

Ms. McCauley reported that she and the nursing staff continue to contact the facilities on a regular basis.

4) Environmental Health

a) Food Establishments

Leonard Izzo reported that food establishments are contacted by the environmental health agents regularly; all are doing well.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 2:30 pm.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE