

Town of Wellesley  
Board of Health Meeting (online remote)  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 20th, 2023, 12:00 PM

Present

**Board:**

Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Chair  
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Vice Chair  
Shira Doron, MD, FIDSA FSHEA, Secretary  
Shepard Cohen, MPA, Associate Member

**Staff:**

Lenny Izzo, Health Department Director  
Deadra Doku-Gardner, MS, Administrator  
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nursing Supervisor  
Jhana Wallace, MPH, Community Health Coordinator

**In attendance:**

Beth Sullivan Woods, Select Board

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM

1. Citizen Speak

There were no requests to speak.

2. Chair Report

- a. Dr. Testa Simonson moved to approve meeting minutes from 3/14/23, 3/16/23, and 5/25/23. Dr. Doron seconded the motion. Ms. Oliver Grape voted in favor via email. The minutes were approved.
- b. The Board discussed the HRS (Human Relations Services) contract. Dr. Testa Simonson moved to approve the contract. Dr. Doron seconded the motion. Ms. Oliver Grape voted in favor. The contract was approved.

Additionally, the Board discussed future requirements for HRS.

3. Director Report

- a. Mr. Izzo requested Board approval for an irrigation well variance at 20 Old Farm Rd. Dr. Testa Simonson moved to approve the variance. Dr. Doron seconded the motion.

Ms. Oliver Grape voted in favor. The variance was approved. Dr. Doron suggested that the Board review the Wellesley Board of Health regulations for wells for possible revision.

- b. The Board discussed the staffing situation at the Department. Adam DiPersio has been promoted to Senior Environmental Specialist. Emily Whittaker-Smith has been hired full time as an Environmental Specialist. There is one vacant full time Environmental Specialist position.

There is one open full time Social Worker position designated for Housing Authority needs. Wanda Alvarez will move to fill that role and the Department will hire an additional Social Worker to replace Ms. Alvarez's current role at the Department.

Ashley Denton has resumed her position as Public Health Nurse.

- c. Mr. Izzo reported on the FDA grant including required staff trainings and the food regulatory standards included in the grant program. Dr. Testa Simonson inquired about the possibility of additional credentialing for staff participating in grant activities.
- d. Mr. Izzo discussed the Department's plans for disseminating Narcan. The Department has received a supply of Narcan from Newton Wellesley Hospital that has been delivered to the Wellesley Police Department. MetroWest Foundation grant funds were used to purchase additional doses and call boxes for placement in Town buildings in proximity to AEDs. This project is still in the planning phase and will include an educational campaign and training for staff and residents.
- e. The Board discussed opioid settlement funds. Mr. Izzo noted that Megan Jop has designated himself as the point person for reporting. Mr. Izzo noted that there is potential for an increased number of detox centers in Wellesley, requiring careful scrutiny. Dr. Testa Simonson noted that there may be opportunity for prevention activities.

#### 4. Nurse Supervisor Report

- a. Ms. McCauley reported that Covid numbers remain very low and nursing staff are focused on camp inspections. Dr. Doron reported that Covid booster recommendations are not confirmed for Fall yet.

#### 5. Administration

The next meeting will be scheduled via email.

#### 6. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Board prior to posting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jhana Wallace, Community Health Coordinator