

Wellesley Board of Health
Zoom Conference
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020
11:30 AM

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

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

In attendance:

John Lanza, Advisory Committee
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

1. Administration

Vivian Zeng discussed the recreation programs running in the Warren building. Several instructors have not been following the mask mandate. One fitness instructor made a last-minute change and will cap her class (for physical distancing) and make it mask free.

a) Advisory - FY21 Budget Presentation

Marcia Testa Simonson reviewed the FY21 budget presentation she will present at the Advisory Committee meeting scheduled this evening.

She reviewed the following positions: environmental health specialist, social worker and nursing positions.

The Board of Health continued discussion on the budgetary needs of the Department prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as its current needs.

b) CARES Act Funding

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that Wellesley is receiving 3.7 million dollars from the CARES Act. A large portion of this funding is going to the Wellesley Public Schools (WPS).

c) Human Resources

Leonard Izzo reported that the new social worker is expected to begin in mid-October 2020.

d) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Leonard Izzo reported the Health Department continually adds to its supply.

e) Wellesley Public Schools and COVID Testing Proposals

Leonard Izzo reported there continues to be a closed bid process, Beth Sullivan Woods reported that last night, the School Committee authorized the School Department to enter into two separate agreements.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was to conduct one-time testing of all faculty and students before school starts, and afterward, weekly testing of the faculty. Participation in testing is to be voluntary.

Beth Sullivan Woods noted that at last night's meeting of the School Committee the following costs were noted:

- Cost of baseline testing of the faculty- \$100k
- Cost of baseline testing of the students- \$335k
- Cost of surveillance testing of staff- \$300k

Ms. Sullivan Woods reported funding is through the Wellesley Education Foundation (WEF) and WPS.

Thus far, \$800,000 has been raised thru WEF.

f) NWH testing program

Shepard Cohen reported that Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH) will provide expedited symptomatic testing for Newton students, faculty, residents, and

employees, only when other testing sites are not able to provide quick turnaround. NWH would like to offer the same testing process to Wellesley.

Metrowest Health Foundation (MWHF)

Leonard Izzo reported that MWHF has accepted the Wellesley grant request Concept Paper focusing on mental health. They have indicated that WHD may now complete the application for a grant on Emotional Resiliency during COVID-19.

g) Tobacco Grant

Leonard Izzo reported on the shared grant with the City of Newton. Funding will be used for an inspector to conduct compliance inspections and educational training.

h) Leonard Morse

Linda Grape reported that Leonard Morse will be closing in October, and suggested that this closure to be communicated to alert those looking for the emergency room services.

2. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported there are two new cases, both are Babson College students (they are in isolation).

At the last meeting, Marcia Testa Simonson reported MA Association of Health Boards (MAHB) has been tracking many colleges and universities state-wide, including Wellesley College and Babson College. Colleges and universities across the board are tracking very low positivity rates, between .07-.09%.

She noted there are multiple false positives that are being reported. She recommended that the Babson students be retested.

b) Flu Clinics

Anne Marie McCauley reported that employee flu clinics have been scheduled and will begin next week.

Vaccine has been coming in. Ms. McCauley is currently scheduling and planning public clinics.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 11:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator