

Wellesley Board of Health
90 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA, 02481
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2019

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

Leonard Izzo, Director
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor

In attendance:

Mark Kline, Director, HRS
Amanda Parker, 288 River St, Waltham, MA, UMASS nursing student

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM

1. Administration

a) Chairman's Report

Shepard Cohen reported on the following:

- Vaping – Shep Cohen again reported on vaping restrictions around the country and other local communities.
- Five year plan – Mr. Cohen will be preparing a list of department goals for the next five years.

b) Directors Report

In addition to the agenda items, Leonard Izzo provided the following updates:

- Freedom of Information Act request – a request has been made that all town departments submit documentation of Freedom of Information Act requests for the last fiscal year.

- Ellen Gibbs reported that the Fund for Wellesley will be focusing on mental health needs in the community. Mr. Izzo will be meeting with Ms. Gibbs.

c) FY21 Budget Process

A quick review was done of the newly released FY21 Budget Preparation manual (dated 7/1/19). At the Inter-board meeting held on September 19, 2019, board members were informed that a narrative and template is to be submitted to the Advisory committee. Marcia Testa Simonson will prepare the overview document requested. A sample (draft) copy was provided of the document completed by the Executive Director's Office.

Changes in regulations, policies and events that would significantly impact the budget must be reported. These would include similar items such as the last minute updated food code changes that were presented by DPH; EEE; vaping product bans and changes to camp regulations.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

d) Camp Transportation Funds

The Board of Health agreed that a line item be added to the FY21 budget template. This past season, the Board approved utilizing additional funds from the Healthy Wellesley fund to pay for camp transportation. Several grants and gifts were awarded for this purpose, however there was still a large gap in the funding.

e) Staff Positions and Job Descriptions

At the last meeting, the Board of Health reported that they had submitted the following revised job descriptions to the Human Resource Department:

- Senior Environmental Health Specialist
- Administrator
- Senior Community Social Worker

At the last meeting, Leonard Izzo reported that the Senior Community Social Worker position had been posted. At today's meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that there were approximately 30 applicants for the position.

Mr. Izzo also reported that the Human Resources Director, Scott Szczebak, has notified the Board of Health that they will be on the agenda for the Human Resource Board meeting scheduled for October 10, 2019. The Board of Health will be addressing Holly Detroy's rate of pay for the position

of Senior Environmental Health Specialist. The new position includes additional job duties, accountabilities and responsibilities that Ms. Detroy will be required to perform and respond to.

The Administrator's position continues to remain in limbo. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

2. Community Health

a) Mental Health – Human Relations Services

Dr. Mark Kline reported on the new Riverside clinician position that is being split between the police departments in Weston and Wellesley.

Leonard Izzo reported that this is an on-call 24/7 position. This individual is expected to report to all 9-1-1 mental health related calls. Mr. Izzo reported that this position is based out of the Wellesley Police Department.

b) Community Outreach

Wanda Alvarez provided a community outreach update. Ms. Alvarez reported that this was a very busy, sometimes chaotic summer. She reported that she spent a great deal of time meeting with children and parents of Barton Road. There were many calls as parents were concerned that the school social worker (Sara Berenson) would be out on maternity leave. Ms. Alvarez reported that the Wellesley Public Schools had hired a temporary replacement that would cover Ms. Berenson's maternity leave (until January 2020) however, that person left for a permanent full time job, leaving the parents and students in limbo.

In addition to the school issues over the summer, residents sought assistance with electric service. Ms. Alvarez reported that eleven Roche Brothers vouchers were distributed.

Ms. Alvarez reported that there are approximately 80 families at Barton Road (mostly single mothers with children). Many have experienced a mental health issue and/or depression. Over the course of the summer, Ms. Alvarez has worked with parents who have recently overdosed, attempted suicide and with those with a history of depression. Department of Children and Families has been involved with those residents.

c) Newton Wellesley Hospital

Carol Hannenberg reported on the open community forum "Finding a Better Way for Our Community". Dr. Hannenberg reported that one of the main

topics was regarding Waltham High School students suffering from vaping withdrawal symptoms. That community is requesting that NWH make vaping withdrawal programs available.

3. Public Health Nursing

- a) Shingles Vaccine Update
Ms. McCauley reported that the first Shingrix (for prevention of Shingles) clinic was held on September 12, 2019.

Additional vaccine is being ordered however, we are limited to ordering ten doses monthly.

- b) Seasonal Flu Update
A series of nine employee seasonal flu clinics have been scheduled around town. The first clinic was offered at the Fire Department on October 2, 2019.

The first seasonal flu clinic is scheduled for October 10, 2019. The clinic will be open to residents over the age of 6 years old. Three types of vaccines are being offered:

Fluzone High dose- for residents over the age of 65
Flublok- for residents 50 and over
Quadrivalent - ages 6 and up

A total of five public clinics are being scheduled. Nursing will also be providing flu vaccine at the regularly scheduled keep well clinics.

4) Environmental Health

- a) Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

At the several last meetings, Leonard Izzo reviewed the decision by the Department of Public Health to conduct aerial insecticide spraying. Mr. Izzo reported that the town sponsored sports programs are still voluntarily ending by 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Izzo reported that Cheryl Lefman and the town communication manager Stephanie Hawkinson collaborated on messages alerting residents about aerial spraying, personal precaution measures to avoid mosquito bites, as well as avoiding outdoor activities between dusk and dawn. Electronic signboards are still being utilized throughout town.

Mr. Izzo reported that three humans, eight horses and one goat have passed away from the virus.

b) Vaping and e-cigarettes

On September 24, 2019, Governor Charlie Baker declared a public health emergency in response to confirmed and suspected cases of severe lung disease associated with the use of e-cigarettes and marijuana vaping products in the Commonwealth. Mr. Izzo reported at the last meeting that Wellesley Health Department agents visited eleven permitted tobacco locations to ensure that vaping merchandise had been removed from shelves. Staff continues to work on messaging.

Mr. Izzo reported that the Vapor Technology Association filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Boston against Gov. Baker and Public Health Commissioner Dr. Monica Bharel for damages being caused by the four month ban on vape products and devices, including marijuana.

Additional information will be provided at a later date.

c) Food Establishments

Since the last meeting, the Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins location on Central Street has permanently closed.

The B/spoke location is opening a Drip Café inside the facility.

d) Boston Sports Club (BSC)

At today's meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that the indoor pools are now open.

5) Emergency Preparedness

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for October 17, 2019, 9:30am.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 11:15 am and the Board went into Executive Session at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- HRS, FY19 report
- Nursing reports – July and August 2019
- EEE FAQ and press release dated 9/10/19

DRAFT