

Wellesley Board of Health
90 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA, 02481
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2019

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

Leonard Izzo, Director
Wanda Alvarez, Community Social Worker
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectman

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM.

The Board of Health approved the following meeting minutes: October 3, 2019.

1. Administration

a) Chairman's Report

Shepard Cohen reviewed his draft document titled Simple Strategic Scheme dated October 29, 2018.

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 has reported that the Fund for Wellesley (now called the Wellesley Fund) will be focusing on mental health needs in the community. Mr. Izzo reported on his recent meeting with Ellen Gibbs. The group is forming sub-committees at this time.

c) FY21 Budget Process

Leonard Izzo reported on the FY21 Budget Preparation manual (dated 7/1/19). At the September Inter-board meeting, 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. Changes in regulations, policies and events that would significantly impact the budget are to be highlighted in the document.

The Board of Health is scheduled to appear to provide a department overview at the Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on November 13, 2019. The final FY21 budget is due at the end of November 2019.

d) 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

The Community Social Worker position and the Senior Environmental Health Specialist positions have been approved. The Administrator's position continues to remain in limbo. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting

e) Senior Community Social Worker

At the last meeting Leonard Izzo reported that the position for the Senior Community Social Worker had been posted and more than 30 resumes had been submitted. At today's meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that he has reviewed the resumes for the Senior Community Social Worker and has selected five preliminary candidates.

The Board of Health agreed that Shep Cohen will represent the Board at the interviews. Carol Hannenberg and Lloyd Tarlin will be present. The interviews are to be held on October 24, 2019 beginning at 9:00 am.

The Board of Health agreed that following the preliminary interviews, the selected finalists will be interviewed at a Board Meeting. The Board will invite Mark Kline from Human Relation Services.

f) Senior Environmental Health Specialist

Mr. Izzo reported that at the Human Resources (HR) Board meeting held on October 10, 2019, the HR Director Scott Szczebak and the HR Board approved Holly Detroy's promotion to Senior Environmental Health Specialist and salary increase. The new position includes additional job duties, accountabilities and responsibilities that Ms. Detroy will be required to perform and respond to.

2. Community Health

a) Wellesley College

Beth Sullivan Woods reported on her recent breakfast (October 16) with President Paula Johnson of Wellesley College. Beth Sullivan Woods reported that the college has outsourced the health services to a Partner's Medical Group. There will be no infirmary on campus effective November 1, 2019.

b) Community Outreach

Wanda Alvarez provided a community outreach update. Ms. Alvarez reported that the summer had been very busy, sometimes chaotic. She reported that things have improved in the last several weeks. During the course of the summer, Ms Alvarez spent a great deal of time meeting with children and parents of Barton Road. Now that school has been in session things seem to be settling down.

Ms. Alvarez reported that she met with Mark Kline, HRS Director. Dr. Kline is very interested in the roles of the community social worker.

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) Seasonal Flu Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported on the first seasonal flu clinic held on October 10, 2019. A total of 268 influenza vaccines were given.

The clinic was open to residents over the age of 6 years old. Three types of vaccines were offered:

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

Nursing staff will also be providing flu vaccine at the regularly scheduled keep well clinics. Multiple community clinics are scheduled during the course of October. Cheryl Lefman will be preparing a survey for residents to complete on the day of the clinic at Tolles Parsons Center.

4) Environmental Health

a) Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

At the several last meetings, Leonard Izzo reviewed the decision by the MA 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 precautionary measures must continue to be taken until the first hard frost.

b) Vaping and e-cigarettes

As reported at previous meetings, 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 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.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that there have been ten cases of lung disease reported in Massachusetts related to people vaping. These individuals are reported to be between the ages of 12 and 22 years old.

c) Food Establishments

The Wok restaurant is closed and will be reopening before the end of the year under new ownership. The location is under renovation construction.

5) Emergency Preparedness

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for November 7, 2019, 9:30am.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- Executive Directors Office draft presentation from Inter-board meeting (9/2019)
- FY21 Budget Preparation manual (dated 7/1/19)
- Simple Strategic Scheme (dated October 29, 2018)