

Wellesley Board of Health
90 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA, 02481
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2019

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

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

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am

The Board of Health approved the following meeting minutes: October 17, 2019 and November 1, 2019.

1. Administration

a) Chairman's Report

Shepard Cohen reviewed his updated draft document titled Simple Strategic Scheme dated November 10, 2019.

Mr. Cohen reported that he will be speaking with Ann Marie McCauley about the possibility of planning bi-weekly or monthly Wellness Wednesdays at the Tolles- Parsons Center.

Shep Cohen has drafted a letter to the Wellesley College President requesting a face to face meeting.

b) Directors Report

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

- The Commonwealth will be coming out with a new pool code as well as a new housing code.

c) Advisory and FY21 Budget

Marica Testa Simonson and Leonard Izzo reported on the Health Department presentation to the Advisory Committee on November 13, 2019. The presentation went well.

Marica Testa Simonson discovered several formula errors and discrepancies in the FY21 budget template. Ms. Testa Simonson will be finalizing the budget to be presented and voted upon at the next Board of Health meeting on November 21, 2019. The final FY21 budget is due to the Advisory Committee at the end of November 2019.

d) Human Resources

Linda Oliver Grape and Leonard Izzo reported on their meeting of the Human Resources Board on November 13, 2019. Mr. Izzo reported that at this meeting, the Human Resources Board approved the newly hayed Administrator position as a Job Group 53. Linda Oliver Grape noted that the Board of Health and Mr. Izzo had requested that the job be upgraded and reviewed as a Job Group 54. At this point, Linda Oliver Grape reported that the Human Resources Director, Mr. Scott Szczebak, became extremely agitated and rude during the meeting.

Ms. Oliver Grape reported that as a tax payer, resident and an elected town official that Mr. Szczebak's responses and behavior were unnecessarily aggressive, offensive and discourteous. Ms. Oliver Grape will be reporting the incident to the Human Resources Board Chair, Mr. John Hussey, as well as to the Board of Selectmen.

e) Staff Positions and Job Descriptions

Leonard Izzo reported on the following:

Holly Detroy's new title is Senior Environmental Health Specialist. Ms. Detroy's new salary has been approved by the Human Resources Department at \$81,500, effective immediately. The new position includes additional job duties, accountabilities and responsibilities that Ms. Detroy will be required to perform and respond to.

The position of Senior Community Social Worker is still pending. There are two strong candidates. Expected salary offering is between \$75k and 80K.

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

2. Community Health

a) Community Programming

Cheryl Lefman presented the survey results from the October 2019 flu clinic held at the Tolles Parsons Center.

Many of the health programs and services listed in the survey have already been presented or are ongoing however there were a few that have not yet been developed. The Board of Health agreed that Ms. Lefman will continue to work on those programs which have not been offered.

b) Community Outreach

Wanda Alvarez has left her permanent part time position with the Health Department and has accepted a position with the Salem Courts. Ms. Alvarez will remain on the roster and offer assistance in the next few weeks during the transition.

3. Public Health Nursing

a) Seasonal Flu Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported on the seasonal flu clinics that have been held thus far. Clinics have been open to residents over the age of 6 years old. Three types of vaccines were offered however only quadrivalent is available at this time.

Nursing staff will continue to provide flu vaccine.

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.

At the last meeting Mr. Izzo reported that precautionary measures must continue to be taken until the first hard frost which is expected in the next few weeks.

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.

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

5) Emergency Preparedness

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for November 21, 2019, 9:30am.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- Simple Strategic Scheme (dated November 10, 2019)
- Survey results from Tolles Parson Center (Oct 2019)
- Draft FY21 Budget template (dated 11/13/19)