

Wellesley Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009

Present:

Shepard Cohen, Chairman
Marcia Testa Simonson, Vice Chair
Lloyd Tarlin, Secretary

Staff:

Mary Suresh, Director
Leonard Izzo, Environmental Health Specialist
Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Specialist
Loretta Jaksic, Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 3:15P. The agenda was distributed. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1. Community Health

a) Community and Teen Mental Health Update

Mary Suresh reported on a recent meeting with Hans Larson and the staff from Warmlines Project Interface. Ms. Suresh reported that a QPR-trained group (Question, Persuade and Refer) will appear before the Board of Selectmen in May to highlight the program and the importance of introducing QPR to the community.

Warmlines Project Interface offers mental health referral services to callers from an extensive database of mental health providers. The program provides service access and helps families to navigate mental health services and programs.

Lloyd Tarlin reported that Human Relation Service programs and services that are in place respond well to the Wellesley Public School population. It is the rest of the community that are at risk and in need of services.

Shep Cohen requested that the Board of Health continue to update the Mental Health Resource Guide using Warmlines Project Interface as a point of reference. He requested that Mary Suresh and Lloyd Tarlin determine how they assist individuals and families in crisis. The Board will consider the program and review again at the next meeting.

Ms. Suresh also reported that Adolescent Wellness is offering a program “I Grow” at churches and for youth groups.

Shep Cohen requested an outline of goals for the Health Department and the Mental Health Steering Committee to be presented at the next meeting.

Next Steps:

Mary Suresh and Lloyd Tarlin are to submit a draft timetable for the QPR training and a list of goals for the Mental Health Steering Committee.

b) Housing Authority

The Board agreed to give \$12,000 to the Housing Authority if the following conditions are met:

- Baseline data is required
- Quarterly reports are sent
- Wellesley Health Department has the opportunity to review and comment on the Resident Services Coordinator’s position
- Resident Services Coordinator contacts the Health Department as urgent public health needs arise
- Resident Services Coordinator assists in the delivery of public health services i.e. encouraging residents to attend a flu clinic
- Resident Services Coordinator attends health related meetings

Ms. Suresh reported that Peg Plansky of the WHA is in the process of gathering data for a quarterly report to be completed by Gary Canavan, Resident Service Coordinator.

Next Steps:

Ms. Suresh will follow-up with Peg Plansky.

c) Vaccine Update- Shingles and Flu

Loretta Jaksic reviewed the practice of how the shingles vaccine is received by some patients. More than 70 residents are on a list interested in receiving a shingles vaccine. Ms. Jaksic reviewed how medical practices bill insurance companies and Medicare for the vaccine. This is not a viable option for the Health Department.

Mary Suresh reported that she applied for a grant requesting \$10,000 (or any part thereof) to the Wellesley Junior Women’s League. The requested amount would cover the costs of up to 70 doses of the vaccine.

Shep Cohen suggested that the Health Department contact the Newton Wellesley Hospital Community Benefits Office to see if community funding is available for the shingles vaccine. Mr. Cohen also reported that CHNA is another option for funding.

Shep Cohen reported that he will be contacting the appropriate Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials to obtain permission to provide flu vaccine to Town of Wellesley employees for the coming fall. Currently the vaccine is purchased thru the Healthy Wellesley Fund.

d) Cancer Data

The Board of Health requested that Marcia Testa Simonson and Cheryl Lefman collaborate on an article on cancer data, based on the most recent report from the MA Cancer Registry. The article should address how to make public health information more accessible to the public. Ms Testa Simonson will get the additional data necessary to write the article.

Next Steps:

Cheryl Lefman and Marcia Testa Simonson will provide an article to be submitted to the Townsman

e) Falls Prevention

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that she has a student interested in doing a program in Wellesley. Mary Suresh is to obtain the EMS data on falls in Wellesley.

Next Steps: Mary Suresh to obtain falls data from EMS. Marica Testa Simonson will contact the interested student.

2. Administrative

a) Tobacco Regulations

The Board of Health voted unanimously to amend the regulations for tobacco control by the following: Separate the current Chapter 18, "Tobacco" of the Wellesley Board of Health Regulations into two (2) separate sections, one being Chapter 18, "Sale of Tobacco to Minors" and creating a new Chapter 20 "Smoking and Tobacco Use in Workplaces and Public Places".

The New Chapter 20: includes prohibition of smoking bars in the Town of Wellesley. The term "tobacco use" prohibits tobacco use in buildings and vehicles owned, rented or leased by the Town of Wellesley. The regulation prohibits smoking within 25 feet of entrances into public buildings.

The above amendments to the Board of Health regulations will be posted as a legal notice in the Wellesley Townsman on March 26, 2009.

b) HRS Mental Health Contract

The Board of Health received copies of the current Human Relations Contract for review. The contract will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. Environmental Health

a) Idling

Mary Suresh reported on the issue of idling cars at the schools. The Cancer Prevention Group recently held an informational forum for residents providing awareness of the detrimental effects of idling. Ms. Suresh reported that there is a move to make Wellesley idle free.

b) Mosquito Control

Lenny Izzo reported that the testing program provided by EMMCP may be eliminated from the budget. Currently 300 mosquitoes are tested per district.

c) Food Establishments

California Pizza Kitchen-Holly Detroy reported that on a recent inspection the establishment had three critical violations.

Unidine- Holly Detroy reported that Undine is operating at the Wellesley Office Park

CK's – Holly Detroy Reported that there was a recent sewage back up in the basement. DPW responded and Mary Suresh.

Jimmy's Café- Holly Detroy reported that the Board of Selectman did not approve the common victualler license for the new owner. The Board of Selectman is expected to approve the license at a later meeting. Upon approval, Ms. Detroy noted that she would like to see some changes made in the new operation – moving the ice machine upstairs from the lower level and the installation of a mop sink.

4. Emergency Preparedness

a) Peer Communication Grant and FY09 Funding

Mary Suresh updated the Board on the emergency preparedness funds requested by Sub-region 3 to purchase radios for the Radio Communication project, as well as Med-Sled cots. These funds are to be used from the Health Department's FY09 operating budget.

The Board of Health approved \$1,700 towards the purchase of 10 Med-Sled cots. The Board held off making a decision on the radios, until additional information about the quality and price of the radios is obtained. Ms Suresh reported that the sub-region is re-examining the equipment estimates.

b) MRC Drill

Ms Suresh reported that there will be a full scale Medical Reserve exercise in May. All communities are expected to participate. Details are not being disclosed as part of the exercise.

c) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Flu Clinic Volunteer Event

Cheryl Lefman reported that the volunteer event will be held Thursday, April 2, 2009, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Wellesley College Club. Both MRC and flu clinic volunteers will be included. Over two hundred Wellesley residents participate in the volunteer pool.

During the event MRC members will be required to complete an updated application and Criminal Offender Record Information forms will be required. All professional licenses (MD, RN, Pharmacy, etc) will be recorded. Badge photos will be taken. In addition to the Board of Health and Director, Jennifer Frenette from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps will be the primary speaker. .

At the February meeting the Board of Health approved the allotment of \$3,600 from the Healthy Wellesley fund for the MRC event.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Health meeting is to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner