

**Wellesley Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
October 27, 2009**

Present:

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

Staff:

Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator  
Leonard Izzo, Environmental Health Agent  
Cheryl Lefman, Health Communications Specialist  
Mary Suresh, Director

In Attendance:

Ilyssa Povich, Wellesley Public Schools, School Committee, Chair  
Bella Wong, Wellesley Public Schools, Superintendent  
Carol Hannenberg, 81 Washburn Road, resident

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm. The Board of Health approved meeting minutes from July 23, 2009 and conference call minutes from October 20, 2009.

## **1. Community Health and Schools**

### a) Wellesley Public Schools: H1N1 Influenza and H1N1 vaccination: Plan

Mary Suresh reviewed the H1N1 series of events in Wellesley and in the Commonwealth, as well as the current recommendations by the state and the CDC. Ms Suresh reported that the Health Department has received a limited supply of vaccine and that this vaccine will be given only to those individuals at the highest risk. In preparation for these clinics as well as larger scale clinics, Ms. Suresh reported that two nursing orientations have been scheduled for this week.

Ms. Suresh reported that H1N1 clinics have been scheduled at the Middle School (10/29/09) and the High School (11/03/09). The elementary schools will be scheduled the following week. These clinics will be for those students at the highest risk. Ms Suresh explained that Bella Wong has already emailed the consent forms to parents. Parents will self-report students that are at the highest risk. Ms. Suresh, Loretta Jaksic and Ann Prinn will review the forms in advance of the clinic. Ms. Suresh

reported that this process has already taken place for the first clinic at the Middle School scheduled for October 29, 2009. Approximately 125 forms were returned. The nurses determined that 50 of the consent forms were at the highest risk. The remainder will be put into a second tier to be vaccinated at a later date.

Mr. Cohen reported that there was some confusion among parents in regard to the correspondence coming from the School Department. An unidentified resident contacted Mr. Cohen about a recent email with various attachments. There were two letters, one from Bella Wong and one from both Mary Suresh and Bella Wong. In addition, there were several attachments making it confusing for parents. Mr. Cohen reported that in the future one unified correspondence be forwarded to parents and that the Health and School Department work together to ensure that the communication is clear and not burdensome.

The Board of Health agreed that large scale clinic plans should be in place before the arrival of adequate vaccine. The Board of Health stressed the importance of making decisions as to clinic location and implementation in advance and to determine who will be the vaccinators (school nurses, volunteers etc).

b) Wellesley Public Schools: Communications

Mary Suresh and Bella Wong reviewed their communications over the last several weeks. Communication to the School Committee and the Board of Health will continue to be via Mary Suresh and Bella Wong.

The Board of Health, Bella Wong and Ilysa Povich scheduled a conference call for November 3, 2009.

c) Wellesley Public Schools: Absenteeism and Data

Ms. Suresh reported that she still is unable to obtain the absentee data from the schools on a regular basis. Ms Suresh has requested the long-term statistics on classroom absenteeism to use as a comparison to current absenteeism. The Board of Health agreed that getting the information on absenteeism on a weekly basis would be satisfactory. Lloyd Tarlin stressed the importance of being able to compare the current data with last year.

Marcia Testa Simonson will prepare a draft absentee template for the School Department.

d) Wellesley Public Schools: Hand sanitizer

Bella Wong reported that parents have been asked to purchase hand sanitizers for their children. The School Department is unable to purchase it as there is a problem with storage.

e) Wellesley Public Schools: School closure and policies

Shep Cohen reiterated that local Boards of Health have the authority to close any facility for Health issues and concerns. In the case of the Wellesley Public Schools, the Board of Health and the School Committee will make a joint decision should the public schools require closure due to illness.

Bella Wong reported that she oversees the welfare of 5000 students and 800 employees. Ms Wong reported that if the Board of Health makes a recommendation to close schools she will proceed with their recommendation after a discussion between all parties.

Mary Suresh and Bella Wong are developing a protocol in regard to large gatherings and events as well as a policy to exclude children that are symptomatic.

## **2. Community Health**

### **a) Community and Mental Health Update**

Mary Suresh reported that the Health Department has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from Crossroads Community Foundations. The grant will pay for twenty individuals to be trained in QPR. Maura Renzella and Cheryl Lefman are reviewing the preliminary steps to building a website: [Wellesleyacts.org](http://Wellesleyacts.org).

### **b) HRS**

Mary Suresh reported that HRS has submitted the first quarterly report. Ms. Suresh reviewed the report. Shep Cohn reported that he will be scheduling a meeting with Rob Evans.

### **c) Ambulance Data**

Mary Suresh reported that she had not received the ambulance data to date. Shep Cohen will call the Fire Chief and request the data.

### **d) Seasonal Flu Clinic**

Cheryl Lefman reported that there will be a Seasonal Flu Clinic on November 4, 2009.

## **3. Environmental Health**

### **a) Jimmy's Café**

The Board of Health reviewed the variance request as presented in written form by Holly Detroy. (Ms. Detroy was not present for the meeting.) The Board voted to grant a variance for six months. At that time the situation will be reviewed.

### **b) Housing**

Lenny Izzo reviewed two housing issues (Bow St and Solon St). The Board of Health agreed that Mr Izzo schedule a crisis team meeting regarding the home on Bow Street and that Mr. Izzo contact Al Robinson, Town Counsel in regard to initiating court

receivership at the home on Solon St. These housing issues will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

**Next Meeting**

This meeting of the Board of Health is to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35p

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner