

Wellesley Board of Health  
Remote Meeting via Zoom  
Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2021  
11:30 AM

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

Jessica Cliff, MHA, Environmental Health Specialist  
Deadra Doku Gardner, MS, Administrator  
Leonard Izzo, MS, RS, CHO, Director  
Cheryl Lefman, MA, Community Health Coordinator  
Ann Marie McCauley, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor  
Joyce Saret, LICSW, Senior Community Social Worker

In attendance:

Shira Doron, MD, Resident  
Beth Sullivan Woods, Member, Select Board  
Lloyd Tarlin, MD Resident and former board member

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 AM

Meeting minutes were approved for the following date:

- February 8, 2021

Chairman's Report:

Shepard Cohen reported that Bob Brown of the Swellesley Report does a very good job of reporting on the Board of Health (BOH) meetings.

Shepard Cohen confirmed that the BOH will be presenting to the Advisory Committee at their meeting on February 24, 2021

## 1. Community Health

### a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley provided a COVID-19 update. Numbers continue to go down in the community.

Leonard Izzo reported on Babson College. The school will offer support to the Health Department if needed; offering space, freezers, and other.

Linda Oliver Grape and Beth Sullivan Woods confirmed that the Select Board and the BOH are scheduled to have a call with the President of Wellesley College on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

### b) COVID-19 – Public Schools (General)

Marica Testa Simonson reviewed the recent updates to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

### c) COVID-19 Vaccine and Clinics

Ann Marie McCauley reported that first responder second dose clinics are being held this week and next week. The allotted vaccine for these clinics has been provided. The clinics are going well thus far.

Leonard Izzo reported that Governor Baker will announce that a new mass vaccination site will operate at the Natick Mall beginning February 22, 2021.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported on the most recent correspondence from the State, noting the vaccine implementation of caregivers of individuals over the age of 75. Caregivers/companions assisting those 75 and older will be allowed to schedule their own vaccine appointment at the same time. Eligibility begins on February 11, 2021.

Leonard Izzo reported on vaccine distribution in the Commonwealth, noting the Health Department received an allocation to provide second doses of the vaccine for first responders. At today's meeting, Mr. Izzo reported that Wellesley Health Department (WHD) has requested an additional 100 doses, that will be used at a local clinic. The previous request for 100 doses was denied. Ms. McCauley reported that she will be notified on Saturday (2/13/21) if WHD will receive these doses.

Mr. Izzo reported that Wellesley was the only community in the Norfolk County 8 (NC8) regional collaborative that did not receive an allocation of 100 doses for community clinics.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that WHD staff have been using the PrepMod system and so far, it is working well. All clinic information has been input into the PrepMod and MIIS systems. The programs are presenting accurate information in regards to vaccines administered and those waiting to be administered.

Leonard Izzo reported he continues to receive complaints regarding the lack of vaccination clinics in Wellesley.

Mr. Izzo reported the Town is receiving funding for transportation; most likely a taxi service will be utilized. Additional information will be made available at a later meeting.

Mr. Izzo and Cheryl Lefman reported on the Council on Aging's efforts to assist seniors 75+ obtain an appointment for vaccination. The collaboration between the COA, WHD and the Town's Communication and Project Manager continues to be beneficial.

d) COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics – Low Income, Age Restricted, Congregate Housing

As noted at the last meeting, WHD intends on holding vaccination clinics at Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA) locations when the eligible group in Phase II becomes available. Planning with WHA staff and Board Chair continues. The allocation of vaccine for age restricted, low-income congregate housing is part of a federal program.

e) Social Work – Mental Health

WHD social workers are offering another virtual support group to parents of adolescents this Friday, 2-12-2021. Beth Sullivan Woods reported that many parent groups are very worried about their children. Ms. Sullivan Woods stated the program needs to be pushed out to parents of Wellesley High School students. The program will meet the needs of those families experiencing extreme anxiety. Joyce Saret reported that she has received some registrations and one parent has posted the program on Facebook.

Dr Shira Doron reported on the CDC analysis of mental health of children under the age of 18 and the current escalation of mental health issues among this population. She said there is no data available for the magnitude of mental health issues taking place. Dr. Doron also reported that Wellesley Public Schools have made no attempt to contact parents to survey how their children are doing mentally.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported there continues to be a low risk of transmission from in-person learning. She noted, with positivity rates continuing to go down, children could attend in person.

Jessica Cliff reported the [MetroWest Substance Abuse and Prevention Alliance](#) (MW SAPA) is doing a great deal with mental health. She said that substance abuse is currently lower, however mental health needs have dramatically increased. Cheryl Lefman reported they have many resources on substance use, including vaping. She noted, Community Health Network Area 18 (CHNA 18) offers resources on mental health, including a program titled, *You are not Alone, mental health support modules for students during and beyond COVID-19*. Ms. Lefman has been passing resources on to WHD social workers.

## 2. Environmental Health

### a) Tobacco

Jessica Cliff reported that tobacco regulations are in draft form and close to being ready for submission to the BOH for review.

Tobacco inspections were completed, and all locations passed, only some needed new signage. This program is part of the regional grant with Newton covering sales compliance and tobacco education.

### b) Sports Guidance Update

Jessica Cliff provided an update regarding changes to spectator guidance made yesterday by the EEA. Spectators will be limited to two adults (parents/guardians) and siblings. Indoor facilities will be limited to 40% overall capacity (including staff, players, spectators, etc.).

### c) Camps- Summer Camps

Leonard Izzo reported that multiple camping organizations have reported that the seasonal summer camps programs will be going ahead this year. Mr. Izzo said many communities may not have the health department nursing and environmental health staff to provide guidance, inspections and permitting this spring and summer that would allow camps to operate. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

## 3. Administration

### a) Select Board

Beth Sullivan Woods reported on her recent Select Board meeting. She reiterated to the Select Board that the Wellesley Health Department has not received a local allocation to vaccinate Phase II populations. The Department of Public Health has chosen to distribute vaccine to mass vaccination clinics, as well as regional clinics rather than at small community clinics organized by local health departments.

b) Regulations

Leonard Izzo reported that staff is in the process of updating several regulations, not just the Tobacco regulations.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on February 17, 2021, 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deadra Doku Gardner  
Administrator