

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021
12:00 PM

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:

Wanda Alvarez, LSW, Community Social Worker
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
Vivian Zeng, REHS, RS, CP-FS, Senior Environmental Health Specialist

In attendance:

Bob Brown, The Swellesley Report
Linda Corridan, Director of Nursing, Wellesley Public Schools
Shira Doron, MD, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 a.m.

The following meeting minutes were approved: April 21, 2021

Citizens Speak

No one was present to participate in Citizen Speak.

1. Community Health

a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that since the last meeting on 4/21/21 there have been a total of 13 new cases (two from Babson College and 11 in the community); mainly in younger individuals. One unvaccinated individual is hospitalized and is doing well.

Ms. McCauley said there has been a great deal of travel over the school vacation week. She hopes that individuals and families adhered to COVID precautions and protocols, however she thinks cases may increase as a result of travel and activities.

b) Drug Take-back Day – Health Department Collected Sharps

Ann Marie McCauley reported that the spring Drug Take-back Day was held this past Saturday at the Wellesley Police station. Ms. McCauley said the Police Department has removed its kiosk that had been available for residents to use for disposal of medications. This is due to the Drug Enforcement Agency implementing new rules regarding supervision of the kiosk. As a result, the police will only accept the return of medications/drugs during the bi-annual Drug Take-back Day in the Spring and Fall. It was learned that certain CVS locations offer medication disposal, including one on Linden Street.

Linda Corridan reported that Wellesley Public Schools will continue to drop sharps/needles at the Fire Department where a kiosk is provided for this purpose. She noted they will drop off medications/drugs at the Linden Street CVS.

c) Babson College – COVID-19 Update

Leonard Izzo and Ann Marie McCauley reported that the number of COVID cases at Babson College has decreased dramatically in the last two weeks, as students have completed their classes and departed campus.

Babson will hold graduations on May 1 (for undergraduates) and May 2 (for graduates).

Linda Oliver Grape reiterated the importance of making contact with all local colleges (Babson, Wellesley and MassBay) in the late summer to discuss school planning and procedures regarding COVID vaccinations and operations. Mr. Izzo said Babson will require COVID-19 vaccinations for those returning in the fall.

d) COVID-19 – Wellesley Public Schools (WPS)

Linda Corridan reported two cases last week; one at Hunnewell and one from a student in remote learning. 853 staff have either been partially or fully vaccinated, noting that 825 have been fully vaccinated. She said that the Miramus screening (pool surveillance testing) has restarted today. Ms. Corridan said that grade 9 started today and grades 10, 11

and 12 will begin tomorrow. By the end of the week, all students will be back to in-school learning.

Linda Corridan reported on the updated Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) distancing guidelines (released last Thursday) for students on the bus and in the classroom.

Dr. Shira Doron reported on the meeting she attended with the Governor and Commissioner Riley on this topic and the urgent need to change to three feet on the bus and in the classroom, noting that it is safe bring children into the classroom at three feet.

Leonard Izzo reported that children age five and over are required to wear masks and children ages two to four years are encouraged to wear masks. He discussed air ventilation requirements, as well as updated transportation guidelines. Linda Corridan said the HVAC system works better than keeping windows open, because the HVAC system prevents allergens and air pollution from entering the room.

e) Sports Tournaments

Leonard Izzo reported that the State has been clear on tournament play not being allowed however, many towns are disregarding this and allowing play.

f) Social Services/Mental Health

Joyce Saret will collaborate with Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA) to survey WHA residents to ascertain their views on obtaining a vaccination, whether they have been vaccinated, and if not, if there are barriers to obtaining the vaccine.

Ms. Saret reported that restaurants are continuing to provide meals to identified individuals in quarantine, or dealing with other COVID related issues.

Ms. Saret is working on securing a program and speaker on depression and mental health for WPS.

Shepard Cohen reported that he will meet with Mark Kline, Director of Human Relations Services (HRS) on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. They will discuss the future and direction of HRS' services.

2. Environmental Health

a) Tobacco Regulations

Jessica Cliff reported that a legal posting will be provided to the Townsman notifying the public of the Board of Health meeting at which a vote will be taken to accept the draft regulations as permanent.

b) Food Inspections

Ms. Cliff reported that she has begun standard food inspections.

c) Field Applications

Vivian Zeng reported that applications for field use are being submitted and she is reviewing each one.

d) Summer Camps

Vivian Zeng reported that camp applications have started to come in. She has been working with camps to ensure that operations will comply with COVID protocols.

e) Pools

Vivian Zeng reported that pool renewals have been coming in and inspections are being scheduled. She has been reviewing the COVID standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on May 3, 2021, 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator