

Wellesley Board of Health
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes.

June 14, 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:

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:

Mark Kline, Psy.D., Executive Director, Human Relations Service
Beth Sullivan Woods, Select Board
Lloyd Tarlin, MD, former Board of Health member, resident

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM.

The meeting minutes of June 7, 2021 were approved.

Directors Report

Leonard Izzo reported that Morses Pond beach opened last week. The staff has been conducting inspections of semi-public and public swimming pools as they are opening. They are also preparing for a busy camp season.

As COVID restrictions have been lifted, a greater number of requests have been coming in for a variety of activities.

Mr. Izzo reported on the third year (of a three-year cycle) of increased risk of EEE in the State. Wellesley remains in the no to low-risk category.

1. Community Health

- a) COVID-19 Update

Ann Marie McCauley reported that for the first time since last March there are no active COVID cases in Wellesley.

b) MA Association of Health Board (MAHB) Update

Marcia Testa Simonson reported on upcoming MAHB meetings and programs. Dr. Testa Simonson reviewed the successful rally that was held at the State House last week in support of local public health.

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

Wellesley Public School District Nursing Director Linda Corridan reported that she will be retiring at the end of the school year, after ten years in Wellesley.

Ms. Corridan reported that one middle school student tested positive for COVID last week. The last set of viral tests were sent today. Since October 2020, more than 70,000 COVID tests have been conducted. A total of 856 staff (89%) have been vaccinated. On June 15, 2021, WPS will be holding a second-dose clinic for those 12 years old and older (and anyone eligible who wishes to receive their vaccination). There were 319 children vaccinated at the last clinic. Ms. Corridan said that many Middle and High school students had already been vaccinated prior to the school clinics.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that she continues to work with WPS physician Dr. Gail Kraft.

d) Babson College and Wellesley College

Leonard Izzo reported on his weekly call with Babson College administration. Babson is considering opening their campus to the public in the coming weeks. Wellesley College's campus remains closed to the public however, it is believed that both campuses will be open to the public in the Fall.

e) Human Relations Service (HRS)

Dr. Mark Kline reported he will be retiring from his position as Executive Director of HRS at the end of June. He said that the HRS Board has employed the services of Kittleman and Associates, a firm specializing in executive searches of nonprofit leaders; they will conduct a nationwide search for Dr. Kline's replacement. Dr. Lindsay Steinsieck will be the interim director.

Dr. Kline summarized the mental health landscape and corresponding concerns and challenges during the pandemic. He reported on the problems of acute care and intensive outpatient care, as well as the ongoing and worsening issue of lack of pediatric beds and treatment programs.

HRS has provided telehealth outpatient services via Zoom since the start of the pandemic; the agency hopes to provide more in-patient services this Fall. Dr. Kline noted that virtual services were beneficial for adults, but not great for children.

Dr Kline noted the ongoing challenge of funding to increase staff needed to serve the mental health needs of the community.

f) Social Services: Mental Health

Joyce Saret reported on the webinar program on mental health and depression held on June 8th. She said the program went well and the facilitator and clinician were great. She received positive feedback and is awaiting the results of a survey. Ms. Saret would like to bring this program to WPS and integrate it into the 10th grade curriculum.

2. Environmental Health

a) Morses Pond and Recreation

Leonard Izzo reported that semi-public beaches are not required to have a lifeguard. Lifeguards are very difficult to find this year.

b) Camps and Programing

Ann Marie McCauley reported that camps are taking up a great deal of their time. COVID testing is only being conducted at overnight camps and not day camps.

Jessica Cliff noted that it is a very busy week with camp record reviews.

Ms. Cliff said they have resumed regular restaurant inspections.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The Board of Health moved to into Executive Session to review personnel issues.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled on June 21, 2021, 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator