

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2020
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:

Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Holly Detroy, Senior Environmental Health Agent
Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Joyce Saret, Senior Community Social Worker
Vivian Zeng, Environmental Health Agent

In attendance:

Jesse Boehm, Broad Institute
Linda Chow, Chair, School Committee, Wellesley Public Schools
Linda Corridan, Nursing Director, Wellesley Public School
Sharon Gray, Wellesley School Committee,
Tom Harrington, Town Counsel
David Lussier, Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools
Jack Pilecki, Wellesley Chief of Police
Alexandra Rubin, Assistant Town Counsel
Keegan Shiner, Wellesley Media
Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 am.

1. Wellesley Public Schools

a) Wellesley High School Graduation

The Board of Health, members of the School Committee, as well as Health Department Director Leonard Izzo and School Superintendent David Lussier discussed the possibility of having a high school graduation ceremony on Darcy Field on Friday, July 31, 2020 at 9 a.m.

The Board of Health reviewed significant changes to the original graduation plan. The Board of Health unanimously voted to approve the new plan.

b) Wellesley Public Schools – School Reopening Plan- Testing

A review was conducted of the pilot program to test all students, staff and faculty in the Wellesley Middle School by the Broad Institute.

David Lussier expressed concern that interested parties were not included at this meeting to answer questions. At the request of Dr. Lussier, Jesse Boehm joined the meeting and provided information about the value of testing specifically with the goal of reducing transmission of the virus.

Leonard Izzo reported that sound policies, including contact tracing, are other ways to mitigate the spread of the virus. He provided examples of teachers completing accurate and consistent classroom seating plans, bus seating plans, educating the children on personal hygiene, diligent masking, and disinfecting.

Tom Harrington indicated that the program has some significant legal concerns that need to be addressed prior to any commitment made on behalf of the schools.

Initial concerns were:

- 1) To administer a medical test, the Town must have a clinic license. Wellesley currently does not have a license or permit to conduct such testing. Mr. Harrington cited the example of why CVS on Linden St was unable to operate as a testing site because they were not permitted with a “clinic license”.
- 2) There is tremendous liability around having school age children tested. Testing would require parental consent for each test. The Town cannot require that each child be tested.
- 3) There are privacy concerns.

In addition to the above concerns, Mr. Harrington reported that municipalities must follow a lengthy procurement and bidding process. The process requirements are designed to ensure an open, fair and

competitive procurement of goods and services. Before anything can be agreed upon this process must be followed.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board of Health agreed there needs to be additional information, as well as a better understanding of the costs of the program.

c) Holly Detroy

Leonard Izzo announced that Holly Detroy will be retiring from her position of Senior Environmental Health Agent effective July 31, 2020. The Board of Health thanked her for her lengthy service to the Town of Wellesley and wished her the best.

d) Social Worker Position

Joyce Saret is reviewing the applicants for the new full-time social worker position. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

2. Community Health

a) Influenza Vaccine

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

b) Human Relations Service (HRS)

The Board of Health voted to approve the FY21 H R S mental health contract.

c) Mental Health and Social Services

Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

d) Coronavirus.

Ann Marie McCauley reported that Wellesley currently has only three active cases.

4) Environmental Health

a) Boston Sports Club

Holly Detroy reported the club has not opened any of the pools.

The next conference call of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 11:30 am.

The Board of Health meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

Documents reviewed during this meeting and on-file in the Health Department:

- NONE