

Wellesley Board of Health
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2020
11:30 AM

Present:

Board:

Shepard Cohen, MPA, Chair
Marcia Testa Simonson, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
Linda Oliver Grape, PA-C, MPH, Secretary

Staff:

Deadra Doku-Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Director
Cheryl Lefman, Community Health Coordinator
Ann Marie McCauley, Public Health Nurse Supervisor

In attendance:

Beth Sullivan Woods, Board of Selectmen
John Lanza, Advisory Committee

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

Citizen Speak

No one was in attendance that wished to participate in Citizen Speak.

1. Administration

a) Minutes review

Shepard Cohen reported he has clarifications to make on the most recent set of minutes that were distributed. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

b) Wellesley Public Schools – Reopening

Leonard Izzo has invited the Facilities Management Department Director, Joe McDonough, to the Board of Health meeting on Wednesday August 26, 2020, to address the school ventilation systems. Linda Oliver Grape will be requesting that all school surfaces be cleaned and disinfected.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that tents are going to be used at the schools for mask breaks and for lunch.

Ms. Sullivan Woods reported the School Committee has advised the School Department to draft a RFP for testing of students and staff. The Health Department has not been asked to provide input.

c) Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) – School Reopening- Matrix and Dashboard report

Beth Sullivan Woods reported that at a recent School Committee meeting Superintendent David Lussier reported he would have new metrics to distribute (this week) regarding decisions when one or more Covid-19 positive cases are confirmed among students or teachers.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported she will prepare and distribute proposed metrics this week.

d) Advisory

John Lanza reported the Board of Health needs to make the necessary request revisions to their current FY21 budget and present it to the Advisory Committee during the month of September.

In addition, Mr. Lanza referenced the School Committee's request to put out a RFP on surveillance testing, and it is implied that the Board of Health is in alignment with both the School Committee and the Broad Institute in regards to testing (it should not be implied that there is alignment). Shepard Cohen reported the group has been progressing without alignment with the Board of Health. The BOH, pending more detailed information from the Broad Institute, questions whether the testing plan is a good use of limited funding.

Beth Sullivan Woods reported the School Department anticipates that testing will be funded privately via fundraising efforts. Ms. Sullivan Woods reported the schools have absolute power over their own budgets, and they can move the money any way they feel appropriate. They can also utilize the CARES Act funding.

Marcia Testa Simonson and Leonard Izzo will be working together to revise the FY21 budget.

e) Human Resources

Shepard Cohen reported that Leonard Izzo's performance evaluation has been completed.

Leonard Izzo reported that Human Resources has approved the position for Wanda Alvarez as the Community Social Worker. Mr. Izzo will discuss details of the position in an executive session.

2. Community Health

a) Nursing report

Ann Marie McCauley reported that MAVEN was offline for approximately 24 hours while an update was being completed on storage systems.

Ms. McCauley reported there were three positive cases over the weekend, however, one case lives out of state and one had been previously been ill in another state and should not have been retested (as those tests come out positive).

b) Babson College and Wellesley College

Ann Marie McCauley reported the colleges continue to test arriving students.

c) Newton Wellesley Hospital (NWH)

Leonard Izzo reported on his meeting with Deborah Youngblood, Newton Health and Human Services Commissioner. Mr. Izzo reported on the proposal for priority testing at Newton Wellesley Hospital. The agreement is that the Hospital would prioritize Newton residents for testing of symptomatic individuals. The City of Newton would cover the costs for those unable to afford testing. Testing would be available for all residents and employees of the City of Newton.

3. Environmental Health

a) Tobacco Control

Linda Oliver Grape requested a review of the Tobacco Control grant, which becomes effective on September 1, 2020. This is a collaborative grant initiative between Wellesley and Newton.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner
Administrator

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

- NONE