

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting COVID-19 April 7, 2020

Attendance: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Phyllis Schilp-Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Health Administrator, Henry Hayes-Town Manager, Pat Brown-Selectperson, Jane Dretler-Selectperson, Jen Roberts-Selectperson.

4:01 – Carol Bradford called meeting to order.

Introduction of Henry Hayes Sudbury Town Manager. Board Members introduced themselves and welcomed Henry.

### **Phyllis Schilp – Health Nurse COVID-19 Update:**

**Test positive cases** continue to rise in town. Quarantines decreased. 80 residents are currently being tracked.

**Age groups** of most effected remain in the 40 – 60 year old range. Families remain hardest hit. Numbers reflect clinically diagnosed non-tested positives are skewed due to lack of testing and reporting. Testing has increased.

**Health Department** has enlisted the help of Carol Bradford and Anne Chabot and other school nurses to Investigate and conduct contact tracing. They were trained on the MAVEN state system and are actively working.

**Partners In Health** – the State plans to roll out a system that will assist municipalities in contact tracing. The intent is to mobilize trained health care workers to do contact tracing for the towns that are inundated with this time-consuming process. Phyllis Schilp is unsure, procedurally, how this will work.

**2 of the 4 Sudbury Nursing Homes/Assisted Living facilities** have COVID-19 Positives. During investigations, it was noted that some facilities share employees. It was suggested that the employees that work at multiple facilities be confined to specific work spaces to avoid cross contamination. These facilities are considered high risk for COVID-19. Lack of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and understaffing continues to be an issue.

**PPE:** The Health Dept. has given some PPE to high risk businesses. The Health Department continues to try to purchase PPE that is in short supply.

### **Bethany Hadvab – Town Social Worker COVID-19 Update:**

**Volunteers:** Bethany has been contacted by residents who want to help and she is in the planning stages of formulating a plan to mobilize these volunteers when the time warrants.

**Food Pantry:** Bethany has been in communication with the food pantry to facilitate delivery of groceries to those in need and to ensure that measures are taken to ensure the safety of everyone.

**Adults with Disabilities:** Concerns for this demographic and what the procedures will be should care takers fall ill.

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### Bill Murphy – Health Director COVID-19 Update:

**People congregating in public areas:** It was suggested that housing, town areas and businesses limit access to these areas in order to facilitate social distancing. We receive a large amount of calls daily with concerned residents that people are not compliant with Governor's directives pertaining to social distancing.

**Grocery Stores:** Concerns that employees and residents are at risk because of high volume of traffic in these food establishments. Guidelines were sent out to each store and Bob Landry inspected the stores to ensure that guidelines were implemented.

**Robo Call:** To address and reinforce the importance of social distancing to Sudbury residents and businesses. It was determined that Dr. Peter Hoenig, Sudbury Public Health Doctor, would assist in drafting a statement. Henry Hayes the new Town Manager should record the call.

**PR:** Pam Steinfeld of Steinfeld Communications made recommendations for the health webpage and we are currently looking into options to improve messaging. Multiple clicks to get to the information is problematic. Suggested that because the Town Website platform has constraints and limitations, that we look into redirecting to another page for emergency/pertinent information.

**Personnel:** State is funding additional personnel for nursing and contact tracing. Bob Landry is inspecting septic installs/repairs and food establishments. Mitch Sanborn has added hours to his schedule to assist social worker.

**Testing:** There are remote test sites being set up to test residents throughout the state. Either a Primary Physician or a telehealth physician must deem the person symptomatic before ordering tests.

**Supplies:** The state has forwarded funding for supplies related to COVID-19. The Health Department has purchased 2 laptops for nursing staff. PPE equipment continues to be in short supply. Storing PPE supplies will pose a challenge to the already crowded space in the health department.

**Camps:** Applications are coming in. The Health Department is holding off reviewing manuals until it is certain that camps will be held this summer. Should camps be allowed to convene this summer it would pose a burden to the work load on the Public Health Nurse. It was recommended that only those camps that were licensed in 2019 be licensed in 2020.

**VOTE: The Board of Health Voted To put a moratorium on prohibiting any new 2020 Summer Camps applying for licensing in Sudbury.** Only camps that were licensed in 2019 will be approved. Carol Bradford – Health Chair called vote to motion, Susan Sama, Board Member, seconded motion. Motion passes 3-0-0.

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**Wells:** Mr. Murphy addressed the Board with concerns that well drillers were relying on the Sudbury Health Department staff to do research for proposed well locations. He recommends that the town mandate that the well locations be researched and submitted with certified plot plans completed by engineers.

**VOTE: The Board of Health voted to adopt a policy as written for well plot plans.** Carol Bradford – Health Chair called vote to motion, Linda Huet-Clayton, Board Member, seconded motion. Motion passes 3-0-0.

**VOTE: To approve minutes from March 6<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>.** Carol Bradford – Health Chair called to vote to motion, Susan Sama, Board Member, seconded motion. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:21 PM