

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting May 12, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy - Health Director, Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Administrator, Scott Nix – Police Chief, Jayne Dretler – Select Board, Jennifer – Select Board, Brad Crozier – SPS Superintendent, Ellie Gottlieb – Resident, Scott Smigler – Resident, Charlie Russo- Resident, Kay Bell, Resident

Meeting called to order: 4:00 PM

Brad Crozier: School Events

School Graduation: Brad Crozier presented a plan to conduct a car parade(s), where families remain in cars and pass teachers who are lined up 10 feet apart. Police Chief Scott Nix has been reviewing traffic flow and logistics. He also believes that this would boost morale and mental health. Phyllis Schilp expressed event is low risk and aerial drones that take pictures of students in cars and posted on website would be helpful with the students having closure. June 17th, the last day of school, is the proposed date to hold parade. Susan Sama expressed concern regarding any gathering that was not properly managed for social distancing. Carol Bradford also expressed concern but agreed it was low risk as long as proper protocol was followed.

End of School Year: Students need to return to schools to clean out lockers (books, computers, and other belongings) after they left abruptly due to COVID. Teachers and staff will clean out lockers and assist by bagging and labeling for pick-up. Re-opening in the fall will require significant planning.

Phyllis Schilp – Public Health Nurse COVID-19 Update:

Sudbury COVID-19 Statistics: The Health Department will now refer residents to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) website to obtain information on COVID positive cases. The Sudbury webpage will now link to MDPH. Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC), the Governor's privatized effort to assist local Board with contact tracing, will not report numbers of contacts until the case is closed. For this reason, weekly reports would incomplete and not accurate. The MDPH page is updated on Wednesday afternoons. The Board agreed that publishing incomplete data would not serve the residents.

Re-opening: John Whalen, Sudbury Fire Chief, is heading this task force in Sudbury. The phase system of re-entry will be defined by the Governor and MDPH. Re-opening will most likely increase the contact tracing workload.

Contact Tracing: Phyllis commended the efforts and support of the 10 Sudbury public school nurses and Pat Moran who have been working tirelessly assisting with contact tracing. Their performance has been exemplary.

CTC program: CTC has the ability to trace positive cases without assignment from Sudbury nurses or our nurses can refer cases when the workload is excessive. CTC does not take cases involving senior living facilities which is currently the majority of the case load. Phyllis explained some of the deficiencies with this new program. CTC has returned cases due to failure to contact the positive cases. Cases were not thoroughly investigated putting the community at risk. CTC contact numbers are not reported until the case is closed making it difficult to assess weekly. Sudbury Contact

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Tracing Team meets on Zoom monthly and share questions, concerns and solutions. There is a consensus among the nurse that it is very helpful in building relationships and trust with residents which CTC lacks.

Susan Sama concurred that the more finite the investigations are with residents, the better. Phyllis will continue to assess the effectiveness of using CTC and advise the Board accordingly.

Anti-Body Testing: The Governor's expansion of testing brings additional challenges to contact tracing. All individuals that test positive need to be contacted and instructed on quarantine, and follow-up testing.

Long Term Care Facilities: COVID numbers continue to increase. Control within these facilities has been challenging on a national level. The majority of town public health town resources has been directed to these cases.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker COVID-19 Update:

Lincoln-Sudbury Mutual Aid Group: Has been obtaining PPE and distributing to businesses and people in need.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity is rising dramatically. The food pantry needs to be manned and stocked. Ms. Hadvab considers this to be a primary challenge moving forward.

Stress: the prevalence of COVID is elevating levels of anxiety across the globe. Most people are fixating on meeting their immediate needs like food and shelter. Not recognizing instability in mental health will only delay receiving the care needed to cope. Future impacts will be significant.

Interns: As the upcoming needs of Sudbury residents become more obvious, the need for a more experienced and seasoned intern will be required in handling the complexity of these projected cases. Challenges of remote work also do not align with experiential learning interns benefit from. Ms. Hadvab is continuing to assess.

Financial: Support for Sudbury residents will be challenging. There have been specific areas that have been identified by a local organization, The Lincoln-Sudbury Domestic Violence Round Table. Collaboration with this organization and other towns will continue to identify and meet specific needs.

Bill Murphy – Health Director COVID-19 Update:

Gov. Baker's Phased Reopening: Each stage will be data driven. Surges may reverse course of the phased re-opening, forcing Mass to take a step back. Governor Baker will announce Phase 1 one on March 18. Expect rigorous safety protocol in every phase.

Concerns:

Man power to enforce mandates. Mr. Murphy has requested additional staff to cover sharp increase in inspectional services, mostly related to COVID-19. The Director spends all of his time managing the department in a crisis.

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PPE/Health Supplies: Continued efforts to restock are challenging due to limited supplies and rising prices.

Camps/ Pools/ Health Clubs – These businesses are very concerned about limited information and direction about opening. The Director will share any information learned.

Nursing Deficit Mr. Murphy emphasized the need for nurses especially when the school nurses begin summer break on June 17th.

Department Workflow: Public records requests pertaining to Title 5 inspections, septic installations and repairs, wells, and pools have increased dramatically. This could be an indication of house sales and downsizing due to COVID-19.

Food Establishments: The second of bi-annual inspections will be difficult this year due to COVID. If food establishments are allowed to open, an inspection for COVID safety compliance will be replace the routine inspection.

Citizen questions:

Charlie Russo – Sudbury Resident:

Gov. Bakers Phased Reopening – How does the Town/State approach Phase regression?
We will continue to make the best decisions based on current and available data.

Contact Tracing – How do we make Contact Tracing sustainable? We need to prioritize, as a town, the need for nursing support.

VOTE: Motion to publish Board of Health Meeting Minutes, as completed, dated April 21, 2020 and April 28, 2020 made by Board Chair Carol Bradford, Motion Seconded by Susan Sama Board Member. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 PM