

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting COVID June 9, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Phyllis Schilp- Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Admin., Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jennifer Roberts – Select Board, Ellie Gottlieb – Resident, Kay Bell – Resident, Josie Halporn – Resident, Scott Smiggler - Resident

### **Motion to begin Meeting by Carol Bradford at 4:09 PM**

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

**Chamber of Commerce:** Bethany has been meeting with the CoC to help businesses work with citizens. Many masks have been donated to businesses for employees and customers. PPE is still difficult to find and purchase.

**Food Insecurity:** Food insecurity data indicates long term issues as a result of COVID. There has been a sharp increase in applications for SNAP, WIC, and Meals on Wheels. Residents are requesting personal hygiene products at a much higher rate.

**Financial Needs:** Continues to increase. Paperwork is becoming increasingly more difficult for residents to process. Bethany sees a need to set up a system to ensure that applications and documents are properly completed and compiled. This process takes several sessions to accomplish.

**Camp Sewataro:** Offers spaces to Sudbury children and families in need. The camp has agreed to take the number of children as was discussed but scholarship spots may be reduced as camp enrollment has decreased.

**Race Equity:** As a result of the death of George Floyd by Minnesota police, Bethany has been working on finding resources for race relations and discussions. She is looking into how to run meetings that will most identify with all demographics and she is self-educating in dealing with sensitive racial matters.

**Referrals:** Bethany informed the Board that she has processed more than two and one half times the number of referrals that were processed out of her office in May of 2019.

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

**Cases:** Trending down. Long Term Care Facilities continue to present biggest numbers. Case numbers are not being reported by the town, because the state is posting these numbers weekly.

**Cases Numbers being cleared:** The Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) tracks all infectious diseases. All COVID-19 cases are tracked via this system. More than one half of the Sudbury cases have fully recovered. It is important to follow the cases to completion in order to clear them from the system in preparation of a future surge.

**Demonstrations:** Groups have been gathering all around the state to protest police abuses. As a result of the protests of large groups, we may see new spikes in COVID-19 cases.

**Vaccines:** The last batch of remaining vaccines will be returned within the next few weeks. Maintenance to the vaccine refrigerator revealed that there is a need for a new unit. Repair costs will surpass the cost

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting COVID June 9, 2020

of a new unit. A unit needs to be ordered so that it will be installed and monitored prior to Vaccines being shipped in.

**Vaccinations:** COVID has kept parents and children away from pediatricians for immunizations and physicals. As a result, many children have missed their scheduled vaccinations. Vaccinations are down between 35% to 40%. This may present problems with children going to camp or returning to school in the fall.

**Camps:** Some changes in the mandates were announced.

- The taking of temperatures is not required.
- Out of state campers can attend camps. 14-day quarantine needs to be adhered to. This may relax as we reopen.
- 8 Sudbury camps will open this summer. 5 camps have not committed.
- Sewataro: will be open to the public evenings and weekends. It is important to find out what the cleaning schedule and protocol will be. What areas will campers and the public share?
- The only time that there will be a Public Health investigation at a camp is if there is a complaint or if there is an outbreak.

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

**Phased Reopening:** Restaurants have a large amount of work to complete prior to reopening. Seating must be outside. There is concern that the State requirement of tables 6 feet apart will leave seating closer than 6 feet from an adjacent table. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has declared that Local Boards of Health are not responsible for inspecting restaurants for COVID compliance. Sudbury will look into concerns or complaints on a case by case basis.

**Playgrounds/ Pools:** Playgrounds at the schools are closed. Sanitizing surfaces remain a challenge. Who is responsible and how often are surfaces cleaned? Pools are scheduled to re-open in phase 2. They are calling the Health office to get guidance. Swimmers will need to remain 6 feet apart. Instructors will remain on pool decks. There will be no contact. Pool swimmer capacity will be 25%. Board member Linda Huet-Clayton asked if chlorine is effective at neutralizing the effects of COVID-19? Mr. Murphy felt that levels of chlorine will be increased and testing of the water more frequent. This will decrease the risk of infection.

**Schools:** Carol Bradford said that committees will need to look at how much PPE to order. Ask teachers and students to bring their own masks to school. How do we contain outbreaks? Isolate/quarantine? Susan Sama expressed concerns about teachers and nurses becoming ill.

The school committee is polling residents to get information on the number of students that must attend school and cannot be taught virtually. Also, the number of immuno-compromised students must be considered.

Scott Smigler thought that a testing program for all students, would help to mitigate the spread of COVID. Some pointed out that it would be costly to the town. Mr. Smigler suggested that the town could negotiate volume to decrease price.

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting COVID June 9, 2020

**Hair Salons:** There have been multiple complaints about a specific salon in Sudbury. They are performing spa techniques and services that are not yet approved. Mr. Murphy is prepared to issue a Cease and Desist order if this continues.

**Rabid Raccoon:** A rabid raccoon was reported, caught and tested. An announcement was posted on the town website.

**Board of Health Staffing:** Patty Moran has been contracted to work at the Board of Health as a Public Health Nurse until December 31, 2020. The Health Department will need to look into nursing contracts again in the fall or early winter. A contract is being drafted for the hiring of a full time Assistant Health Inspector.

**OTHER:** Kay Bell asked about camps so that she can reach out to represent residents/children with disabilities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM