

# Sudbury Board of Health

## Virtual Meeting 4/20/2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford—Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Health Admin, Sue Berry-Fin Comm, Paula-Sudbury Lions Club, Jordan Desilva-Social Work Intern

**Meeting Called to Order: 4:00 PM**

**Public Comment:** None

**Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse Update:**

**COVID Positive cases** have been trending down, but the numbers can be deceptive. School pool testing enables the nurses to confirm, identify and contact families quickly and preventing spread of COVID. There were only 16 new positives. Families will be returning from school vacation and the expectation is for numbers to trend up again.

**Pool Testing:** Carol Bradford indicated asymptomatic kids that are COVID positive are being picked up thru pool testing. Linda Huet-Clayton still has concerns that parents are not signing the children up for the pool testing program. The high school is utilizing a different test than SPS. Contact Tracing: The nurses are experiencing push back from some parents. They are testing their kids at different times than when the nurses specify. Because instructions are not followed, many times quarantine and or isolation periods are debated.

**Community Testing:** As COVID positives decline in the general population, people are less inclined to get tested unless directed to do so or if they are symptomatic. Susan Sama informed the Board that there are now OTC rapid tests that are available and reliable.

**Vaccinations:** High school students ages 16 years and older can now be vaccinated. There is a fear that the students will feel that because they are vaccinated that they cannot become infected with COVID. More concerning is that the perception that the number of new cases and deaths are dropping make vaccination unnecessary. The more people who become vaccinated the sooner COVID mandates and advisories will be lifted. Concerns were raised that children under the age of 16 will continue to get sick and spread COVID.

**Schools:** MDPH and DESE have determined that the classrooms and buses should be set up to accommodate 3 feet of social distancing, with a mask. This mandate does not include activities and sports. Confusion over classrooms and buses only having a 3 foot mandate, when in public, the 6 foot mandate is still in place. Mr. Murphy stated that this mandate needs to be watched closely. Variants are currently being spread in the schools and brought home.

**Long Term Effects in Children:** The American Pediatrics Association recommends that before a child is released to play sports they need to be screened to ensure that there are no cardiac issues. They are seeing children with heart and lung complications.

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### **Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker Update:**

**COVID Aftermath- Social Emotional Issues:** Impacting many people with homelessness, mental health issues and financial insecurity.

**Housing:** Has become scarce for those who are financially insecure. The process of applying for housing is daunting and difficult. Ms. Hadvab has connected with a resource out of Framingham that specializes in working with the homeless and those who are close to eviction. This organization works with Federal Housing (very difficult), state housing and local housing. They assist people in navigating thru all of the applications and red tape.

### **Bill Murphy-Health Director Update:**

**Shared Public Health Grant Application:** was submitted and the Health Department continues to wait to hear if the grant will be awarded.

**Hazardous Waste:** Sudbury has not had a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day since November, 2019. Because of COVID, Clean Harbors who the town had contracted with, cancelled the 2020 HHWCD. The Health Department has been investigating the best options for Hazardous Waste Disposal for Sudbury residents. At present, a facility in Sutton Ma. NEDT (New England Disposal Technologies) has agreed to contract with the town so that residents can drop off up to \$50.00 hazardous waste per household. Linda Huet-Clayton inquired if Wayland would collaborate with Sudbury in holding a household hazardous waste collection day? The Sudbury Health department has reached out several times to Wayland with little success.

**Camps:** The Health Department has signed a contract with Mojin Consultants to review camp applications, manuals, certifications and inspect the summer camps.

**Events:** Many residents are inquiring if events can be held and what the capacity limits are for indoor and outdoor events. Residents are directed to DPH guidelines.

**Securing an Abandoned Home:** The Health Department is in the process of securing an abandoned home. The Board will need to officially condemn the building at an upcoming meeting. The home must be secured. The process is as follows, seek out owner, advertise (via town counsel) to find next of kin, hire animal trapper, sure up areas that are open to the elements, engage hazmat team to determine safety of structure and then board up the building.

**BoH Meetings:** The Board of Health would like to meet once monthly as opposed to twice monthly in the coming summer months.

**VOTE:** Susan Sama Motions to approve 4/6/2021 Meeting Minutes to be published as edited. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:02 PM.**