

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting May 04, 2021

Attendees: Carol Bradford – Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter – Health Admin., Sue Berry – Fin Comm, Kay Bell – Disabilities Comm, Brad Crozier – SPS Superintendent, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Maia Proujansky-Bell – Resident, Maua Carty – Resident, Paula – Sudbury Lions

4:00 PM Meeting called to order.

Public Comment:

Brad Crozier informed that COVID mitigation since the schools have returned to full time in-person learning has proved effective with no large clusters, compliance, 81% participation in pool testing (2,500 total tested).

Mr Crozier voiced concern regarding the DESE guidelines of 3-foot distancing vs 6 foot distancing. Carol Bradford stated that there is confusion. The new guidelines do not require quarantining between 3 and 6 ft spacing, only within 3 ft in the classroom. However, it's not observed on the sports field, sports school bus, or any after or before school activities. Additional confusion is presenting by people in varying stages of vaccination. Varying stages of vaccinations and varying feet in distancing complicates the contact tracing for exposure. Mr. Crozier and the School Committee will continue to discuss moving to 3 foot spacing as COVID numbers trend down. Sama would like to add pool testing for anyone identified as a contact within 6 ft. The more data recorded, the better we will understand the virus.

Mr Crozier states that the BINAX rapid test gives immediate results and helps mitigate spread. He will continue to use outdoor classrooms and follow the guidance. Mr. Murphy stressed the importance of keeping abreast of state guidelines for changing compliance standards.

Maia Proujansky-Bell – Resident wanted to know when the Town Offices will be opening? Mr Murphy stated that the offices will most likely open, initially, by appointment and then open fully to the public very soon.

Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID Numbers 59 cases in April, 29 cases were less than 20 years old. Remaining cases are mostly parents. Elderly population are mostly vaccinated and are not seeing positives.

Vaccinations: Sudbury is well over the state average for percentage of residents and employees being inoculated. The Health Department is looking at vaccination options for those who work in Sudbury who have limited access to health resources. Linda Huet-Clayton asked if pool testing for businesses experiencing clusters should be explored? Patty Moran explained that there is a big push to get the underserved and under 20 community vaccinated.

Vaccinating Homebound: Kay Bell asked if the homebound residents have been vaccinated? The fire Department has been working with Sudbury Pharmacy in identifying and vaccinating those who are unable to get to a clinic. Those identified as homebound have been fully vaccinated.

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting May 04, 2021

Discussion to Rescind Sudbury Face Covering Order:

Rescind Face Covering Mandate: In April of 2020 Sudbury instated a mandatory indoor face covering moratorium. This was instated prior to the CDC and MDPH Mandates. Mr. Murphy would like the Board to vote to lift the mandate so that the municipality is aligned with state and federal guidelines. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services:

Carol Bradford Congratulated Mr. Murphy on obtaining the grant. The grant enables multi community health departments to collaborate on the specific needs of each community. This is a unique and historical opportunity for health departments to get funding to cover much needed initiatives for 3 years. Sudbury is the lead town overseeing this program.

Janie Dretler: Congratulated Mr. Murphy. The Health Department will work on a press release.

Racial Equity:

What is the Board of Health's Role? Bethany Hadvab has been concerned about rising racial inequities and the health department's role in addressing. Factors that feed the bias are white supremacy and white institutional learning. How do we as a Health Department and Board approach this issue? A committee has been formed in Sudbury to start addressing the racial inequities that are prevalent in the community. Bethany Hadvab sees her initial role as a conduit to shed light on issues and circumstances for those without a voice or platform.

Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Jen Roberts and Janie Dretler are evaluating the state of DEI in the community. Concerns that the committee is not diversified enough was voiced. Also, a consultant that has experience would help to point the commission in the right direction and focus on essential issues in a fair and equitable way.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker – Update:

Interns: 3 interns have rotated out of the Social Worker's office. Bethany is currently working on obtaining new interns.

Cases: 695 cases were managed in April.

Meetings: Bethany attended 12 meetings in April. She is currently assessing the need for these committees, meetings now that the pandemic is at a low.

Majority of Calls: Food insecurity, financial insecurity and court cases.

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Bill Murphy - Health Director – Update:

Major Board of Health Projects-

File Scanning: Met with Information Technology Dept. to brainstorm about what information should be scanned and how it will be accessed. As-builts, title 5 reports and wells will be processed in that order.

View Permit: Scanned information will be accessed by the public through the View Permit Software platform. The Building Dept. has been using this software for processing applications, permits and record requests.

Health Inspector Hire: Mr Murphy has advertised for a new Health Inspector on the Hand Shake platform. He has also done outreach to colleges and universities with Health Programs to seek out recent graduates.

Abandoned House: There will a Public Hearing scheduled for June 8th. The Board of Health will address the abandoned house at 29 Stone Rd. Sudbury.

Items Unanticipated:

PFAS: The Health Department is working closely with the Sudbury Water District to create messaging for Sudbury residents about PFAS in the water. The Health department is sending out mailers to Sudbury addresses that have potable and irrigation wells to make them aware of this situation. There are in excess of 600 households that have private wells.

Sudbury Crossing Proposed Septic: The application for a proposed septic system at Sudbury Crossing has been revised to address DEP deficiencies. An abutter has asked for information via record requests. Because this system is a technology that has not been approved in Massachusetts. Mr. Murphy is cautious with his review.

Vote to approve April 20th, 2021 minutes will be tabled until May 25th, 2021 BoH meeting.

BoH Summer Mtg Schedule: The Board of Health will schedule one meeting per month in July and August.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM.