

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting Minutes May 26, 2020

Attendees: Carol Bradford 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. Scott Nix Police Chief, Janie Dretler Select Board, Jennifer Roberts Select Board, Bella Wong LSRHS Superintendent, Ellie Gottlieb Resident, Charles Russo Resident, Kay Bell Resident, Susan Berry Resident

4:05: Meeting called to order by Carol Bradford Board of Health Chair

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

Contact Tracing Presentation: Susan Sama Health Board Member did a contact tracing presentation for Phyllis Schilp's contact tracing nursing team. Phyllis thanked Susan for the informative, insightful and helpful presentation.

Partners in Health CTC Program: Solicited towns for nurses' input into the program. CTC is assessing problems. Patty Moran, Sudbury Public Health Nurse was chosen for the panel. Having Patty on the panel will give Sudbury a voice. The Town of Sudbury is no longer giving cases to the CTC until the problems have been adequately addressed.

Sudbury Community Cases: New cases at long term care facilities have declined. 118 of the 179 Sudbury positive cases were from LTC. That constitutes over 65% of the town cases.

Challenges with Testing: Antibody testing – State is asking those who have been diagnosed and or close contacts to get antibody testing. Residents are reluctant to go if they are not symptomatic.

Sudbury Town Buildings COVID Reopening Compliance: Sudbury faces challenges with meeting the MDPH compliance mandates. Supplies are being ordered by individual departments, staffing set at 25% capacity, desk shields have been delivered. Each department assessing how to social distance based on office configuration. Remaining logistics are the responsibility of Town Manager and Town Assistant Manager.

Camps: Vendor camps that are run through the Sudbury Park and Rec, have been cancelled for the 2020 Summer season. This brings the eligible number of camps that will open in Sudbury to 11. This will relieve department pressure to processing applications, manuals, and inspections. COVID presents challenges and new compliance mandates that will need to be addressed. The hiring of a camp contractor will help to offset the number of dedicated manhours required in keeping camps compliant and campers and staff safe. Seeing how camps comply will give us some insight as to how to approach the reopening of schools.

COVID Health Fallout/Children: As many residents try to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID, they have postponed or cancelled doctors' appointments and held off on procedures (that are not life threatening). As a result, parents may not be able to meet vaccination schedules for their children. Many vaccines require multi visits for injections. If the window of time is missed between injections the efficacy and effectiveness of the vaccines are diminished. This could pose a problem to reopening camps and schools.

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting Minutes May 26, 2020

COVID Health Fallout/Children Continued:

Susan Sama suggested that drive thru clinics could vaccinate children to mitigate the threat of spreading viruses. There is significant risk- to reopening camps and schools and expected community spread of COVID-19 will increase.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker- COVID-19 Update:

Escalations: Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) out of Concord MA has been forwarding cases prior to resolution due to the increase in reported volume. Death threats have doubled over 2019 and there has been a 67% increase in domestic violence.

Food Pantry: 38% of households are food insecure. Oak Barrell Tavern supplied meals for 100 families. 72 familiar families registered for the drive and the remainder were families that were new. These are families that Bethany is not aware of having food insecurity.

Referrals: Increased 3-fold over 2019.

Website Updates: Bethany is constantly updating the Social Work website with new resources and new knowledge-based websites. Over 100 more websites and resources have been added to the webpage over last month.

Jen Roberts inquired if Bethany has referred any residents to apply for the Municipal Grants thru Gov. Baker's office?

Bella Wong – LSRHS Superintendent – Graduation:

Guidance: A car parade is planned for June 7th (which would have been the last day of school). LSRHS has 375 Seniors graduating this year.

Graduation: Break down of components in accomplishing a low-risk graduation ceremony:

- Kids would come in cars with families.
- Time slots would be assigned to each student/car/family allowing for social distancing.
- A stage is set for graduation. Only- the graduating student will get out of the car.
- Student will walk up to the entrance and receive receive diploma (that will be placed on side of table)
- Student will cross the stage and exit on stairs at other end of stage.
- Board of Health did not support student and family moving to a second location where pictures would be taken of family and student outside of the car. This is not typically done at a graduations and pictures with graduate are taken later.
- Car will exit the school grounds.

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting Minutes May 26, 2020

There were some recommendations by the Board:

- Linda Huet-Clayton- There could be two locations for pictures. This would alleviate bottle necks
- Sama expressed concerns with immuno-compromised seniors and time to cross stage resulting in exposure
- Sama concerned that there may be students that are asymptomatic or sick that will participate
- Nix questioned whether the graduation will take on the appearance of a parade and will families and friends congregate on the streets. Additional concerns of graduation parties, post ceremony.

The Board overall felt Bella Wong's plan addressed concerns and minimized risk. Mr. Murphy will work with Bella, in an advisory role, to help reduce risk of spread. The Board reserves the right to cancel graduation should there be an outbreak too close to the scheduled date(s).

Bill Murphy – Health Director – COVID-19 Update:

Phase 1 Reopening: There are still many questions about reopening. Operators of pools, camps, courts, athletic fields, and gyms have many conditions to meet prior to opening. This has caused frustration across the state at the local Boards of Health level. There is little to no information prior to Phased openings and guidance to re-opening is difficult to locate.

Health Department Impacts: Camps are highly regulated and demand significant time under normal circumstances. With COVID-19 there will now be 2 sets of compliance mandates that the camps must address and adhere to. Inspections will be critical- with the need for in-depth and more frequent visits.

Town Support: It is important to have support from Town Management in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The school nurses, used for contact tracing, will no longer be available in June under their school contract. This will leave a gap in the contact tracing. There is a sense of urgency that all health departments across the state are feeling. Director is continuing to work with management to address these issues.

Funding COVID-19: Many towns have had to make difficult decisions in terms of furloughs and cutting programs in order to fund COVID-19 initiatives.

Jen Roberts: Public Health should be a Town priority.

VOTE: to approve May 19, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes as edited. Carol Bradford – Board Chair motioned for vote. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion Passed 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM