

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

September 22, 2020

Attendance: 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, Jane Dretler – Select Board, Kay Bell – COD Member, Scott Smigler – Finance Comm.

Meeting Convened at 4:02 PM.

Bethany Hadvab Social Worker:

Community Needs: Increase in residents contacting Social Work Office to get access to programs and resources.

Holiday Gift Program: Because of COVID, the risk is too high to run holiday programs this season.

Coat Drive: Linda Huet-Clayton expressed concern that there will not be a 2020 coat drive, which she considers beneficial. Bethany will continue to assess logistic and options. Sama was concerned about BOH workload and recommended asking local churches to take over the coat drive.

Mental Health Training: There have been 4 programs for mental health training.

Outreach: Ms. Hadvab and her interns are adopting ways to communicate with families that live in independent living communities to assess needs and to react to those needs.

Flu Clinic: Ms. Hadvab has played a critical role in managing sign-ups for the flu clinic. This task has proved to be time consuming but essential to the effectiveness of the event.

Phyllis Schilp-Public Health Nurse:

COVID Update: Previous week reported 220 confirmed cases in Sudbury. Transfers are not included in these numbers. Current weekly report confirmed 218 confirmed cases, 142 probable, and 58 contacts. Long Term Care facilities have not reported any new cases. There have been 72 community cases. Phyllis has been overwhelmed since 9/11 with 35 cases, including clusters with many contacts.

Nurses: All of the school nurses have been trained in MAVEN over the summer. The nurses hired to replace the school nurses are; Cynthia Duggan, Merrily Evdokimoff, Kara Bandstra Lauren Terza. All of the new nurses are in various stages of training except Lauren Terzo, who is already skilled as one of Waltham's part time contact tracers. The nurses will be providing detailed reports and will assist in documenting COVID related data.

Investigations: Can take up to 8 hours, especially clusters. Multi-state contacts are being investigated. There are clusters at colleges where some students are sent home to quarantine. We are not notified of students that are coming in from out of state to Sudbury. Not all cases, that are Sudbury related, are relayed through MAVEN. These factors leave the town at increased risk due to reporting delays or omissions.

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Phyllis Schilp-Public Health Nurse Cont....:

TB Case: The Sudbury TB case that needs to be overseen is very time consuming.

Flu Clinic: Working out the logistics of the drive thru clinic has been time consuming. There are a lot of moving pieces. Training of volunteers and medical staff on PPE and COVID protocol has been completed.

Interns: Phyllis will be getting 2 interns from Worcester State this fall. They will work 40 hours each. This will provide some help with the Flu Clinic.

Translator: Town Management is having difficulty signing on with a translator service that is contracted through the state. It is important that non-English speaking residents that are in need of quarantining or isolating understand the importance of stopping the spread of COVID and that it is necessary that they stay home until no longer contagious. Translation services are paramount to relaying this message.

Town Management: The Health Department has been having difficulty communicating to Town Management how time consuming and encompassing COVID related responsibilities are during the pandemic.

Bill Murphy – Health Director:

Party: A party of 60 Sudbury kids was broken up by Sudbury Police Friday Sept. 11th. Many of the kids scattered and the Police were unable to get the identities of the party goers. Because the kids were not identified they could not be traced nor assessed. A collective decision with the Superintendent at LSRHS, opted to delay the start of in-school learning for 2 weeks (starting with remote learning during that 2 week period). The announcement sent out to LSRHS parents and students cited this decision as a Board of Health mandate. The Board of Health did not mandate this decision. This Board works in an advisory capacity with the schools. A follow up press release was issued by the BOH. Mr. Murphy asked the Board if announcements that include the Board of Health be vetted thru the Board prior to publishing, distributing etc.... Sama agreed that any messaging that impacts the Health department/BoH directly should be vetted before distribution to the school community. Bradford feels that the action was correct and understood, but not the content of the message. The board as a whole agreed that the message was critical and needed to be addressed right away, but messaging must be specific and factual.

Budgeting: Fiscal Budget-How does the Health Dept. communicate to management the amount of work incurred on each Health Dept. position as a result of the pandemic? Management has offered a Health Inspector but training, writing health and safety procedures, preparing workspace, and paperwork associated with hiring is difficult with limited time. The COVID pandemic has stretched limited resources and challenged staff with daily complications and time sensitive crisis matters. Management and the public must be aware of the challenges we face. It is difficult projecting a 2022 budget when it is unclear what the needs will be moving forward. Jane Dretler asked what is Sudbury doing differently than comparable communities? Mr. Murphy stated he is on many stakeholder committees and knows all health departments are being challenged with the same obstacles. She feels that everything needs to be put in writing. Asks and explanation of asks should be submitted to Henry.

Kay Bell asked if the Health Department has made clear to management what their role is in the pandemic? Sama noted that all Health Departments are struggling and suffering and worries that

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management does not completely understand the depth and complexity of 24/7 on-call demands for Phyllis and Bill.

In short, the role of Public Health is changing and a better understanding of how and what we operate is needed.

CARES Act: The town is requesting 1.6 million in cares act funding. The funding is managed by the Town Manager, not the Health Department. The application must be submitted with a list of needs in the next few weeks. Some money has already been supplied to the town for our nurse contact tracers through the CARES act and we should continue to track COVID spending specific to our department. It is unknown how CARES Act funding is being prioritized and allocated. Mr. Murphy emphasized the need for overtime money to pay for Phyllis Schilp due to her critical role of assessing and allocating cases, particularly over the weekend. The part-time nurses are being paid thru the Cares Act money. Smigler-Sudbury Finance Committee, suggested making all funding requests known through management channels to Fin-Com.

Flu Clinics: An influx of the flu and COVID cases could hit at the same time. Drive thru flu clinics are key to how the COVID vaccine will be administered by the BoH to the public once it becomes available. It is important to improve, procedurally, with each clinic in order to minimize risk of infecting residents and immunize large numbers.

Child Care: State mandated policies and procedures have been instituted and many are calling the health department for guidance. The mandates are clear, but many daycares want to be assured.

AAU baseball tournament was being planned at Sudbury Parks and Rec fields, but it was presented as practice and play between same teams. The tournament was cancelled after the organizers were told tournaments were not approved during Phase III guidelines.

Sudbury Water District is reviewing the Sudbury Crossing wastewater sewage increase proposal. It will advise the Board of Health after the review.

EEE & WNV: Low numbers and no EEE or WNV positives mosquitoes in the area contributed to the low risk status late in the season.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM