

Sudbury Board of Health

Virtual Meeting Minutes June 14, 2022

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – BoH Member, Susan Sama – BoH Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – Public Health, Rob Lazo – Health Inspector Nurse, Beth Porter – Health Admin, Gabriella Feingold – SW Intern, Janie Dretler – Select Board, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Kay Bell – Council on Aging

Meeting Commenced at 4:00 PM

Open Comments: None

Patty Moran - Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: Positive cases have doubled in May. Significant number of positives in families, children and parents. Probable cases are being identified by the schools. One of the main contributors to the positive cases in this sector are Spring break and families traveling. Day cares are reporting long absences because of COVID cases spreading amongst families.

Jen Roberts inquired as to where Patty (PHN) gets her stats on COVID? Patty gets reports from the state on all confirmed (PRC tests). Cases and probable cases are mostly antigen tests. There is a baseline that she uses at the start of the month and the reporting will give her numbers by age, sex and race. Patty would like to see more vaccinations and boosters being administered. Seniors are doing well because they are vaccinated and boosted. January showed that many of the positives were not fully vaccinated. Susan Sama pointed out that even though many residents are not fully vaccinated, on average, symptoms are less severe with the Omicron variant and our hospitals seem to be managing. Many home positive tests are not reported making numbers less accurate. Carol Bradford noted that as of April 25th there were 217 positive cases in the SPS Schools. Family spread is aggressive and rapid.

Vaccinations: The vaccination rate has not changed. Some residents are choosing to get the booster, but many are waiting until the fall. The home vaccination program has been effective in responding to those who are home bound. There is a 3 day period from the date of requests to home visits.

Antiviral Treatments: Seem to be effective in mitigating and easing the symptoms of the Omicron variant.

Sudbury COVID Numbers: The first 2 weeks of May Sudbury numbers aligned with Middlesex County. The end of May showed that Sudbury was lower than Middlesex County. Waste water data indicates that the viral load in Middlesex County has plateaued while surrounding counties have seen a sharp increase.

Camps: 10 camps have applied for summer camp permits this year. Most camps have a 1-month duration. Camps that are running throughout the summer will face the same challenges that the day cares have been encountering in terms of COVID positives and absences.

Flu: Only 5 cases of the flu were reported in May. There are more cases reported recently. There may be a direct link to residents not getting the flu vaccine last fall. Patty will look into moving flu clinics up to the month of September in order to make the vaccine more readily available. This may be dependent on the vaccine being distributed from the manufacturer for the September target date. TBD

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Bill Murphy – Health Director Update:

Camps: Rob Lazo (Health Inspector) is working with Patty (PHN) getting up to speed on the licensing of camps and regulations. COVID will pose some challenges this summer with the camps. Symptomatic children should be kept home. Testing should be done regularly. Many camps are reaching out for assistance in providing a safe environment for the campers and staff. Test kits are being made available to camps through the State.

Public Health Shared Excellence Grant: A full time nurse has been interviewed. The team is waiting to hear back from the applicant. An Epidemiologist is being onboarded through Wayland's grant. Susan Sama will open up communications with the new Epidemiologist and coordinate actions.

Cambridge Public Health Grant thru Region 4A: provided a grant for covering a portion of the monthly cost of electronic devices. The grant has been received and used to pay for a portion of the FY 2022 phone budget.

COVID Test Kits: Kits were distributed for town meeting. Kits have been provided to town departments for distribution to Sudbury residents. Bill would like to get test kits out to underserved families and families with school aged children. Linda Huet-Clayton thinks that more kits would be distributed out of the Library and the Senior Center. Bill would like to get test kits to Longfellow Glen, Musketahquid and the Coolidge residential facilities

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day: On May 7th (re-schedule from April 9th) the Health Department held its first HHHWCD since 2019. There was a big turnout. Bill would like to thank the Board of Health members and Health Department employees for volunteering at the event. The Health Department would like to work on making the disposal of hazardous waste more accessible to Sudbury residents. A collaborative with other towns is being explored.

Sewataro: The mitigation of Algae – Massachusetts will issue a state wide policy for addressing algae blooms in recreational waters. They don't endorse the use of algaecides for swimming areas. If algicide is required, for mitigation purposes, the swimming area should be closed for a week. Algae blooms can be very serious to the safety of swimmers.

Stone Rd Property: Owner has been seen on the property after the property had been secured by the town. This poses safety risks.

Stone Brook Rd Property: Executorship of this property has been legally assigned to a close relative. They have assumed the responsibility for the clean-up.

Tobacco: A tobacco compliance operation was recently conducted in Sudbury. The compliance checks are done to ensure that retailers meet the federal, state, and local tobacco laws. All establishments passed. This makes 4 consecutive years with no infractions.

Bill Murphy will be on vacation the last 2 weeks of June. Vacation time cannot be carried over into the next fiscal year. Bill would like to see all Health Department staff take time off this summer to recharge.

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VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to approve BoH Meeting Minutes from April 14th as edited. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Next meeting will be August 9th.

VOTE: Linda Huet-Clayton motioned to adjourn meeting. Carol Bradford seconded. Motion passes 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM