

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting August 9th 2022

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – BoH Member, Susan Sama – BoH Member, William Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran – PH Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Rob Lazo – Health Inspector, Beth Porter – Health Admin, Olivia Dufour – MetroWest Tobacco Coalition, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Janie Dretler – Select Board

4:00 PM: Meeting called to order

Public Comment: None

Remote Participation: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has extended Remote Participation for public meetings to March 31, 2023.

Patty Moran: Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID Numbers: June and July saw sharp decreases in numbers. June had 211 positives and July only 106 positives. The majority of positives were Seniors. Extended care facilities saw an increase in cases. The increase can be partially attributed to employees that are shared between different extended care facilities. Day cares closed over the summer during outbreaks between staff and children. Camps experienced some outbreaks due to the heat, causing them to move activities indoors.

COVID Incident rates have declined steadily. We are not seeing spikes or fluctuations. There is no way to predict what COVID will look like this fall. There will no longer be pool testing at the schools. Brad Crozier is stockpiling tests at the Sudbury Public Schools. There are concerns that residents are not completely vaccinated or boosted.

Other: 1 case of Influenza 1 Salmonella, 3 Lyme, 1 Anaplasmosis, 1 TB. There are 174 cases of Monkey Pox cases statewide. The Framingham clinic is vaccinating for Monkey Pox.

Vaccines: FDA is in the process of approving COVID bivalent vaccine. Because availability of this vaccine is unknown, it is recommended that people get their scheduled boosters and vaccinations as opposed to waiting for the release of the new vaccine. Sudbury Flu Clinics are in the planning stages. Clinic dates are dependent on vaccine deliveries.

Nursing Interns: Will be starting the second week of September. Rotation will be focused on Clinics and Medical Reserve Corp coordination.

Monkey Pox: Vaccine not widely available. Intramuscular doses are limited. To mitigate spread there is a 3week isolation period. Susan Sama anticipates eventual spread in the general population. Linda Huet-Clayton asked PHN to state how Monkey Pox was spread and if there is contact tracing? PHN intoned that Monkey Pox is spread mostly with skin to skin contact. Contact tracing is being used to help mitigate spread. The number of

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Monkey Pox Continued: days between exposure and symptoms is up to 21 days. Those who have received the Small Pox Vaccine are less susceptible to contracting Monkey Pox.

Bethany Hadvab - Social Worker Update:

Sudbury Students are returning to school soon. Many families are experiencing post COVID anxiety.

Sudbury Residents: Are asking for referrals for depression and extreme levels of despair.

Seniors: Are finding it difficult to make ends meet with rising costs.

Interns: New interns will be starting in September.

ARPA & MetroWest Funds: More than \$10,000.00 in APRA funds have been distributed to Sudbury Families in the form of gift cards (Gas, food, transportation). MetroWest Funds also supplement the purchase of gift cards for residents.

Food Pantry: Food pantry participation has doubled since the economic downturn.

Hope Sudbury: \$70,000.00 was distributed in 2021. \$75,000.00 has already been distributed in 2022. The financial needs of Sudbury residents have increased.

Tobacco Control – Olivia Dufour Pgm Mgr for MetroWest District:

Tobacco Compliance for retailers has improved since the 2020 Massachusetts state law for tobacco control became stricter. Fines were significantly increased across the board curtailing sales to minors and illegal sales of flavored tobacco products and vapes. Suspension of sales was also instituted for offenses. William Murphy and Susan Sama would like Sudbury tobacco regulations, fines and suspensions to align with the state. Susan Sama asked that Sudbury Tobacco retailers be made aware of any updates to regulations, fines and suspensions before instating them. Since 2018, when Sudbury updated tobacco regulations, two retailers have surrendered tobacco permits and the Board has retired these permits, bringing the total number of permits distributed to eight.

Great Meadows PH Shared Services Update:

Kelli Calo – Grant Coordinator will be at the next scheduled Board of Health Meeting.

Ann Loree – Grant Health Inspector, has been working in the communities and has been making an impact. She is well credentialed and experienced.

Grant Positions: Grant Coordinator, Health Inspector and part time Nurse have been filled. The full time Nurse position has been restructured to a part time position in order to attract more applicants. Laura Duff was hired as the new part-time nurse.

Managing Grant Finances and Inventory: The amount of time required to process funds and intake and storage of goods has presented challenges. Instructions for financial submissions have been documented. Storage for inventory is limited and difficult to store in an organized fashion.

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Massachusetts Attorney General's Opioid Settlement:

The state has settled a law suit with the accused pharmaceutical companies and will distribute funds to the municipalities. These funds are slated to promote prevention, awareness and treatment.

Massachusetts Attorney General's Opioid Settlement Continued:

A health opioid educator should be hired to work in the schools and/or with Police. Should these funds be pooled with the Great Meadows Shared Services Grant where it could possibly make a wider impact? This possibility will be investigated.

Mosquito Reporting:

Reports indicated that only 8 mosquitos have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The dry weather favors the species of mosquito that carries WNV. There have been no positives found in the test samples taken in Sudbury. Truck mounted spraying has concluded. There have been no human positive cases reported in Massachusetts this year.

Bill Murphy – Health Director Update:

Summer Drought Impact on Sudbury: Wells: private wells, residential and commercial are drying up. Because of the Sudbury Water District's water restrictions, many home owners are applying for potable and irrigation wells. Agricultural businesses have applied for well permits because of water shortages. Record requests for wells have been pouring in.

Septic repairs, new installations: Only 110 new installations were done last year. We have exceeded 100 permits to date. Rob Lazo, Health Inspector, has been doing an excellent job keeping up with soil tests, new installations and repairs. House lots that were difficult and expensive to develop are being developed because of the housing shortage.

Camp Timbernook: Received a Summer Camp permit for the first time in Sudbury (located at the Nobscot Boy Scout Camp). The process of getting the camp up to speed with compliance was a significant task for the Public Health Nurse, Health Inspector, Building Commissioner and Assistant Fire Chief.

Sewataro Update: Water quality and testing is being observed. The clarity of the water in the pond meets regulations, but the Health Director will monitor throughout the summer.

National Environmental Health Assn (NEHA) Conference was held in Spokane Washington. Bill Murphy spoke at the conference about getting America's youth interested in public health. Main topics were Climate Change, Food Bourne Illnesses, Water quality, food shortages.

Schools this Fall: Susan Sama stressed the importance of maintaining the ventilation systems and air filters in the schools. Bill Murphy has met with the Sudbury Facilities Director to discuss prioritizing ventilation maintenance in the schools and all town buildings. The Board asked if a contractor could be hired to monitor and test air quality.

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Bill Murphy – Health Director Update Continued:

Verizon may request the installation of cell booster units on some existing telephone poles. The BoH may be asked to provide a health assessment of the electromagnetic fields that would be emitted from the units. There are data that have been submitted in other towns that will be reviewed.

VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to approve June 14th 2022 Board of Health Meeting minutes as edited. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.