

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## September 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Attendees:** Carol Bradford – Chair, Linda Huet Clauton – Board Member, Susan Sama – Board Member, Bill Murphy – Health Director, Patty Moran - Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker, Beth Porter = Health Admin, Ann Loree – Great Meadows Health Inspector, Emily Amico – Great Meadow Part-time Nurse, Mariah Peebles – SW Intern, Jen Roberts – Select Board, Kay Bell – Council on Disabilities.

### **Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm**

**MRC Update** – Presented by Emily Amico – regions were recently restructured. Sudbury, now called Middlesex County MRC, will now work in regional efforts with Hudson, Marlborough, Southborough, Waltham, Wayland and Weston. Cambridge Health Alliance will oversee the MRC and Middlesex County MRC will have a dedicated coordinator assigned to deploy and work directly with the towns.

### **Patty Moran – Public Health Nurse Update:**

**COVID Update:** 61 total cases, 58 confirmed, 3 probable. Positive numbers appear even across all age groups.

**CDC COVID guidance was updated** – If you test positive you must stay isolated to 5 days. If symptoms improve or abate you can come out of isolation on day 6 but you must wear a mask thru day 10. If you are exposed you must wear a mask for 5 days from exposure.

**School COVID guidance:** Students no longer need to mask. School guidance is less strict than CDC. Pool testing will be discontinued this fall. Testing will occur for symptomatic, per parent approval. If parents do not approve, students are sent home with tests and two negative tests are required two days apart to return to school. Jen Roberts inquired if families will be notified of outbreaks in classrooms. The schools are working out the rubric that determines course(s) of action.

Mr. Murphy has discussed the importance of air quality in the schools with Sudbury Facilities Director. It was agreed that filters would be changed out regularly. Patty Moran stressed the importance of using outdoor spaces while the weather cooperates.

**Flu Clinics:** have been scheduled for the fall season.

**Test Kits to arrive from state:** Test kits will be distributed to Town offices and schools when they arrive.

**Board to discuss Rescinding Mask Advisory:** Sama asked what would be the metric for reinstating the advisory? Because the data for positives has become less reliable (people are managing outbreaks without reporting), do we use outbreaks, health system overcrowding or clusters to determine mask status moving forward? Patty Moran would like to see more messaging about how it is still important to take mitigating precautions to prevent spread. She suggested kids making a social media blurb on TicToc? Linda Huet-Clayton supports rescinding the advisory with the option to reinstate if necessary.

**VOTE:** Motion to rescind Mask Advisory. Motion made by Carol Bradford. Motion seconded by Susan Sama. Motion passed 3-0-0.

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## September 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:**

**Interns:** 4 New interns started this week and training has begun. A grant provided by the Metro West Foundation will pay the interns a minimum wage stipend.

**Full Time Social Worker** Position is still available.

**Mental Health** Support has increased. Metro West Care Advocates Agency is getting residents in need connected.

**ARPA and MWF:** Gift cards are being used by residents for food, gas and transportation. Over \$15,000.00 in funds have been distributed since May

**Domestic Violence** has seen a significant rise.

**Residents** and neighbors are helping each other to reach out for help to the proper agencies and connect to the resources they need.

### **Bill Murphy – Sudbury Health Director Update:**

**Office Space:** Continue to be an issue. Planning with Facilities Director is ongoing.

**Ann Loree Health** Inspector for the Great Meadows Public Health Shared Services Grant: Introduced herself to the board and went over her background in Health Services

Ann brings experience to this team. Ann has worked overseas in clinical environments. Medical Reserve Corps experience. Focus on Health and Environmental issues. Has many Health Certifications.

We are very happy to have Ann working for the Collaborative Grant and her experience will fill many of the voids in the Health Departments participating in the grant. Sudbury Health Department would like to overhaul septic, Body Art and Well regulations. Ann could play a key role in this effort.

**VOTE:** Motion to appoint Ann Loree as an agent of the Sudbury Board of Health made by Susan Sama. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

**Regional Grants Assessment Initiated by the State:** This assessment was sent out to all communities that were approved for collaborative grants. The assessment is collecting data pertaining to each person's working role in relation to the grants. The grant has added hours to the weekly schedule of participating Health Department employees. Once the grant gets under way, grant projects should help to accomplish more.

**Opioids:** In 2038 the state of Massachusetts will start receiving monies awarded from a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies for over prescribing opioids. The money will trickle down to communities. Mr. Murphy believes that the small amounts that individual towns will receive won't make a difference. If the communities involved in the Public Health Collaborative pool their money, it could make more of an impact on Youth programs, Social Workers, Schools, parents. Linda Huet-Clayton would like to see data on what the most effective plan would be to deter opioid abuse and its fall out.

# Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

## September 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Bill Murphy – Sudbury Health Director Update Continued:**

**West Nile Virus:** 1 case was reported in Middlesex County. The Health Department will post a notice to residents to take precautions to reduce risk of mosquito borne illnesses.

**MetroWest Foundation:** the Health Department will draft a letter of recognition to the foundation expressing gratitude in helping the community thru the pandemic and beyond.

**VOTE:** Motion to approve August 8, 2022 BoH Meeting minutes as edited made by Susan Sama. Motion seconded by Linda Huet-Clayton. Motion approved 3-0-0.

**Next Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2022**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.**