

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Attendees: Carol Bradford-BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-BoH Member, Susan Sama-BoH Member, Bill Murphy-Health Director, Patty Moran-Public Health Nurse, Bethany Hadvab-Social Worker, Robert Lazo-Health Inspector, Beth Porter-Health Admin, Kay Bell-Council on Aging, Jen Roberts-Select Board, Janie Dretler-Select Board

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM.

Public Comment: Kay Bell read an excerpt on October being Disabilities Awareness Month.

Patty Moran: Public Health Nurse Update:

COVID: 55 cases in September, 49 confirmed, 6 probable. One hospitalization. COVID is spread evenly amongst age groups. Only 2 cases were sequenced to determine variant resulting in BA 5.1 and BA 4.1. The bivalent vaccination has positive impact against all variants. CDC and DPH have made no changes in isolation and quarantine protocol. If you have had the most recent booster, the CDC considers you fully vaccinated. Boosters can now be administered to children 5 years and older. Susan Sama inquired what the wait time is between those who have been sick with COVID or boosted to the next booster? The CDC recommends 2 – 3 months.

Flu: one case in September. 28 cases year to date. There were only 6 cases in 2021.

Flu Clinics: Patty Moran has held 2 flu clinics. Senior doses administered to date is 129. Regular doses administered 183. There are 2 more clinics scheduled.

Potential COVID Clinics: Bill Murphy asked the Board if the Health Department should pursue organizing a regional COVID clinic, with the Great Meadows regional collaborative? The state can come in and set up the clinic and administer the vaccine. We would just provide the venue and advertise to get residents to sign up. Laura Duff, Regional Public Health Nurse, has found that a very low percentage of residents are boosted. Residents are more apt to attend local clinics. Families can get boosted together at the same time. Curtis Middle School held a COVID clinic in October and the appointments filled up in 2 hours. The BoH approves of the idea. The Health Department will look further into this.

Interns: 5 Worcester State University nursing students will finish their rotation at the Health Department this week. They worked at the flu and blood pressure clinics, completed several courses (pertaining to Public Health). A new 6 students will be starting next week.

Bethany Hadvab – Social Worker Update:

Housing Insecurity: 11 Months after the eviction moratorium has been lifted, housing insecurity has become more of an issue.

Hope Sudbury: has run out of funds. APRA funds have been appropriated for Hope Sudbury to keep the program running. Rent, food and energy prices have escalated leaving many residents in need of funds.

Additional Resources: Because of the huge influx of need in the community, Bethany and her interns are constantly looking for new resources that are available.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Olivia Dufour – Director of the Metro West Tobacco Coalition was scheduled to present to the Board today but could not make the meeting.

Tobacco: Because of stringent regulations on the local, state and federal levels, the tobacco industry is adapting to the constraints and limitations presented to them by providing work arounds to their products. Because tobacco cannot be flavored, the wrappers are flavored, or you can add flavored oils to vapes. This creates the need to change regulations. Would it be wise to align Sudbury's Tobacco regulations with those in Metro West communities and the State? Bill Murphy is not inclined to over regulate the private smoking bar. Sudbury has one of the few cigar bars in the state. Suggestions would include, education about nicotine delivery systems, banning tobacco enhancers and additives, requiring child resistant packaging on new products. Fines should align with the Massachusetts state tobacco fine structure. Mr. Murphy would also like to get some surveys out to the schools to see what the increase in usage has been since the start of COVID? Are students accessing the internet to obtain tobacco products?

Health Capacity Assessment: The State is conducting a Capacity Assessment to get a better understanding of what work pertaining to local health is being done in each community. The assessment includes input from the work force and their duties and the local Boards of Health.

Great Meadows Collaborative Grant: is beginning to gain some traction. Ann Bauer, grant epidemiologist, has proven to be a strong addition to the team. Data driven public health assessments can direct resources to where they are needed the most.

Mosquitos Arbovirus Update: 5700 mosquito specimens were collected in MA this season. Only 95 were positive for West Nile Virus. There were 4 positive human cases reported in Middlesex County keeping Sudbury status in the moderate range. There have been no mosquito or human cases of EEE. The Health Department wants to remind residents that until there is a frost, protective measures are still advised.

Rob Lazo – Health Inspector Update:

Building Permits: A large influx of building permit applications have come in. Residents are putting on additions, finishing basements and attics. State regulations mandate that septic designs can support a maximum number of bedrooms and total rooms in a dwelling. Room capacity can be exceeded by one room (not a bedroom) with the filing of a deed restriction. Rob has processed more deed restrictions in 2022 than there have been processed in the past cumulative 5 years.

Septic Repairs: 17 repairs have been completed in the past month.

Septic Installations: there are 2 major projects in progress. The Fairbank Community Center and Sudbury Crossing. Both are on schedule.

Food Inspections: Ann Loree, Great Meadows Regional Health Inspector has assisted Rob in using new Food Pro Software. The platform records temps, takes pictures, and indicates when follow up inspections are to be done. The data is compared from one inspection to the next highlighting consistent deficiencies.

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Bill Murphy – Health Director Update:

COVID Test Kits: 3200 test kits have been delivered. Many of the kits are being distributed thru the Goodnow Public Library. Esme Green and her staff have been a great resource in getting the kits out to the public. The kits have an extended expiration date thru the end of January 2022. Many of the individual components found in the kits have expiration dates thru 2023 and 2024. Kay Bell intoned that many of the seniors are having difficulty using the QR code that comes with the kits explaining the extended expiration dates. Patty BoH Nurse and the nursing interns will put together a small write up of how to use the QR Codes that can be included with kits to be distributed to the Seniors.

MRC: Medical Reserve Corp: Recruiting residents who are willing to donate time and energy to this effort. Susan Sama asked how do we get awareness and messaging out there to the general public? An MRC Coordinator dedicated to recruiting and vetting is needed. Emily Amico will be doing recruiting at the Goodnow Library at Doing Good Day on November 5th.

Fire at Caviccio's Nursery: A health department response was needed due to air quality concerns in an adjacent neighborhood. MA Response Team conducted air quality assessments at the fire location and abutting neighborhood. Harmful contaminants at the fire location were not detected in measurable amounts in the residential neighborhood.

VOTE: Susan Sam motioned to approve Board of Health Meeting Minutes, as edited, from September 13th, 2022. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Next Meeting scheduled for November 15th, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM