

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

December 12, 2023, 3:00 PM

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Susan Sama-Board Member, Vivian Zeng-Health Director, Beth Porter-Health Coordinator, Parivallal Thillagovian-MetroWest Tobacco Control

3:00: Open meeting law

Public Comment: None

MetroWest Tobacco Control Parivallal Thillagovian: MWTC supports 15 communities and is based out of Framingham. Pari will use his resources training tobacco establishments in signage, products, complaints and regulations. Inspections and stings will be conducted as scheduled and as needed. There are many gray areas or gaps in the state regulations that allow new products to be sold that fall just outside the prohibited boundaries. This means that stores need to be monitored for new products and regulations need to be updated as gaps are recognized and investigated.

Tobacco Violations: There are currently 8 tobacco permits that are active in Sudbury. Pari has found violations in 6 of the establishments and has issued warnings. Employees will be trained and educated.

Online Tobacco Orders: Vivian Zeng inquired about online sales that offer restricted tobacco products? This is an issue with no tangible resolution at this point.

Victory Cigar: One of 20 smoking Bars that are in Massachusetts. There are currently violations that will most likely lead to the closing of Victory Cigar Bar in 2024. The Health Director will keep the Board updated on this situation.

Health Director Report:

Vaccination Update: FLU - 48 Sudbury Residents received flu vaccine at the Tuesday Clinics offered in the health office. Vivian thanked Esme Green (Goodnow Library) and Leila Frank (Data Administrator) for coordinating social media announcements. **COVID Vax** - 41 people received COVID Vaccine via Cataldo Mobile Vaccination Unit at the Sudbury Police Department.

Health Dept. Staffing Update: Nursing - Patty Moran continues to work part-time training the new per diem nurse Brittany Gale. Patty will start scaling back hours in January. **Social Worker position** has a viable candidate. An offer has been made. They have asked for 4 weeks before their start date in order to wrap up at their current position.

Cases: Campylobacteriosis Case was investigated but was determined to have originated in Italy. No further action was necessary. Statewide **Hepatitis A** (8 cases) have been reported (Sudbury has none). 1 new Sudbury **Tuberculosis** case has been reported. There will be 2 months of follow up required. Flu cases are down in Sudbury. Only **1 Flu case** reported. **41 Covid Cases** reported in Sudbury (mostly Children).

COVID Test Kits: A limited amount of test kits are available at the Health Department. Each kit contains 5 individual tests. Only one box per person is being distributed. We will work on getting kits to the library and Senior Center.

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Health Director Report Continued:

Mosquitos: The first hard frost has occurred, and mosquito borne illnesses are not a threat at this point.

Performance Standards: State run program that provides health regulatory training to Health Inspectors. This program will offer training(s) in 2024.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Group: The Health Director has been asked to be a representative on this panel. Other departments represented on this committee are Sustainability, Conservation and Planning. Issues that are prioritized are Climate sustainability related. This group will meet monthly presenting ideas and actions.

Digitizing of Health Files: We have shipped 20 boxes of Septic files to be scanned. Response for record requests, made to MetaSource, has been immediate.

Office Expansion: The project for creating 2 spaces for the Social Workers Office is scheduled for 2024. The Health Director has requisitioned that a hand sink be installed in the Nurses office.

Fairbank Community Center: As the project approaches completion, there are many areas of the project that require Health Department approval. Many aspects of the original plans are not as-built. Approvals will be delayed based on solutions/corrections.

Emergency Preparedness Committee – Region 4AB: The Health Director has been nominated to be on this committee. Projects would include, how towns allocate funds and creating templates for municipal heat shelters.

Social Worker Report:

Social Worker Coverage: Mitch Sanborn continues to work 12 hours weekly. He handles the more complex cases. Krissy Crean is working per diem. Vivian has been jumping in on cases where she can.

Cases: 3 Crisis related calls. St. Vincent de Paul assisted in resolving these 3 cases. 24 non-crisis related calls for food insecurity, holiday stress and gift cards were processed thru Mitch, Krissy and Vivian.

Hope Sudbury: HS has suspended applications because there is no Social Worker to vet applicants for direct needs. Hope Sudbury does not have the personnel to process applications. Krissy gave Vivian a list of other resources that would cover some of the financial needs that Hope Sudbury normally assists with. Vivian would like to thank Sudbury Village and the Presbyterian Church for their financial assistance to Sudbury residents while Hope Sudbury is temporarily unavailable.

Other:

Re-Appointment of BoH Doctor: Dr Hoenig was asked if he would like to serve another 3-year term as Board of Health Doctor and Consultant. He has agreed. Vivian asked the Board to vote on the re-appointment.

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Other Continued:

VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to re-appoint Dr. Peter Hoenig to a 3-year term as Board of Health Doctor and Consultant. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Standing Orders: Have been approved for state issued Epi pens. The Health Department has also received vaccines for children and the under insured population. This will allow Sudbury to help those communities that are included in the Shared Health Services Collaborative to vaccinate children that are housed in temporary shelters to go to school. Bedford specifically needs assistance. This will help to circumvent some of the issues that the Shelter has been having with the state mobile vaccination units.

Memorandum of Understanding – State Supplied Vaccines: The Health Dept. needs to file for an MoU. It allows Sudbury to receive a fee for administering the state supplied vaccines that are to those who are uninsured. This reimbursement will go into the Revolving Vaccine Fund.

State Vaccine Transport Requirements Updated: The state has updated the transport requirements and has made it difficult to transport state supplied vaccines. Some of these barriers need to be worked out in order to make vaccinating more accessible to the underserved.

Annual Report and Health Warrant are due at the end of January.

Opioid Settlement: Current and future payments will be put into a Special Revenue Fund. The Town Manager will authorize spending based on Board of Health's recommendations.

VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to approve the November 14th Board of Health Meeting Minutes as edited. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Next BoH Meeting Scheduled for Jan. 9th at 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 PM.