

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

October 24, 2023

Attendees: Carol Bradford-Board Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-Board Member, Susan Sama-Board Member, Vivian Zeng-Health Director, Krissy Crean-Social Worker, Beth Porter-Health Coordinator

3:00 PM Meeting Commenced. Carol Bradford Recited Open Meeting Law

Public Comment: None

Krissy Crean – Social Worker Update:

Website Updates: Clean up Social Worker website, stream lining resources that are central to Sudbury residents. Making the website easier to read and navigate highlighting local, state and federal resources.

Providing Resource Assistance to Residents: Fuel, Housing, Education, Transportation, Senior and Child Care Needs.

Hope Sudbury Applications: 5 Applications have been processed. Most residents are applying for rent and mortgage assistance.

Temporary Housing Case: Fire and Police referred a family to Krissy for assistance.

Meetings with Alliances: Krissy and Vivian met with Hope Sudbury, Camp Sewataro, Jail Diversion Clinician, Senior Center Dept. Heads and Housing Authority.

Gift Cards: \$3,000.00 in Sudbury Foundation gift cards was dispersed to families for basic needs – gas and food.

Vivian Zeng – Presented Public Health Update:

October Flu Clinics: Three large flu clinics were held in October. Senior flu clinic on Oct. 3rd, Town Wide flu clinic held on Oct. 14th and the Employee flu clinic was held on Oct. 18th.

Infectious Diseases: 24 COVID cases, 2 Salmonella Cases, 1 Listeriosis case (hospitalized) and 2 TB cases.

Vaccines: State Rep from MIIS (Mass Immunization Dept) came to Health Office for inspectional purposes to determine if all paperwork (SOP -Standard Operating Procedures) is in place. The Inspector aided in processing the application for The Health Dept. that will in turn allow Sudbury to order state supplied childhood vaccines. The application has been approved. Orders will be placed in early November.

Mobile Vaccine Unit: Because the state supplied vaccines can only be administered to children (less than 18 years of age) Patty will deploy the Mobile unit to supply COVID vaccine to adults. Date(s) for clinics to be determined.

Hiring Public Health Nurse: Patty is currently working part-time. The Health Dept. is interviewing nurses for the full-time position. There are not many applicants. Advertising for the nurse's position will be posted on Indeed. This may prove to be a better software platform for attracting qualified applicants.

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Krissy Crean: Krissy has submitted her one month's notice. Her last day will be November 17th. Krissy has been with the Health Social Worker Office for 1 year. She started as an intern and transitioned to a full-time position. Krissy has worked tirelessly and has streamlined services. Her hard work is appreciated.

Mosquito Control: 5 positive human cases of West Nile Virus have been reported this year. Hampden County is currently a high-risk territory. Sudbury remains a low risk community.

Performance Standards from Mass Dept of Public Health: Minimum hiring requirements for health staff and inspectors that will improve the performance of all Health Departments. HD's provide a variety of services to the public. COVID exposed vulnerabilities and weaknesses across the state creating a flow of attrition. Many municipal health departments need to rebuild. Mental health is not part of this re-building effort.

Food Safety Program: FDA Grant: Food establishments are invited to take part in a voluntary retail standards program. They will not be penalized for not meeting all standards. The purpose of this program is to standardize restaurants nationally.

Sewataro: Scholarships are dispersed to Sudbury school aged children. Health Dept and Sewataro staff met to discuss behavioral issues that they encountered in the 2023 camp season. It has been determined that the staff and councilors will benefit from de-escalation training tactics.

Potential Illegal Business: Sudbury Fire discovered, what was believed to be, an illegal business during a routine home visit. It was reported to the Health department.

Permit Fee Schedule Review:

In reviewing the permit fee structuring, the Board discussed the Animal permitting fees, which include Stable Fees and Chicken coops. An issue was highlighted that chicken coop fees are the same as stable fees. Because stables present a much more involved process due to its larger structure, waste removal procedures, etc. it was suggested that coop fees be reduced. Linda noted that having chicken coops be the same fee as a stable permit, it could become a cost barrier for a coop owner to apply, which in turn could cause certain owners to bring chickens into the home. A fee reduction will be revisited when the Keeping of Animals and Stable Regulations are updated to align with current Zoning bylaws.

Vivian pointed out the Health Department setbacks to animal structures are not consistent with the setbacks of the Building Department and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Communication to these other departments will be initiated prior to revising the Keeping of Animals and Stable Regulations/Fees. The Board agreed to table Keeping of Animals and Stables regulation discussions until an updated draft be presented.

VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to pass proposed Permit Fee Schedule. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-1-0.

Opioid Settlement funds: Over \$100,000.00 has been awarded to Sudbury in a class action law suit where major drug companies and distributors were found responsible for a national opioid addiction crisis. The Sudbury Health Department is in the process of planning how to use these funds to raise awareness, educate and relieve stigma. There will be a focus on early prevention.

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VOTE: Linda Huet-Clayton motioned to approve September 26th BoH Meeting Minutes as edited. Susan Sama seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Next meeting scheduled for November 14th, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53 PM