

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

November 26, 2024

Attendees: Carol Bradford – BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton – BoH Member, Susan Sama – BoH Member, Vivian Zeng – Health Director, Katie Betts – Public Health Nurse, Nina Lurie – Social Worker, Kristin Wilcox – Social Worker, Kay Bell – Resident Old Lancaster Rd

11:00 AM: Open Meeting Laws – Carol Bradford

11:02 AM: Public Comment – Kay Bell thanked and acknowledged the Health Department for their diligence, hard work and quick response times.

Public Health Nurse Update: Katie Betts

State Reported Infectious Disease Cases: It is important to note that all of the diseases listed below are easily transmitted via respiratory droplets. Wash your hands, clean surfaces and stay home when feeling sick.

Pertussis has seen a rise in cases. Katie Betts has been working with the schools in drafting procedures for notifying families and creating guidelines for them to follow. Pertussis symptoms appear to look like a cold.

Walking Pneumonia: Symptoms also present like a cold. Lasting 1 – 4 weeks.

Hand, Foot and Mouth: Cases have been spreading. Symptoms are fever, rash and blisters in the mouth. Symptoms can last up to 1 week.

RSV: Respiratory Syncytial Virus- has reported an increase - dangerous for babies, high risk and elderly populations.

Social Worker Report: Nina Lurie and Kirstin Wilcox

Collaborating with Local Organizations: Hope Sudbury, Sudbury Garden Club, St Elizabeth's, Sudbury Doing Good, Sudbury Villagers, DEI Commission and Holiday Dreams. These organizations have been working with the Social Work Office to provide assistance to the underserved population of the Sudbury Community for the holidays.

Outreach and Identifying Residents in need: The Social Work Office has been diligent in identifying those in need of assistance and reaching out with available benefits and resources.

Park and Recreation Dept: Working with Park and Rec to secure slots to provide families with Summer Camp options in 2025

Teen Relaxation: Kirstin Wilcox meets monthly at the Goodnow Library with Teens to furnish them with methods for unwinding and relaxation in order to deal with the stresses of day-to-day life. The program is gaining momentum.

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Director's Report: Vivian Zeng

Sudbury Doing Good: Held a Shining a Light Event at the High School for the parents of students. The Health Social Workers attended the event. Thank you to Nina Lurie and Kirstin Wilcox.

Caviccio Flu Clinic: The Public Health Nurse held a clinic at the Caviccio Health Day Annual Event. Approximately 12 employees were vaccinated.

Holiday Village: The Public Health Nurse and Social Worker had a table at the Holiday Village. Thank you to Katie Betts and Kirstin Wilcox.

PHE New Hire: The Public Health Excellence Grant has hired a new Health Inspector, Shaun Jeffery. He will be working with state trainers, who will educate the Health Inspector with food and septic procedures.

Substance Abuse Coordinator Hired: New hire Olivia Dufour will be working with the seven communities who have pooled their opioid funds. She will assess the needs of each community and create programs that will make an impact in those communities. She will work under the PHE Grant infrastructure.

2026 Budget: is due next week. The Health Director is working with the Town Treasurer to complete the budget.

GRANTS:

FDA Grant – is a Food Safety, mentoring, nationwide program. Helpful in fine tuning our municipal inspections.

Emerson Hospital Grant: Opioid Awareness. Raising awareness by attendees engaging in artwork and storytelling from their perspective. The artwork will have a traveling display in public areas of each municipality.

New Rise Grant: \$128,000.00 in Opioid Funds to pay consultants to identify those in need and to pay recovery coaches work with those who have been identified. The Coaches will remove barriers that inhibit recovery efforts.

H5N1 Avian Flu: A new strain has been identified. Emergency Dispensing Sites were developed out of a need to address the quick spread of Avian Flu. The federal agencies involved in studying and overseeing the progression of the virus are, CDC, FDA, Fish & Wildlife and USDA. These agencies are interconnected in order to share data that identifies areas most impacted by the Avian Flu. Livestock, Slaughter houses, Food workers etc.

Pools: The Sudbury Swim & Tennis Club has started the installation of the new pool. The Health Department continues to monitor the Atkinson Pool.

Food: There are 2 proposed food establishments that are preparing to open in Sudbury. The Health Department has been working with them to get them certified and open.

Septic: Rob Lazo has been working on updating the Sudbury Septic Regulations (design requirements) with less complicated language.

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ADU's Accessory Dwelling Units: Governor Healy passed a bill making it less complicated for homeowners to build an ADU on their property. This is intended to alleviate the housing shortage. For towns with the majority of homes that are on septic, this has posed a more complicated scenario for Health Departments. Sudbury has started to see a sharp uptick in residents applying for ADU's. In order to assess if each home's septic can accommodate additional bedrooms and proposed total number of rooms, an extensive review by the Health Department must be made. The Health Director has asked that the Board vote to add an ADU Review Fee of \$50.00 per request.

VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to establish a fee of \$50.00 for an ADU septic certification that will go into effect January 1st 2025. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

DPW Renovation: still ongoing. Thank you to our fellow town departments for accommodating our wayward employees and giving them a work space.

VOTE: Carol Bradford motioned to approve the September 11th and October 24th BoH Meeting Minutes, as edited. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Next BoH Mtg: Proposed for December 18th at 10:00 AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:42 AM