

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

May 21st, 2025

Attendees: Carol Bradford-BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-BoH Member, Susan Sama-BoH Member, Vivian Zeng-Health Director, Nina Lurie-Social Worker, Marie Trenouth-Public Health Nurse, Shaun Jeffery-Health Inspector.

10:00 AM - Open Meeting Law: Carol Bradford

10:02 AM Public Comment: None

Nina Lurie – Health Social Worker Update:

May Mental Health Month Events: Gut Health Presentation, Pets and People, Yoga and Meditation classes and Rock Painting with kids.

Substance Use and Mental Health: Seminar held June 3rd hosted by Olivia Dufour (Regional Opioid Substance Use Coordinator) and Dr. Samuel Meisel.

Longfellow Glen: Will have an event for children where a mini horse will be on premises. 30 families have signed up.

Farmer's Market: The Social Workers created a signup for families and residents to pick up a coupon book which will allow holders of the books to get food and goods at the farmer's market for little or no cost. The Social Worker's also coordinated transportation for residents to and from the event. 90 booklets were distributed

Services provided to residents: Financial, transportation, Mental Health Support, Housing and finding resources for dementia patients.

Marie Trenouth – Public Health Nurse Update:

Nursing Coverage: Marie Trenouth and Brittany Gale will be covering the Public Health Nurse Office while Katie Betts is on maternity leave.

Training: Marie has been trained on MAVEN (State infectious disease reporting portal) by the state training nurse. Marie is also familiarizing herself with camp regulations, camp manual reviews, inspections and permitting.

Blood Pressure Clinics: Held weekly at Senior Center and the Coolidge.

Vivian Zeng – Health Director Update:

State Vaccines: Almost all unused vaccines have been transferred out of the Sudbury Health Office to other communities. This was necessary to avoid having the Health Department pay restitution for vaccines as they expire.

Health Fair and May Mental Health Month: Have had positive feedback. Events revolving around these themes will be held annually.

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Department Staffing: Katie Betts (Public Health Nurse) is still on maternity leave and the office continues to have coverage. The Health Inspector position has been filled by Shaun Jeffery. Shaun Jeffery thanked the Board and Health Director for the opportunity to move from the Regional Inspector position onto the Sudbury Health Team.

Grants: FDA Grant was approved. It is a grant that reimburses related expenses at the end of the calendar year as opposed to grants that supply funds when the grant is approved. The fear is that funds may not be available at the end of 2025 for reimbursement.

Federal Grants Being Eliminated: Grants that are being eliminated at the Federal level will be felt as time passes.

PHE (Public Health Excellence) Grant: A cost analysis tool was used to score services that are provided by the grant. High scores were Disease and Injury prevention and environmental health. Lower scores were given for maternal and family health and access to clinical care. Susan Sama asked about the clinic that was held monthly at Beth El (pre-COVID), where uninsured residents were provided health care. The areas that scored lower will be reviewed, but staffing and budgetary constraints are obstacles to improving these scores.

State to Unify Local Health Departments: The state is looking to unify Health Departments across the state in order to build a data base and to understand the individual needs of each area.

Emergency Preparedness: The Health Director attended a seminar where presenters made it known that funding has been cut for programs across the board. We will see the impact as it trickles down. Being prepared for these cuts will allow us to pivot to cover or retain important programs.

Pools: All pools have been inspected except for Sewataro. Sewataro will open toward the end of June. Inspection for this site will take place in the next few weeks.

Food Safety Program: Pinsperation and Formosa are working toward opening. Sudbury Farms has submitted renovation plans for review. Lotus Blossom is still closed. Insurance and Supply chain issues are slowing the process of opening.

Septic: Permit applications are being created, tested and uploaded to Open.Gov in order to process online applications. Ann Loree, regional health inspector has been fielding all septic plan reviews for new installations. Shaun Jeffery has been doing septic inspections and catching issues. Shaun has been trained to observe soil/perc tests and has signed up for the bi-annual Soil Evaluator class. The Health Director asked the Board if they would vote to allow Shaun to conduct soil witnessing as long as he is actively working on getting certified as a soil evaluator.

VOTE: Linda Huet-Clayton motioned to appoint Shaun Jeffery to conduct soil/perc test witnessing as a soil evaluator in training until he obtains his soil evaluator license. Carol Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Construction on Health Office Complete: The offices that will be used by the Social Workers and the regional staff have been completed. A schedule will be set up for those who need office space.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM.