

Sudbury Board of Health Virtual Meeting

July 2nd, 2025

Attendees: Carol Bradford-BoH Chair, Linda Huet-Clayton-BoH Member, Susan Sama-BoH Member, Vivian Zeng-Health Director, Kirstin Wilcox-Social Worker, Shaun Jeffery-Health Inspector, Olivia Dufour-Substance Use Coordinator, Beth Porter-Health Coordinator, Brian Farless-East Middlesex Mosquito Control, Doug Bidlack-East Middlesex Mosquito Control, Michael DiModica-Sudbury Resident

5:00 PM: Open Meeting Law – Carol Bradford

5:02 PM: Public Comment – None

Brian Farless: East Middlesex Mosquito Control Update:

Treatment for controlling Sudbury's mosquito population. April 22nd and 23rd helicopter spraying was conducted to mitigate the mosquito larvae population. Post spray surveillance indicated that the efficacy of the helicopter treatment over wetlands was successful. The weather in the spring was also helpful in keeping populations down. The chemicals used target mosquito larvae. Locations of truck mounted spraying are determined by species and numbers found in Grava traps that are put out in May and June throughout the municipality. Populations are monitored throughout the mosquito season.

Doug Bidlack: The majority of mosquitos that are found in the traps are non-disease carrying species. Due to weather changes, mosquito season is starting earlier. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) populations are down due to drought. EEE numbers have dropped by 75% in 2025. West Nile Virus (WNV) is much less predictable. The species that carry WNV thrive in warmer weather. 2025 could show higher WNV numbers. Personal protection remains the best way to mitigate exposure to mosquitos. Mitigating methods include emptying standing water on property, stays indoors between dusk and dawn, use mosquito repellents with Deet and wear clothing that covers skin.

Kirstin Wilcox: Social Worker Update:

May is Mental Health Month: Many events took place. Wellness from Within, Substance Use Prevention, Suicide Prevention, Pets & People, Mental Health Interactive Calendar, etc.

Farmer's Market: Was very successful. Over 80 families participated and were given coupon books to purchase food and personal items. Thank you to the Sudbury Girl Scouts who volunteered at the event.

Transportation Committee: Continues to scale back. Kirstin is working with the Senior Center and Community Center to work around this. Come September Uber and Taxi programs will also be scaling back. These programs were grant funded. Grant money is becoming scarce. Forty-five residents under the age of 60 rely heavily on transportation services in Sudbury.

Other Business: Hope Sudbury applications continue to come into the office. Housing remains an issue. Kirstin has been working with the town summer camps finding space for the children of financially insecure families. The Social Workers continue to train and take classes.

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Olivia Dufour-Regional Substance Use Coordinator Update:

Substance Use Needs Assessment Survey: Olivia has put together a survey that is to be distributed to the 7 towns that are served in this collaborative, to see where residents feel the greatest needs are in their communities. Survey results will help best determine the most effective disbursement of funds in order to make an impact in these communities. The state has prioritized 7 areas that need to be addressed. Once the survey data is disseminated, results will be published. One of the biggest challenges will be getting the survey to residents of all ages and demographics.

Shaun Jeffery: Health Inspector Update:

Food Training and Inspections: Shaun has completed Tier Two Food Inspection Training. The State Food Inspection Trainer has been shadowing Shaun. Shaun has completed inspecting the Public Schools. He has been working with several restaurants that have had violations on first inspections and required re-inspections.

Soil/Perc Testing and septic repair installation inspections: Shaun has had a heavy schedule in observing perc tests and soil evaluations. He has also spent many hours weekly inspecting septic repairs and installations.

Training and support: State Hub Trainers Felix and Elsa Continue to work with Shaun. Vivian and Ann Loree are also training Shaun. Shaun is also continuing to take classes to obtain certifications.

Vivian Zeng: Health Director Update:

2025 Overdose Awareness Day: Will be held at the Sudbury Grange on September 4th. Details to follow.

Public Health Nurse Katie Betts: Will be returning from maternity leave on August 4th.

Mitch Sanborn: 2025 – 2026 Contract will be renewed. Mitch will continue to work an extra 4 hours per week.

FDA Contracts/Grants: The Health Director hesitates to rely on the grant, fearing that this is a reimbursement grant (meaning the money is spent up front and the grant reimburses the money after it is spent). If grant money dries up midyear, funds may not be reimbursed. This could prove to be costly.

Public Health Excellence Grant (Shared Service) June financials and work plan are being worked on. Trying to find ways to meet state standards and expectations.

Saphe 2.0 Legislation will present challenges to many Health Departments across the state. Many of the goals that have been set forth are somewhat unrealistic and, in many cases, focus on issues that are not relevant to many Health Departments. Susan Sama voiced concerns that staffing and resources should be considered with state mandated programs. This will certainly widen the gap with health equity across the state. Non-compliance enforcement will be a challenge.

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Vivian Zeng: Health Director Update Continued:

Pools: Inspections are complete. **Atkinson Pool** – The pool pack has been installed. This will help with air quality and prevent erosion of pool apparatus. The leak in the dive pool will be addressed next. The UV lighting retrofit into the filtration system, in addition to replacing the sand in the traditional mechanical sand filter, has maintained PH Balance, bringing water quality up to compliance. **Sudbury Swim and Tennis** - new pool has been installed and is up and running. They were inspected at the last minute but passed inspection. **Sewataro pools** passed inspection. The Health Department worked with Conservation to get the pond up to compliance. The state is testing weekly. If closure is necessary signs will be posted.

Food: Sudbury Farms has submitted plans for renovations. The store is to remain operational during construction. Most construction will take place at night. Renovations are projected to take up to 12 months. Refrigeration lines will be run from the ceiling. The Floors will be sealed up. **Lotus Blossom** remains closed. They are still experiencing equipment supply delays and insurance issues. **Formosa Market**, has started renovations in the Sudbury Crossing location and is scheduled to open this fall.

Septic Systems: There has been a rather large influx of new septic installers, soil evaluators and engineers that the Sudbury Health Inspectors have never worked with. Many are inexperienced causing retesting of soil and perc holes. Several installers are unaware of basic protocol and are installing systems that are not on the approved engineered plans. Enforcement of non-compliance is proving to be challenging.

Health Offices: The Health Office construction is complete. We are now retrofitting the offices with Flexible technology that can be used by Social Workers, grant employees and interns.

Tobacco Permits: A Vendor has asked if an establishment that possesses a Tobacco permit can be purchased and then move locations? The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

VOTE: Susan Sama motioned to approve the March 21st and May 21st Board of Health meeting minutes as edited. Linda Huet-Clayton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Meet adjourned at 6:14 PM.