

Board of Human Services and Community Health

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12TH MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. MEMBERS PRESENT – Brittany Bixenman, Marie Juanita-DiGioia, Elizabeth Doyle, Bruce Thayer, Robert Lambe
MEMBERS EXCUSED – Kim Ciociola, Richard Panofsky, Geri Hamel
3. REVIEWED AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14TH MEETING as written
4. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT
 - a. COVID reports
DPH no longer reports specific hospital/ICU data for COVID. Instead just report ED and hospital admissions for COVID, RSV and flu
DPH no longer reports hospital-specific data for COVID
With those caveats – continued upward trend in wastewater numbers, ED visits and hospital admissions. Rehoboth case numbers are in lower range for towns/cities in Massachusetts.
 - b. Influenza-like activity – fairly low at this time, consistent with usual seasonal pattern
 - c. Arbovirus activity
Rehoboth is now moderate risk for both EEE and WNV. An EEE positive mosquito has been trapped in Rehoboth. Prevent mosquito bites!
 - d. Tick-borne diseases activity
Continued sporadic reports of Lyme disease
 - e. Summary of MAVEN reports – just sporadic cases of Lyme disease
 - f. Any other reports that need review
5. REVIEW OF INTERDISCIPLINARY ISSUES FROM MEMBER BOARDS AND AGENCIES AS NEEDED
 - a. Board of Health
 - BOH is developing regulations for massage parlors in Rehoboth to address an issue that has arisen with illegal sex trade in several parlors.
 - BOH is developing guidelines for street-side dumpsters in an attempt to reduce noise
 - BOD is working on policy for sale of nicotine products to minors
 - b. Council on Aging
 - COA director and assistant are at MCOA conference this week
 - Formula grant allotment has been increased to reflect 2020 census
 - c. Rehoboth School Department
 - School district is in desperate need of substitute nurses to cover absences. All potential sources are being explored. Nurses must be RNs.

- Updated health curriculum for the State includes more current information on sex education and related topics. While current State law requires that parents “opt-out” of this curriculum, the school committee appears to be leaning towards a change to “opt-in”, which would be very difficult administratively.
 - One “shadow” box with Narcan will be installed at the DRHS. Consideration being given to adding Narcan to existing AED boxes, with appropriate signage. Possibility of Rehoboth opioid settlement funds being used to supply Narcan to AED boxes at Palmer River and Beckwith schools.
 - Professional development program for school nurses coming up in November
- d. Human Services Department
- Continued progress in construction at the White Building – ADA compatible door has been installed, and second egress is planned for 2nd floor.
 - Volunteer who assists with outreach department will be returning from recent medical leave.
 - In 2 weeks, additional volunteers will join to assist with SHINE peak enrollment period
 - Pickleball court is being painted.
 - Bids are being solicited for fitness center.
 - Enforcement issues have arisen regarding delinquent behavior by some children
- e. Community representative
- f. Board of Selectmen representative
6. OLD BUSINESS -
- a. OPIOID settlement funds
- G. Hamel has gathered information about use of opioid settlement funds in surrounding communities. We are awaiting input from Rehoboth police and EMS. Elizabeth Doyle agreed to contact Deputy police chief to facilitate contact with him. Subcommittee will then meet to put together suggestions.
- b. Systems for distributing public health alerts to Rehoboth residents
- Systems used recently to publicize recent EEE mosquito alert, and worked well
- c. Smoking policy for Francis Farm
- After considerable discussion, the following motion was made by Gary Zimmer and seconded by Bruce Thayer:
- “The Board of Human Services and Community Health advises the Board of Selectmen to enact a non-smoking policy for ALL Town buildings and campuses, pending input from legal counsel”.**
- This motion was approved by unanimous vote.
7. PROJECT FOR TOWN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS
- No new discussion at this meeting
8. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Signposts at town trails with health related alerts – deferred until November meeting, so that Geri Hamel can present
- b. Developing guidelines for town health emergencies
- A subcommittee formed of Richard Panofsky and Bob Lambe has been formed. Further information will be presented at November meeting

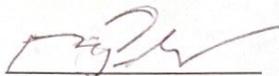
- c. Performance Standards for local public health –
These standards were announced last week. Further information was released at a webinar on October 11th which was attended by Geri Hamel. Discussion postponed to November meeting so that Geri Hamel can present.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lambe



Robert Lambe, Chair



Richard Panofsky, Clerk