

East Longmeadow Board of Health Agenda

Wednesday, September 9, 2020; 6:30p.m. at East Longmeadow - Zoom

Board of Health Members Present: Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo, Karen Robitaille, R.N., and Dr. Kevin Hinchey

Health Department Staff Present: Aimee Petrosky and Alix Shipman

Visitor:

Topic	Discussion/Action Taken/Decision Made
Call to order and Chair Announcements	Meeting called to order by Chair, Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo at 6:30 p.m.
Approve minutes of previous meetings: January 23, 2020	Motion to approve minutes from January 23, 2020, was made by Karen Robitaille and seconded by Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo out of necessity. Motion passes 2-0.
Public Comment	
New Business	
2020 Flu Clinic	<p>Aimee tells the board that due to COVID, our annual vaccination clinic this year will just be for flu shots and be run like an EDS site. Our plan includes people arriving at the high school parking lot in their car at a specified time where they will be directed into the horseshoe to receive their vaccine. We are hoping to have three pharmacists on site to give out vaccines. This year has been challenging finding a vendor due to the demand private companies are having in stores. We asked Big Y if they would be interested in working with us. Aimee believes our proposed plan will allow us to still vaccinate the same number of people we usually do safely and effectively. Karen asks if we are vaccinating under 18 years old. Aimee says Big Y and other private pharmacies can vaccinate 9 years and up.</p> <p>Sarah asks if we can use the school nurses during the flu clinic to provide shots. Aimee says we are not set up in the same capacity as a town like Longmeadow for our school nurses to give out flu shots. However, it is part of the long-term goal of regionalization to have a nurse on site that can give out flu shots. The shared service plan is a great opportunity to increase our revenue by offering flu shots and create a great system for our community. If we can't get a vendor this year for our flu clinic, it's going to be a huge loss to our community. Sarah says this is a good point to bring up to Town Council on why regionalization will benefit our community. Kevin asks if we reached out to Mercy or Baystate and offers that if we cannot get Big Y on board, he will find out who to contact.</p>
Old Business	
COVID Updates	<p>Aimee shared with the board a quick recap of the work we've been doing relating to COVID; including some of the data we've been tracking and how COVID has been impacting the work that we usually do. Our COVID cases in East Longmeadow have been increasing and we've had the highest case count this week. When COVID started, we set up a COVID hotline and email address for residents to get quick responses. Calls have been dropping off steadily since May, but we've seen an increase in complaints and a decrease in questions.</p>

	<p>Overall, our restaurants have been doing exceptionally well and we've had significantly more complaints at retail establishments. Our annual mandated inspections have been impacted due to Donna's capacity being taken up doing COVID complaints or inspections instead of her usual food inspections and public nuisance complaints. Meeting our minimum standards for food inspections will be hard this year. Since Donna came on board four years ago, we've done a really good job at meeting and exceeding the minimum standards for food safety inspections.</p> <p>Aimee says we are going to start to utilize the CTC more for contact tracing since we only have a part time nurse. Karen asks if we've reached out to the schools to use one of their nurses to help out with contact tracing. Aimee says that she really needs someone who will be able to stay through a surge, which she's worried the school nurses won't be able to do if the schools open back up, however talking to the nurses at the schools for any pediatric cases is a good idea.</p>
<p>Disruption to annual work plan</p>	<p>Aimee discusses with the board how we typically, in January or February each year she presents our annual work plan to the board on what we hope to accomplish coming up. Due to COVID, we are not going to make a lot of the same obligations we've had in the past. Sarah asks if there's anything we're concerned about that we won't be able to accomplish. Aimee says the biggest piece of this that we won't accomplish is our annual events like our trash collection day or the bike rodeo that our residents look forward to. Our health needs assessment is also on a delay, but we are waiting because we want the health needs assessment to not reflect only the pandemic.</p>
<p>Shared Service Update</p>	<p>Aimee tells the board that she feels Town Council is reluctant to sign the MOU to move forward with the shared service agreement. Longmeadow Board of Health and Longmeadow Board of Selectmen have agreed. The IMA that was created by Pioneer Valley is at our attorney and she has some comments and feedback. We were supposed to be on the Town Council's agenda last night but we were taken off. Kevin asks if there's anything we can do to grease the wheels. Aimee suggests the board should write a letter congratulating the new town council president that also brings up the benefits of regionalization. Sarah says it's important to bring to their attention how much time has been spent on this process and that this proposal is in line with where our state is going. Sarah says she is happy to do any follow up as the chair after the letter is sent. There's funding, relationships, and time that has been spent on this process that we don't want to lose and start over. We are going to be forced to do this eventually and we can do this by leading or by following. We are one of less than five states that doesn't have state aid to local health and we've had to invest in short term stop gaps such as CTC to aid us during the pandemic. We've received more aid from the state since we're considered a district since we're so far along in the process of regionalization with Longmeadow during the pandemic.</p> <p>Sarah says there's very few arguments that she's heard against regionalization. Aimee says town council's concerns are the liability and employees benefits when working for both towns. Resolutions to this problem include stating in the MOU that Longmeadow would be responsible for half of any liability and claims, as well as benefits. We can include in the letter when we'd like to be on the town council's agenda. Aimee says she will draft a letter for the board to approve and send out to the town council president.</p>

Discussion on unintended consequences of Pandemic	In terms of assessing the town on how resident's health has been affected by the pandemic in other ways than just COVID, Aimee says DPH has a really great community survey that they are asking residents to do to assess the impacts COVID has had. If we have enough residents do the survey, it will provide us with data similar to a health needs assessment that is paid for by the state and it will show us what consequences COVID has caused and what we need in our community to fill in the gaps and all we have to do is promote it. Kevin says Baystate and Mercy have PSA's that encourage people to still get flu shots, mammograms, yearly physicals, etc., that he can provide for us to promote as long as Baystate and Mercy both have the promotions.
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Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Kevin Hinchey and seconded by Karen Robitaille at 7:26 p.m. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Upcoming Meetings / Events

This listing is reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Karen Robitaille _____ **10/6/2020**
Karen Robitaille