



BOARD OF HEALTH

1196 MAIN STREET
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS 01520

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Meeting Date – May 17, 2022

Members Present - Mr. Michael Mazloff, Michelle O'Rourke, Melissa Tuomi

Others Present: Pamela Harding – Director Planning & Development Helen Ganas – Public Health Nurse, Trevor Bruso – Public Health Coordinator Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, Christopher Wilson – Epidemiologist Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, Miriam Nyante – Regional Human Services Director

Michael Mazloff called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes April 12, 2022

Michael Mazloff would like to add verbiage to the Minutes - Michael Mazloff called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM", add "The meeting was scheduled for 5:30 but a quorum was not present until 5:50. A quorum was not possible as the Town Manager has not yet approved the appointment of Melissa Tuomi to a vacancy, which has been requested for the past four months. The Town Manager states that he will approve this appointment." Michelle agreed on the addition.

Title V Inspections Completed

- 211 Union Street – Passes
- 390 Malden Street – Conditionally Passes
- 63 Surrey Lane – Conditionally Passes
- 394 Highland Street – Passes
- 768 Wachusett Street – Passes

Systems Being Repaired

- 38 Scenic Road – Septic Abandonment – connect to town sewer
- 390 Malden Street – septic tank replacement
- 154 General Hobbs Road – new system to replace old
- 498 Bullard Street – new tank and leach field to replace old
- 80 Moscow Road – new system to replace old

Health Agents Report/Updates

- M. Mazloff asked for an update on the Board of Health Agent vacancy. T. Bruso stated they are having difficulty finding a qualified Health Agent for Holden, they plan to

advertise again. In their absence, Jamie Terry is covering the Title 5, Joanne Petterson-Bernier along with Francis are covering the food. Joanne will train Trevor as well.

- Miriam Nyante, Regional Human Services Director is new to the coalition and looks forward to working with the community. T. Brusco stated that public health is lacking access to social services, Miriam will be able to help with this.

New/Other Business

Discussion on what our capacity is for mental health and psychological support in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane

- T. Brusco stated that he attended a meeting with first responders, he learned that 6-8% of the population is affected with mental health issues. There are very few resources on Western/Central Mass. C Wilson together with Miriam are working on community health assessments to help pinpoint problems in the community and help to provide resources for mental services. There is a great need for mental services, plan is to move forward and find those resources.
- M. Tuomi mentioned in her job she sees that there are a number of teenagers waiting for evaluations, maybe more outreach to the high school students would help
- M. O'Rourke mentioned in her job she sees a lot of teenagers waiting to be placed in a facility but there are not enough staff to cover the amount of teens that need to be placed.
- M. Mazloff asked about the state department of mental health, they have a network what would their response be?
- Miriam believes they would respond positively, there are a lot of funds available for this.
- M. Mazloff asked if it is within the power of the coalition to pursue funding for mental health services.
- T. Brusco answered yes, the idea is to gather as much data as we can and then go after the grants available. Community Health Assessments will provide the data.
- M. Tuomi asked if there is a timeline on receiving the data
- C. Wilson answered it could take a few months
- M. Tuomi asked about setting up booth at Holden Days to promote resources
- M. Mazloff asked if this kind of thing was done in the past
- P Harding answered before the pandemic the subject matter was opioid and tobacco misuse, not mental health. The Board should develop a plan of action and focus on more narrow items

Covid

- Helen informed the Board that vaccination rates in Holden are excellent, it averages about 84%. School cases increased after April Vacation and a lot of the home testing positive results are not being reported so the numbers are higher than noted.
- C Wilson reported the Covid confirmed cases for last month were 194, ½ way through May they are already at 166.

Next Meeting June 14, 2022 at 5:15 pm

Adjourned 6:40 pm