



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

May 5, 2021

Phone-Participants

Lisa Golden, Acting Chairperson
William Galvin, III, Board Member
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, Board Member
Erin Gendron, Board Member
Joanne Belanger, HHS Director
Cesar Pungirum, Tobacco Control Director
Shawn Machado, Sr. Sanitary Code Inspector
Jon Kelley, Trinity EMS, Inc.
Jon Chemaly, President, Trinity EMS, Inc.

The meeting of the City of Lowell Board of Health was called to order at 6:02 PM by Acting Chairperson Lisa Golden.

5/5/2021 - Minutes

1. NEW BUSINESS

1.I. Conference Call Log-In Information

1.II. For Acceptance: Minutes of the April 7, 2021 Board of Health Meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 7, 2021 Board of Health meeting made by Erin Gendron, seconded by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter. All in favor.

1.III. Informational: Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Manager Health & Human Services Director Joanne Belanger introduced Mr. Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Manager, to the Board. Mr. Gonzalez spoke regarding his position and the Syringe Collection Program.

1.IV. For Review: Tobacco Control Monthly Report submitted by Cesar Pungirum, Program Director

Mr. Cesar Pungirum spoke to the Board regarding his monthly report. Mr. Pungirum will attend the August Board of Health Meeting with a review of the Tobacco Regulations in Lowell and any recommendations relative to them. The Board accepted the report and placed on file.

1.V. For Review: Monthly Development Services Report Submitted By Senior Sanitary Code Inspector Shawn Machado

Mr. Shawn Machado reviewed his monthly reports with the Board. The Board accepted and placed on file.

1.VI. For Review: Trinity EMS, Inc. Reports and Notifications submitted by Jon Kelley

Mr. Jon Kelley, Trinity EMS, Inc. reviewed the quarterly report with the Board and spoke about the fractal percentage of the Average Out of Shute figure. The Board discussed the inclusion of calls directly received by Trinity EMS and the use of lights and sirens on calls. The Board indicated there is not a cause for concern relative to the response times. Mr. John Chemaly, President, Trinity EMS, Inc. spoke to the Board regarding the company making adjustments to meet the standards. Acting Chairperson thanked Mr. Chemaly and Mr. Kelley for including the explanation about the Out of Shute figure in the report. The Board had no further questions or comments.

1.VII. Communication: Pan Am Railways Yearly Operational Plan Notification

The Board accepted the communication and placed on file.

1.VIII. Communication: Watermark Environmental Notification of Permanent Solution Statement

The Board accepted the communication and placed on file.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.I. Update: COVID-19

Director Belanger updated the Board regarding COVID-19 news and on-going pool testing in the Lowell Public Schools. There are currently only 21-25% total participating in the program. This low number can affect the data being gathered. Director Belanger noted that the students are now moving back to school full time so the School Nurses will only be doing the clinical piece of the pool testing program now, and the School Department is now handling the administrative side. The protocols of what to do when there is a positive pool are being cleaned up. Director Belanger also informed the Board that the School Department has decided to extend pool testing over the summer, however the School Nurses are off for the summer. The City is considering holding another "Stop the Spread" testing site. Additionally the State sponsored mobile vaccination van has been holding clinics on Mondays but will be switching to Saturdays as of May 8th.

Director Belanger spoke about the Public Health Division COVID report and noted that the COVID numbers are looking better and daily case counts are going down. The Baker-Polito Administration as announced new mask guidelines effective April 30th and road races can be on May 10, 2021.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.I. Departmental and Divisional Reports

Director Belanger reviewed the Communicable Disease portion of the Public Health Nurse divisional report. Additionally, the Board was informed that the three year Public Health Excellence grant has been awarded to the consortium made up of Lowell, Dracut, Westford, and Acton. The Town of Westford will be the lead community.

The Department continues to have five Public Health Nurse - Schools and one Public Health Nurse - Clinics positions vacant.

Director Belanger reviewed the figures from April 24, 2021 Unwanted Medication Drop-off Day the Department held at the Fire Prevention office on Pine Street.

The Board had no questions.

4. MOTION: TO ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn made at 7:18 PM by Erin Gendron, seconded by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter. All in favor.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH WILL BE ON
JUNE 2, 2021 AT 6:00 PM.