



Town of Agawam

Board of Health

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Gladys Fernandez-Largay, MD	- Chairman
Mary Jo Safford, NP	- Vice Chair
Mary Lee Bertrand, BSN	- Member
Michael Theroux	- Health Agent
Sherry Petrucci, RN	- Public Health Nurse
Beth Ceccarini	- Secretary

Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2021
Agawam Senior Center - 954 Main Street at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance : all members present

Documents distributed at meeting :

-Board of Health Agenda
-Public Health Nurse updated COVID 19 numbers

Meeting Called to Order : 5:00 pm

Approval of minutes : A motion to approve the September BOH minutes was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Member Bertrand. Motion to approve minutes: 3-0.

Citizen Speak Time : None attended the BOH meeting.

Old Business: Body Art/Massage Parlors : Agent Theroux stated City Solicitor Buoniconti had hoped to have some kind of sample ordinance ready for this meeting, but unfortunately our last meeting was only 2 weeks ago so he did not have enough time. Agent Theroux let the Board know that the massage parlor on Springfield Street (by Sabrina's) has closed and they have moved. That building had been sold. The massage parlor on Springfield Street (by DeCaro's) is still closed. That business is still not in compliance with the ADA orders. There is a massage parlor behind the Riverboat Bar & Grill at Southbridge Drive who seem to operate properly. There is also one located on Walnut Street Ext. (by E.B.'s). Agent Theroux told them the process would be for the Board of Health to draft a local ordinance to be sent to the City Council for approval. If approved, the Health Agent would be responsible for enforcement of that local ordinance. Massage parlors are licensed by the State but we would have to make sure the ordinances were being followed.

Job Postings: Sanitarian Position : Agent Theroux stated he sent the updated job description to the Personnel Dept. about 2 weeks ago and was waiting to hear from them. If approved by the Mayor the job will hopefully get posted in the next couple weeks. Chairman Fernandez stated she hoped it would be filled in the near future as there would be plenty of work for that new person. Vice Chairman Safford stated that it would be good for the Health Department to have another pair of hands available.

Nurse Sherry stated there was a posting for the vacant Full-Time Nurse position at the High School and for substitute nurses. She stated there is always a need for substitute nurses and the pool of them gets smaller each year.

Health Agent Theroux told the Board that Feeding Hills Public Market has started their suspension on October 10th and will go to October 25th. He went to see Mr. Batteriwala and that was the time frame they came up with. The Health Agent will check in on the store each week to make sure they are in

compliance. Mr. Batteriwala also paid his \$1,000 tobacco fine.

New Business :

Agent Theroux told the Board there have been many more inspections than usual due to the lifting of the eviction moratoriums. He has been working closely with Atty. Pikula for housing court cases. There are still on-going cases at the trailer park as well. There have been many mold issue calls also looking for inspections. These are in addition to the raised volume of food complaints, septic inspections and others general calls that come in to our office.

School Nurse Activities :

Public Health Nurse Sherry told the members the Test & Stay program started yesterday for students/staff identified as a close contact in school that are asymptomatic. Testing is done by C. I. C. Company located in the eastern part of the state. The tests Binax NOW are done at Robinson Park School from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. before school. This is a 7 day program (due to a weekend that falls in at some point) with a 5 day test schedule. When students are initially identified, the school nurse will test them. They are then given a letter to attend the testing site before school. If each testing day has a negative COVID result, they are then given a pass to return to school for that day. On the two weekend days the student should be quarantined with parent's observation for the onset of symptoms. On Monday tests will resume until there have been 5 days of testing. Students and teachers that come into the nurse's office during the school day with multiple symptoms are automatically sent home and a negative PCR test is required. She told the Board they are trying to keep students and staff in school achieving less school days missed. Members asked Sherry how the children would get to the testing sites each day. She told them it is up to the parents or guardians of the children. The members agreed that staff and students with multiple symptoms should not enter the building until they are tested. Nurse Sherry stated that Holyoke Community College and the Eastfield Mall are still doing COVID PCR testing. Lastly, she noted the vacant position of Full Time Nurse Coordinator would be changed to a regular Full Time School Nurse. When the Public Health Nurse's title changed to add School Nurse Supervisor, she absorbed some of the tasks from that position. The decision was made instead to give a separate stipend to an existing nurse for the extra duties performed. Some of the duties would be scheduling sub nurses, weekly scheduling of our Float Nurse, and eventually obtaining prescriptions for epi-pen and narcan and updated necessary paperwork. That job was put out for bid to our nursing staff and would go to the senior most qualified nurse who applied. That job starts on Monday, October 18th.

Public Health Nurse : Nurse Sherry has been continuing home visits for flu vaccines. She has completed vaccinating personnel in the Town Hall, Fire Department, and Police Departments. She will be going to Heritage Woods to do their residents the end of this week. Next week she will have her community flu clinic at the Senior Center on October 19th.

COVID 19 updates:

Nurse Sherry handed the Board an updated statistic COVID 19 case form.

To date, there have been a total of 3,473 cases in Agawam. There are 75 total cases as of today. In the community there are 72 cases and 3 in the elderly complexes.

She also updated the Board on the grant bid with the Town of West Springfield had been approved by the State. The result was for one Public Health Nurse and one Epidemiologist for both towns to share and occasionally the Town of Southwick as well. She noted that interviews would be starting soon in West Springfield as there were many interested candidates to fill the 2 positions. The West Springfield Health Director asked Sherry to attend the interviews for the Public Health Nurse position. Sherry noted even though the position is only granted for 2 years that would be a big help with contract tracing for our cases. Lastly, Nurse Sherry commended our new Health Agent and told the Board Members she was very happy with the work he is doing and the volume of work he has. She also told them she realizes that like her, he is carrying a heavy load and doing an outstanding job. She told them she can't praise him enough for his continuing efforts on behalf of the Health Department. The Board members agreed with her and that both the Health Agent and the Public Health Nurse are invaluable dedicated stewards for the Town of Agawam. They noted their admiration and persistence to keep going each day with what seems to be an up-hill battle. They also commented and congratulated the Health Department on the volume of work that is being done in the last 6 months by only 3 people.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Safford seconded by Member Bertrand. With

a vote of 3-0, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

BOH/bc