

**Meeting Notes from the Regular Meeting of the Peabody Board of Health,
March 25, 2021**

In Attendance: Chairperson Thomas J. Durkin III, Member Dr. Leigh Ann Mansberger, Member Anthony Carli,
Health Department Director Sharon Cameron, and Recording Secretary Lisa Greene.

The meeting was held remotely at 4:30 p.m. Via Zoom

Subject: Meeting to be called to order and Approval of Minutes – February 25, 2021 & April 23, 2020

Discussion: Mr. Durkin called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He told that two sets of minutes were before the committee for review, one from last month and one from the early days of the pandemic, April 23, 2020, when there was not enough time to address minutes. He asked if there were comments or issues with minutes. None were offered. A roll call vote was held and all agreed to approve both sets of minutes.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions - Data update

Discussion: Ms. Cameron shared information on the most recent Covid data for the city and region.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions - Revisions to state directives

Discussion: Ms. Cameron reported that the Governor had loosened the Covid restrictions in the state and that we are now in the first step of Phase 4. She told that the state has now opened some larger sporting venues, have increased capacity in restaurants and are allowing larger gatherings. She said that the department is working closely with school department around commencement and prom and those types of events to ensure that they are done safely. She explained that the last phase reopening will be bars, amusement parks, festivals and parades. She told that the Governor has also announced that by the middle of April all adult residents will be eligible for vaccinations, which is expected to increase requests to local department. She also told that the department has diverted grant funding from its mothers' home visiting program, which cannot be run right now, to bring on a consultant to work on increasing outreach to minority communities to increase vaccine confidence. The consultant will be presenting their plan to us tomorrow for the first time and the plan will cover a 10- community region to ensure consistency across the region.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions -Testing opportunities

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that a testing event was held last night and it was very small compared to earlier testing events where they had 800+ people attend. She said that very few people are as interested in testing now that vaccines are becoming available, adding that they had only 56 people at last night's event. She told that they will continue to offer Covid testing locally twice a month through April, but will need to reevaluate the program as interest has declined. She told that state will continue to offer testing at Stop the Spread sites in Salem and Lynn. Mr. Durkin asked how vaccination data is collected. Ms. Cameron told that every vaccination provider is required to report into the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) within 24 hours of administering the vaccine. If a provider doesn't enter the data the state will shut off your vaccine supply. MR. DURKIN asked if there is no right to privacy. MS. CAMERON replied that they do have a right to privacy, and that the state collects data on those who have been vaccinated but they do not disclose that information. The city has been asked for information by employers to provide information on who has been vaccinated to assist them with placement issues but we have not disclosed that information. MR. DURKIN explained that at his place of business they are trying to work on that issue and have asked staff to voluntarily report on vaccination, and have given anyone who gets vaccinated 4 additional hours of time off, with the caveat that if you take advantage of that you have to show us your vaccination card as proof, which is the only way to get that info.

Subject: Update on COVID-19 response actions- Vaccination update

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that the State has effectively turned off supply of vaccine to most municipalities other than 20 highest risk communities, and is no longer offering communities a set aside of vaccinations to administer locally. She told about the large numbers of elderly and disabled people who have participated in the local

vaccination clinics and who have struggled just to get through our small venue with walkers and wheelchairs and who would find it even more difficult to walk through a much larger venue. She told that there is still a great need for local vaccination locations to address these populations. She explained that Peabody has put in an application with 10 other communities to support a regional vaccination site in Salem at Salem State University, but they haven't received approval yet. She told that one of the benefits of that would be that the sponsoring communities would be allowed to keep 25% of the vaccines as a set aside for local residents. MR. DURKIN asked for explanation of the spreadsheet Ms. Cameron was showing on the screen. Ms. Cameron told that this was a tally of the local vaccination clinics with info on follow up for those who will need a second dose. He asked about the turning off of local vaccine supply, are there now just a few doses available? MS. CAMERON explained the state is not going to give us any more vaccinations for the general population, adding that they gave us some for residents of congregate and low income senior housing but otherwise we are done. DR. MANSBERGER asked if the state would still be giving them doses for the homebound? MS. CAMERON replied yes, and explained that the state is giving local health departments a choice to administer a program for the housebound directly or to partner with the state who has a contract with an agency who will administer it for them, and we have opted to partner with the state. She told that we would identify local residents who need the service and they would coordinate to administer the doses. She told that they have a list of approximately 125 people on preregistered list, adding that they got info from home healthcare agencies and from council on aging in addition to callers who called the health dept directly. She said that many are out in the community living independently, which makes it difficult to send nurses out to each location, to have them wait to make sure that there are no adverse reactions, and it is more complex because we are working with the Moderna vaccination, and once we puncture the seal have to administer all 10 or 11 doses within 6 hours. She told that it would be extremely challenging time-wise to have a nurse travel to each separate home and to administer the doses in such a small period of time, but the vendor has a system in place with multiple people who can administer from one vial. She explained that the state has developed an algorithm to determine exactly who is eligible under the homebound program, and it is truly only for people who can't leave home without a two person assist or without an ambulance, so those who are just mobility impaired may not be eligible. They are working with Council on Aging to assist people who just need transportation; COA is willing to transport people to other vaccination sites such as the mass vaccination site in Danvers. She said that we feel that we have a strong plan in place.

Subject: Environmental updates- Rousselot Complaints

Discussion: Ms. Cameron told that it has been a pretty quiet month, with not much new to report since last month, adding that summer is coming and we may see more complaints with more people outdoors.

Subject: Code enforcement updates- Chapter II: 124 Foster St; 29 Longview Way; 19 Murray St.

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject: Code enforcement updates- Nuisances: 156 Aberdeen Ave; 10 Elizabeth Lane; 119 Central St.

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject: Code enforcement updates- Chapter X: 44 Margin St.

Discussion: Reviewed

Subject: Permitting updates- List of permits issued in February 2021

Discussion: Reviewed. Ms. Cameron told that things will be busy in the coming months as there will be renewal of permits for all food establishments and for pools. MR. DURKIN asked what the requirement was to register to own doves or pigeons in Peabody. MS. CAMERON replied that residents are not required to register for permits for those animals.

Subject: Public Health Nursing updates - February 2021 surveillance report

Discussion: Ms. Cameron explained that this report was not available and will be included in next month's materials. Dr. Mansberger asked if there was anything of concern that they should know about. Ms. Cameron replied that there were a few cases being monitored for Ebola of people who traveled to Africa, but nothing has evolved and there are no active cases but they are simply being monitored. Dr. Mansberger asked for confirmation that while the Public Health Nurse is away that there is someone who following up on urgent infectious disease cases. Ms. Cameron replied that there are, and that cases are being managed but right now there was no one to generate routine reports.

Subject: School Nursing update

Discussion: Reviewed. MS. CAMERON reported that the School Committee took a vote to return all students to full time in person learning starting next week. She told that the school nurses are working with principals to enhance spacing as much as possible. She told that while social distancing means having people ideally stay 6 feet apart, that is not possible in the schools if everyone goes back so they will be kept 3 feet apart. She also told that the School Department has hired an outside contractor to come into each school 3 times per week to do deep cleaning, and that they will be using air purifiers. She said that they are asking the schools to provide notification to parents that, since students will be closer, there will be more students in the close contact zone if someone is identified as a positive Covid case so we will have to quarantine more people. She said that they plan to stress to parents to have a low threshold for keeping a child home, and that the nurses will have a low threshold for dismissing kids due to symptoms. She explained that this is going to be a fast and furious transition for the nurses. She told that when the hybrid program was in place, if a cohort of students had exposure, the nurses had a day to contact the people who had been around that child, but now they no longer have a day in between, will be working nights to make sure everyone is contacted before return to school the next day. Everyone is happy to see the students go back as it is better for them for many reasons. She told that there has been limited evidence of in-school transmission among students both statewide and in Peabody, but there were exposures among staff who were eating together, socializing outside of school, etc.. She told that most exposures of students are from sports or household exposures, and we hope that no exposures happen in the classrooms going forward. MR. DURKIN asked if there are going to be plexiglass partitions put in place in the classrooms to separate the kids. Ms. Cameron replied that there would not be in classrooms, but there may be some used in some cafeterias since people will remove masks to eat. Mr. Durkin asked if students are allowed to participate in band or chorus classes. Ms. Cameron explained that the State has issued specific guidance on how these programs can be operated, and told that there is no indoor singing allowed, but indoor band practice is now allowed after a brief time of not allowing wind instruments to be practiced, all can practice instruments but not singing.

Subject: Correspondence- Third Party Inspection report – Wood Recycling Transfer Station

Discussion: MR. DURKIN asked if there were any issues we should be concerned with. MS. CAMERON replied no, this is a routine issue.

Subject: Next Meeting April 22, 2021@ 4:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned: 5:04 p.m.