



Farmington Valley Health District

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Minutes
Board of Health Meeting
Members attended via a Zoom online meeting due to COVID19
November 9, 2021

Present: Brandon Robertson, Warren Humphrey, Jadwiga Gocłowski, Jeff Shea, Erica Robertson, Maria Capriola, Stephanie Johnson, Jennifer Kertanis

Not enough members for a quorum so cannot move any actions forward

NOTES:

Brandon Roberts:

Not officially calling meeting to order since don't have a quorum

Request updates and clinics, what coming up with budget, general updates, and any questions

Jennifer Kertanis:

- Working on budget. Will be in a good place financially for foreseeable future due to increase in per capita rate. Going from \$190k to \$265k
- Awaiting information from state regarding ELC grant (epidemiology lab capacity) funding. Received for budget period 1 and 2. Second pot of ELC2. January 2021 through July 2023
- It is for building capacity. Data dashboard, public health nurse position,
- Audit - George scheduled to come in next Monday. Hope he will join December 7 meeting with draft to share at least a few days prior to meeting.
- Salon Regulations - not time critical but hopefully can approve at Dec meeting. Aligns with state changes.
- AFTO grants - offset food team, open gov software, hardware like field tablets. Applying again. Engages newer team members in grant writing and food safety. \$5-20k
- Environmental team on autopilot - as busy as ever. All set with Diane at the helm
- COVID
 - Weekly updates on Fridays
 - Still in substantial category in district, county and state
 - Average 80 case/week for contact tracing
 - Managing with staff but challenging when gearing up to do clinics
 - Seen plateau of cases over past 2 weeks, but no decrease
 - Vaccination clinics - working collaboratively with schools
 - 6 clinics planned
 - First this Friday
 - 3 different locations
 - Stephanie managing many different moving parts
 - Vaccine, supplies, sites, volunteers, logistics, MRC request
 - Stephanie provides update regarding

- Have decided at this point to not provide boosters except for homebound (JCK)
 - Haven't seen a huge demand and there are many other locations providing
- Screen and Stay
 - New options from governor for schools
 - Under certain circumstances close contacts in school will be allowed to stay in learning environment if parents agree to screen for symptoms
 - Meeting with superintendents today
 - FVHD has been taking an approach of limiting quarantines and number of kids impacted
 - 40 total quarantine events in October
 - 398 students impacted by quarantine
 - Averaging 9 kids per event at elementary level
 - Averaging 4 kids per event at high school level
 - All of our schools will use Screen and Stay where they can
 - Will address nuances at case-by-case level
 - Some schools don't believe it will make much of an impact because snack and lunch in classroom and those kids not eligible
 - Other schools where no lunch or snack in classroom may more impact
 - LHD was given no information prior to roll out, weren't included in discussions which is frustration given that we are the ones that support the schools in operationalizing
 - Fortunately, our superintendents shared with us in advance
 - Pattern of DPH keeping us out of the loop and then we must manage
- Public Health Nurse
 - Not a good fit - parted ways amicably
 - Will regroup once we get through the clinics
 - Very challenging position to fill
- Question from Eric Robertson regarding planned budget
 - Jennifer Kertanis said can provide strategic budget
 - Warren Humphrey said would be useful for all the towns
- Jennifer Kertanis request for a van
 - Should we consider putting into the budget (Jeff and Brandon both agree)
 - Would need to consider maintenance, insurance, and storage (Jadwega)
 - Warren states business case for lease vs. buy
- Maria Capriola
 - Consider ARPA money available from towns
 - Consider what is needed infrastructure
 - Purchase our building - Frank is considering selling
 - Possibly sublease the other side
 - Savings would likely cover building and property maintenance
 - Rent is currently \$74k/year
 - ARPA money needs to be spent down by 2026
 - Possibly create an Ad Hoc committee to see how this funding can support FVHD
 - Erica Robertson, Maria Capriola, Jadwega
 - Engage FVHD to come up with ideas
 - Capital improvement
 - Process improvement
 - Jennifer requests summary from board - Maria to send
 - Brandon to send letter to associated towns to earmark % of funds for health district
- Erica Robertson notes that she is very interested to see how Friday's clinic goes
- End meeting 12:56pm

