



Farmington Valley Health District
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Minutes
Public Hearing and Board of Health Meeting
March 3, 2020

Present: Brandon Robertson, Jadwiga Gocłowski, Maura Shea, Debra Brydon, Jeff Shea, Sue Beardsley, Mary Jane Parlow, Melissa Appleby, Jean Donihee-Perron, Joe Doering, Dennis Brown via phone, Tom McKeon, Dan Jerram, Kathryn Krajewski (FA-guest)

Staff: Jennifer Kertanis, Sarah Altieri, Patricia Gigliotti

Absent: Kathy Blonski, Diane Hensdorf, Warren Humphrey, Beatrice Isabelle,

Public Hearing on FY 20-21 FVHD Proposed Budget

Brandon Robertson opened the Public Hearing at 12:03 p.m. and asked if there were any public comment. There was none. He then asked for a motion to close the Public Meeting. Mary-Jane Parlow 1st, Jadwiga Gocłowski 2nd. Public meeting was closed at 12:04 p.m.

Regular Meeting

- I. Public Comments:** Brandon Robertson opened the regular meeting at 12:04 p.m. He asked if there were any public comments, there were none.
- II. Minutes of February 4, 2020:** Brandon Roberson asked if there were any changes or questions on the February 4, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. There were no comments, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Jadwiga Gocłowski 1st, Sue Beardsley 2nd. Maura Shea, Tom McKeon and Dan Jerram abstained. Motion passed.
- III. Business:**
 - 1) Budget for FY 20-21 (action required):** Brandon Robertson asked the Board if there were any questions or concerns with the FY 20-21 Budget. There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the budget. Tom McKeon, 1st, Sue Beardsley 2nd. All were in favor, FY 20-21 budget was adopted.
 - 2) Review and Approve Minor Revisions to Salon Regulations (action required):** Jennifer Kertanis provided a copy of the revised Salon Regulations with track changes. She said that the regulations for salons have been in effect since 2003 and have been amended a few times. Current revisions needed to stay consistent with new state regulation requiring estheticians to be licensed. Brandon asked if there were any changes to our fees. Jennifer said no those would be reflected in the budget. Brandon asked if there was a motion to accept the revised Salon Regulations as written. Dan Jerram 1st, Sue Beardsley 2nd. All were in favor. Brandon asked if this required a public hearing and Jennifer indicated that we have not held public hearings when revisions are minor and reflect updates to state law.
 - 3) Overview of Domain 6:** Sarah Altieri and Pat Gigliotti provided the board with an overview of Domain 6: Enforce Public Health Laws. This is a domain that FVHD is

strong in. The staff have been working on reviewing our existing regulations, policies and procedures regarding regulated activities, working with our regulated communities and keeping our governing body apprised of enforcement activities.

4) 4) Update STIF Account: Jennifer Kertanis told the Board that we now have a STIF account. She said it was relatively easy to set up. She will be consulting with George Sinnamon on how much money she should move over to this account.

5) Other Business: Brandon Robertson asked if there was any other business. Jennifer Kertanis said that she has received a few applications for the epidemiologist position and things are moving forward.

IV Report from the Director:

- **Update-2019 novel Coronavirus:** Jennifer Kertanis told the Board that she was in Washington, D.C. last week to meet with the NACCHO leadership team and they were invited to the White House to discuss state and local public health resource needs as we prepare. There is no treatment of vaccine for COVID19 so early public health interventions will include early identification of cases. Jennifer said that FVHD is currently tracking down and monitoring returning travelers from China.

Jennifer Kertanis passed around a copy of the NACCHO booklet. Brandon Robertson said that Jennifer and her staff have been really working hard on this. He asked if there would be any Federal appropriations to the States and how would that work? Jennifer said as far as more money goes, we made it very clear that money needs to move to the community level. We will need resources for supplies, and staff salaries. Our staff is tracking time they are spending out of their day to work on COVID19.

Melissa Marquis put a webpage on the screen for the Board showing a map of the World and where the COVID19 virus is. She said that there is a total of 92,000 cases, 3,000 deaths and 48,000 recovered cases. She said the virus can be relatively mild. We need to identify those sick with the virus early to help slow the spread the virus. There is a 2% fatality rate as of this date with the flu under 1%. She said we still do not have all of the data. Most cases of COVID19 are mild and are not reported. The cruise ship that was docked in Japan has quarantined and tested all of the people on board and have been isolated.

Melissa said that Jennifer and West Hartford Bloomfield Health District met to discuss what are the key priorities right now and an incident action plan has been started. Jennifer Kertanis is the commander and will assign staff and roles. Jennifer said they will meet every Monday to go over anything that has arisen on the previous weekend. We are in the process of updating our contact databases so that we can send out bulletins. Jennifer has drafted a press release statement in case we get our first COVID19 case. She will be meeting with the school superintendents regarding a possibility of school closures. She will also update them with COVID19 information as necessary. Jennifer said that we need to control the spread of this virus which spreads by droplets from coughing. We need to help the schools and the general public. This can create anxiety. She also said that as of right now the risk is very low. Some people may actually have the flu and not the coronavirus.

Brandon Robertson asked how do you know where they are coming from? Jennifer said that any flights from China right now are being diverted to only 7 airports in the United States. All of the people on board will be monitored for fevers. We receive a list of these travelers that have returned to our towns. Jennifer said that we may get to a point where we cannot track them all. She suggested that we stay home, if we can, and protect yourselves. As far as school closing goes, we won't make a quick decision on that. There will be a process and many conversations. She also said that they will be meeting with the town CEO's on Thursday. We need to make sure we are communicating. Brandon Robertson told Jennifer it was an excellent briefing and overview. He said with this virus and all the hype we do not want to downplay handwashing, it is common

sense! Brandon asked if there was any treatment yet? Jennifer Kertanis said no, there is no treatment right now, only supported care. She said that it will be 9-12 months until a vaccine is developed and the vaccine will not likely be available for mass distribution right away. Melissa Marquis said that the virus is very mild for a lot of people. For people with severe cases the treatment is ventilators. Some may experience organ failure. She suggested the Board go onto the CDC website where there is a wealth of information to keep you updated. Jennifer Kertanis said, from your town perspective, let us know if there is anything we can do.

- **Legislative Updates:** Jennifer Kertanis told the Board to please contact legislators to advocate for more local health funding. The bill on religious exemptions for vaccines is moving along. The bill on marijuana is moving forward but public health urges caution.

V: Other: Brandon Robertson asked if there was any Other business. There was none.

VI: Adjourn: Brandon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mary Jane Parlow 1st, Jean Donihee-Perron 2nd. Motion was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.