



Farmington Valley Health District
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Minutes
Board of Health Meeting
Members attended via a Zoom online meeting due to COVID19
September 7, 2021

Present: Brandon Robertson, Kathy Blonski, Mary Jane Parlow, Beatrice Isabelle, Joe Doering, Tom McKeon, Warren Humphrey, Melissa Appleby, Maura Shea, Diane Hernsdorf, Sandra Yost, Jeff Shea, Stephanie Johnson, Jennifer Kertanis

Regular Meeting

- I. Public Comments:** Brandon Robertson opened the regular meeting at 12:03 p.m. He asked if there were any public comments, there were none.
- II. Minutes of June 1, 2021:** Brandon Roberson asked if there were any changes or questions on the June 1st Board Meeting Minutes. There were none. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Diane Hernsdorf 1st Mary Jane 2nd, motion passed.
- III. Business:**
 - **Annual Board Officer Elections:**
 - Brandon – reappoint as chairman. Warren 1st and Maura 2nd
 - New member (Maria) to be brought on board next month for Simsbury
 - Vote at next meeting regarding her Vice Chair appointment
 - Make appointments for other committees at next month's meeting
 - By-laws
 - Personnel
 - Finance
 - Sandra Yost is taking over the seat for Diane Hernsdorf
 - **Staffing Updates:**
 - New position – part-time Public Health Nurse
 - Extended offer today
 - Mary Creaser resigned and Kristen Olsson took her place
 - **COVID Update:**
 - 4th wave of pandemic
 - Case rates are 4 times higher now than last year, same time
 - Vaccination rates are high
 - 99% of the cases are the Delta variant
 - We are seeing vaccine breakthrough cases
 - Cases in long-term care and assisted living remain low
 - Update regarding mental well-being of staff
 - Workloads and dealing with a frustrated public are challenging

- Trying to find ways to provide breaks, positive activities etc.
- **Masking**
 - Simsbury has a mask requirement
 - Absence of state-wide mandate is challenging
 - Need to know when to "peel back" masking mandates in schools and/or towns as next challenge
- **Testing is challenging**
 - Locating a test is difficult for some and there is lack of clarity regarding cost, is it free, will they charge insurance, will insurance pay
 - State is aware of it, but they've not been able to keep pace
 - Issues for asymptomatic testing and insurance coverage
 - Contacts recommended to test between day 3-5
 - FVHD has testing capability
 - reserved for schools if they have a symptomatic staff member – to make decisions regarding quarantine or not
 - Also, for public sector
 - Trying to help schools solve the problem of needing to get unvaccinated staff tested
 - Weekly meetings with superintendents and school nurse supervisors continue
- **Town COVID Supplement:**
 - Remaining funds used to support continued COVID work
- **Vaccination Planning:**
 - Another school-based vaccination campaign is being scheduled to accommodate the 12+
 - Watching guidance on boosters and will have to assess our role in that process.
- **Open Gov:**
 - Long process but almost all the restaurants are in Opengov
 - Salons and pools are also in OpenGov
 - Receiving some payment through OpenGov and beginning to do inspections on tablets

IV. OTHER:

- **Adjourn:** Brandon Robertson asked for a motion to adjourn. Beatrice Isabelle 1st, Maura Shea 2nd, all in favor, Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.