

## DRAFT MINUTES LONGMEADOW BOH MEETING 4/24/2023

Longmeadow Board of Health

Minutes of Meeting held on 4/24/23 via ZOOM

Attendees:

Robert Baevsky, M.D. *Chair*

Richard Steingart, M.D. *Vice Chair*

Anastasios Angelides, M.D. *Clerk*

Michelle Keene Moore, M.D.

Gregory Valania, M.D.

Elliott Greenberg, *Associate Member*

Finn McCool, *Director*

Ashley Boudreau, R.N.

Meeting Called to order at 7 pm

1. Reading of the authorization for remote meetings (Chapter 38 Section 20 Massachusetts General Law)
  2. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2022 meeting
    - Motion Dr. Baevsky, second Dr. Keene-Moore. Approved unanimously
  3. Public comments - none
  4. Mr. McCool reviewed the recent approval of Opioid Abatement Funds from the State:
    - a. \$132,304 for FY 2023
    - b. Yearly payments thereafter of \$28,000 until 2038
    - c. Monson, Wilbraham and Hampden also received approval for abatement fund distributions.
    - d. Determination of expenditures to be made by the Director and Public Health nurse. Proposals:
      - i. Purchase of sharps drop-off box at the Adult Center
      - ii. Fentanyl strip test kits
      - iii. Narcan units
      - iv. CPR Masks
      - v. Portable sharps containers
      - vi. Support “sober housing” for individuals in recovery/remission
    - e. Discussions ongoing with stakeholders in other communities for further ideas
- Discussion among participants:
- Dr. Baevsky notes that the BOH will be responsible for disbursements
  - Dr. Angelides notes that the proposals envision the possibility of programmatic development.
  - Dr. Baevsky notes the need to initiate data collection in order to address targeted needs – for example, High School students.

- Dr. Valania notes the need to expend funds to obtain good data, including surveys. Will we need to fund ancillary help to obtain data?
- Dr Angelides notes that addressing the need among area veterans may be helpful.
- Ms. Boudreau notes the importance of addressing harm reduction, and identifying lived experience in the context of the success of abatement efforts.
- Police, EMT's and firefighters should also be surveyed.
- Dr. Valania asked whether there has been any experience reported from other municipalities using these funds. Mr. McCool will investigate.
- Dr. Greenberg questions whether the funds need to be expended within a fixed time frame – apparently not.
- Dr. Angelides asks whether the funds can be pooled with funds from other towns to create a unified program. Mr. McCool believes they can be pooled.

5. COVID update – low incidence in town

- a. Latest vaccine now available for those 65 y.o. and older
- b. Town has vaccine available, and homebound visitations for boosters will continue (with Big Y)

6. Housing inspections update for 44 Tanglewood and 27 Edgewood, and before/after remodeling of 927 Converse. Restaurant and pool inspections (upcoming) are satisfactory so far.

7. Update on Long range planning committee by Dr. Angelides. Notes the extensiveness of activities, Will keep the BOH updated as meetings progress.

Dr. Valania notes that “teaching kitchens” may [lay a role in promoting community health. Endorses walking and biking.

8. Dr. Baevsky reports that Springfield is updating facilities (by 2027) that should favorably impact water quality.

9. Dr. Keene-Moore notes that we are approaching the agricultural season and recommends surveillance for adequate sanitary facilities for field workers.

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm. Motion by Dr. Baevsky, Second Dr. Keene - Moore