



Town of Rochester

Board of Health

37 Marion Road

Rochester MA 02770

Phone: 508-763-5421 Fax: 508-763-5379

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

August 2, 2023

4:00 PM

Present: Karen Walega, Health Director
Sarah T. Eby, Board of Health
Susan Kucinski, Board Administrator
Megan daCosta Tobacco and Marijuana Program Director
Matt Armendo, Director of Public Health
Glenn Lawrence, Board of Health
Connie Dolan, Town Nurse

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 4:00 P.M.

Sarah called the meeting to order. Glenn seconded the motion.

Review Minutes – July 5, 2023, minutes

Review and sign May 2023 and June 2023 minutes

Sarah made a motion to accept July 2023 minutes.

Glenn seconded the motion.

4:05 Met with Matt Armendo, Director of Public Health, Connie Dolan, Rochester PHN, IMA for Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant. Connie explained the grant funds. Sarah questioned what happens when the funds run out. Matt said that Grant renews 3 times every three years until 2033. The funds are already in place for FY24. Karen is the primary contact person, and Connie is the second for the Town of Rochester. They have voting rights for the Collaborative. The Collaborative needs 3 towns to get the funding. 15% will be held back, an Administrative cost, to go to Westport, because it is the lead agency.

People hired through the grant are Westport employees, being shared with other Towns in the Collaborative, Karen explained we currently hire out for Food and Beach testing inspections with the Board of Health budget. If there is no money in the budget, then the bill is to be sent to the Collaborative. The stipulation is the budget funds need to be exhausted first. They cannot supplement the municipal budget with grant funds.

Matt discussed how they prioritize personnel. There is a coordinator, full-time inspector, and part-time inspector. Whichever town needs who (inspector), they will schedule a person for the request. There will be no double booking.

Glenn was concerned if there were strings attached. He explained in the past they've worked with Regional Programs that promised things the Town did not get. Matt advised there are no strings. A municipality can enter and withdraw. Glenn was concerned about losing rights to things. What are the positives?

Matt explained that they did not want regionalization. Towns' Boards of Health can stay intact as is, and what is it that the Boards need? How can the Collaborative help? Matt

said there would be more discussion at the next meeting. There is nothing negative about the Collaborative.

Karen provided information on how it has helped with the budget. Karen stated they provided the Board of Health with a printer; paid for conferences; paid for supplies. Karen advised she now has a backup. Bob Ethier can no longer work (doing inspections for Rochester) because of his hours, and Karen said they are tapping into the resource with the Collaborative. She is promoting the PHEG. The State is putting the money in and increases. She needs help with inspections.

Connie added the Collaborative would have a nurse and someone to deal with hoarding issues. She added the nurse would have a mental health background, as there are not a lot of resources for hoarding. It provides resources for the Town. There is a lot of health equity coming down, they're getting it in place and mandated. Connie added that Westport is the lead. There is discussion of the grant, and what direction they want to go in. The State does not understand what the goals are.

Matt said that the first goal is to get everyone certified. They are bringing people in and building their infrastructure. Within 6 months to a year, they want everyone certified in Environmental Inspections, Soil Evaluations, Septic Systems and Title V, Safe Serve, Housing, and Housing training. They must have a work plan in place.

Connie added the Collaborative provided data loggers for the vaccine refrigerators. The data loggers alert when it is out of range.

Board members inquired about withdrawing, and if there is a penalty the Town pulls out. Matt said no, the Town just won't be part of the Collaborative.

Karen advised having this come to us is amazing and invaluable for the Town to have these benefits.

Matt brought up an Outreach Program, having a multi-lingual Health Fair, Chiropractors, speakers to provide information on Mental Health Awareness, other related health concerns, and opioid issues.

Sarah made the motion to sign (the Southcoast Public Health Collaborative Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) for the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant). Glenn seconded. Karen stated Dale had already emailed her about the grant, saying he was all set. Matt said all the inspectors would be local people. Sarah made a motion to move forward to sign the Collaborative. Glenn seconded.

5:00 **Megan daCosta** reviewed with Board members, the Tobacco Product Regulations for both State, and the Town of Rochester.

Sarah advised Megan, while the Board appreciates the suggestions, there is no expansion on the definitions, she would be concerned if it tipped over in the marijuana. The Board reviewed the suggestions, which were highlighted in the documents provided by Ms. daCosta and went through the list.

Ms. daCosta will be emailing Karen an updated Regulations for the Rochester Board of Health Restricting the sale of Tobacco Products within the next couple of days, based on

the Board's decisions. It would be presented at the September 6, 2023, Board of Health meeting.

Tree Talk Discussion – The owners are away, and this will be reviewed later.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT

Connie reported the following cases: Lyme - 23, HGA - 2, Babesiosis - 4, COVID - 1, and Crypto - 4.

The Wellness Clinics at the Senior Center continue to be well attended. Clinic provides vital sign assessments, lung and heart sound assessment, wound assessments, nursing education, psycho/socials visits and assistance to seniors looking for new medical practitioners. 7/5 - 4 residents; 7/12 - 5 residents; 7/19 - 5 residents; and 7/26 - 5 residents.

Wellness Clinics at the Annie Maxim House were also well attended. Vital signs, B12 injection, heart and lung sound assessments, psycho/social visits. 7/19 - 5 residents.

She wrote an article for the monthly Senior Center newsletter, attended bi-weekly DPH webinars, attended the monthly SCPHC meeting and emailed summary to Rochester Board members, coordinated execution of IMA, attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on 7/24, to discuss the Public Health Excellence Grant and the Inter-Municipality Agreement execution which is required for participation in the Collaborative, coordinated with Marcia Kessler on opioid settlement funds expenditure, and CPR/Narcan training. She ordered additional high dose flu vaccine which will be paid for by a \$10,000 COA grant. High dose flu clinic scheduled for 10/10/2023. Wrote a press release from the Rochester Board of Health on tick-borne illnesses, which was sent to the Wanderer, Sippican Week, Standard Times, and ORCTV. They use submissions at their discretion.

HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen reported she issued 4 irrigation wells at the Village. Septic plan reviews at 1087 Walnut Plain Road, 213 Marion Road, and 343 Neck Road. Inspections were done at 6 Robinson Road, 8 Taber Lane, Lot 97A Box Turtle Lane, 373 County Road, and 375 County Road. ZBA Reviews at 149 Marion Road and 2 Bishop Road. Certificate of Compliance issued to 6 Robinson Road. Attended meetings 7/17 for the Public Health Excellence Grant, and 7/27 with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the Grant. She conducted follow-up inspections at 373 County Road, and 375 County Road. Karen contacted Attorney Brian Winner. He would be reviewing Karen's draft letter to the owner of 375 County Road so that she understands that it could still go to receivership if not compliant. 373 County Road is not compliant. Attorney Winner will draft a letter to him and copy it to the Housing Court.

375 County Road is asking for another 30 days. The property owner is working on cleaning it up. There has been no response yet from the owner of 373 County Road.

No Trailside Estates update as Rich Rheame is not available due to a death in the family. Dave Nicolosi will be doing the work. Kenny Motta is aware of the status.

Karen advised there had been a complaint regarding foul odors coming from Lloyd's Market's dumpster. She stated Dan was working on it. It could be due to the younger new employees, or it needs to have trash pickups twice a week. It was not an issue with the previous owners.

Mileage sheet for Karen signed by the Board.

Sarah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20. Glenn seconded the motion.

Date: 10/4/2023

