

**Minutes**  
**Pittsfield Board of Health**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**  
**VIA Zoom 980 9327 6257, 6:00 PM**

Present: Chairperson Alan Kulberg; Board Members: Steve Smith, Brad Gordon, Katrina Medders, Kimberly Loring

Also Present: Health Department Director Gina Armstrong.

Convening

The meeting of the Pittsfield Board of Health was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, via Zoom. Chairperson Kulberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of December 2, 2020 and they have been approved.

Hearing 23 Brown St. Correction Order: This matter was postponed as the attorney for the tenant was not provided with adequate notice of the hearing date and time.

Quarterly Public Health Nursing Report: Kayla Donnelly-Winters, Public Health Nurse Manager, presented the Public Health Nurse Quarterly Report for October 1, 2020-December 31, 2020, which included a Communicable Disease Prevalence report. Ms. Donnelly-Winters reported that she held multiple flu clinics and administered 287 flu shots for city employees. She noted that there have been no reported cases of the flu in Pittsfield which she attributes to face coverings. Ms. Donnelly-Winters provided the Board with an update of the efforts taken to in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. She noted that there was a very large increase in cases in late October and although there were over 1200 cases confirmed this quarter, she states that the efforts made in contact tracing kept those numbers down. She further stated that in response to the outbreak in Pittsfield in October and November, and to pandemic as a whole, the health department made various efforts in the fight against Covid 19 such as: expansion and training of the contacting tracing team, providing infection control guidance and education to long term care facilities, and daycares, and providing assistance to getting testing for homebound people. She indicated that the department also worked closely with CTC (Contact Tracing Collaborative). Additionally, Ms. Donnelly-Winters sat in on the Hillcrest Commons rapid response team during the outbreak and provided help with infection control and reporting. Chairperson Kulberg inquired about how many cases Ms. Donnelly-Winters is now seeing per day to which she reported 2-6 cases.

Covid 19 Update: Gina Armstrong provided a summary of the latest data points, vaccination status and contact tracing. Ms. Armstrong noted that Pittsfield is in the green as categorized by the state. She notes that this means that Pittsfield has had less than 10 average cases in a 14 day period/100,000 people. She stated that Pittsfield continues to trend down and is at .81% which equals about 2-4 cases per day and further notes that this is very manageable for the contact tracing team. Ms. Armstrong referred to data provided on the community dashboard which is regularly updated by Commissioner Riccardo Morales. She noted that the city is continuing to monitor for the virus in the wastewater as well. Dr. Kulberg inquired of Public Health Nurse Manager Kayla Donnelly as to what the origin of the Covid 19 cases are at this point. Ms. Donnelly noted that it is largely household spread, which she notes is better than being community spread. Ms. Armstrong noted that Berkshire County has vaccinated 40,013 (numbers obtained from the Mass DPH dashboard as of March, 4, 2021), and further notes that we have had two additional clinics since that time. She indicated that there has been

a nice supply of vaccine in Berkshire County. Ms. Armstrong explained that the local clinic is not considered a mass vaccination site in the state, but rather Pittsfield is using the collaborative approach. In Berkshire County this is a collaborative with BCBOHA, Berkshire Health Systems, Fairview Hospital, Pittsfield Health Department, Southern Berkshire & Northern Berkshire EMS, County Ambulance, the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, law enforcement, emergency management teams, and the Western Mass Medical Reserve Corp., along with Berkshire Community College who has been supportive in efforts to hold the clinics at Paterson Field House. With this model, Ms. Armstrong notes that the collaborative is able to receive more vaccine in the county than we might have otherwise. An initial analysis of our data shows that about 88% of those vaccinated locally were Berkshire County residents. Ms. Armstrong noted that in addition to the collaborative, there have been mobile unit clinics held in lower income and affordable senior housing, homeless shelters, and other supportive housing programs. She notes that there are also non-locally supported clinics in pharmacies and grocery stores. The local Board of Health and regional collaborative is not involved with these clinics. Ms. Armstrong stated that the state is currently in Phase 2 which includes people who are 65 and over and individuals with 2 or more certain medical conditions and it will take a few weeks to get these categories fully protected. She noted that educators and daycare providers will be eligible beginning on March 11, 2021. It is unknown when vaccine supply will be available, this depends on the federal allocation, but she noted that the collaborative will get the information out to the public as soon as they are able. Ms. Armstrong relayed that the registration system through the state's PrepMod site has been challenging but is being updated to help with those challenges. Dr. Kulberg inquired as to whether the pre-registration system used at the mass vaccine sites will also be used for educator registration locally. Ms. Armstrong responded that pre-registration is only available for the mass vaccination sites at this time, but it is anticipated that the system will be expanded to the collaboratives as well. She further noted that the Regional Collaborative will make an attempt to set clinic dates for school personnel to coincide with the dates provided by the state, however this is dependent upon vaccine supply. She stated that the collaborative does not create clinics until vaccine supply has been secured. Ms. Armstrong noted that efforts must be kept up to follow all guidance to stop the spread of Covid 19. Dr. Kulberg noted that the CDC has just announced that gatherings can now occur with people who are fully vaccinated without face coverings, but questioned whether the state has also adopted this guidance at this point.

MDPH Request for Response – Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services: Ms. Armstrong announced that BRPC's Public Health Division will respond to this funding opportunity. She notes that the timing is good because we have learned this past year where the gaps are in the local and state public health systems are. She notes that the response will look at where shared services are lacking and where they could be enhanced. Ms. Armstrong noted that the proposal for crossed-jurisdictional service plan will be for the county. She notes that BRPC already has the beginning of that with the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, noting that Pittsfield contracts with the Alliance for soil tests, perc tests, nursing support services, etc. This grant, if awarded, could bring up to \$300,000.00.

Health Department Updates:

1. Gina Armstrong reviewed the Monthly Inspections Reports for December, January and February.

Also Discussed: Gina Armstrong acknowledged Dr. Kulberg's work over the past year as he moves back into retirement.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Board Member Gordon and seconded by Board Member Smith, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Layden, Clerk

Documents/Materials Distributed at Meeting

- Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020
- Public Health Nurse Quarterly Report
- Hearing Documents for 23 Brown St.
- MDPH Request for Response
- Inspectional Services Reports