

WHATELY BOARD OF HEALTH

4 SANDY LANE

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2021

Called to order 7:05 pm

PRESENT: Fran Fortino, Chair; Becky Jones, MD; Michael Archbald, Mark Bushee, District Health Agent, Allison Van der Velden, MD, CEO Community Health Center of Franklin County

1. **Farmworkers and Covid 19 vaccinations:** Discussed urgency of need for this population at risk related to multiple factors including communication, transportation, education on Covid 19 and the efficacy of the vaccine, highly mobile population, etc. Currently the Community Health Center is providing 60 vaccinations weekly with a steady supply of vaccine. With the season changing and pending arrival that will double the farmworker population in the next several weeks there was unanimous agreement that removing blocks to getting farmworkers vaccinated is a high priority. The BOH will utilize our contacts to work on issues from transportation, to education materials, to working with farm owners showing any hesitancy in getting this done.
2. **Meeting minutes:** Reviewed and edited 3/16/21 meeting minutes, motion made and minutes were unanimously accepted as revised.
3. **Current topics:**
 - **Schools and town Covid 19 updates:** No current known Covid 19 residents in Whately. As discussed last meeting on April 5th DESE is requiring all MA elementary schools to return to full in-person classes 5 days/week.
 - **Local Covid 19 Vaccination Clinics:** Two clinics will be held this upcoming week. On Wednesday 1p-6p and Saturday 9a-1p at the Treehouse building (formerly Channing Bete). All slots are already registered for but there are some 40 open slots at the Greenfield Senior Center Clinic for the currently designated population.
 - **Manure:** No news, tabled until next meeting.
4. **Foothills Health District:** Discussed the Public Health Excellence Grant, bidders conference and Q and A set for this Thursday 3/18/21 with RFR due by 4/1/2021. Grant application needs to be practical and include specific costs including staffing, etc. Digitizing our BOH records in all four towns will be proposed.
5. Monthly bills paid

Next Meeting set for: March 23, 2021

Meeting adjourned 8:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Archbald