

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Board Meeting Date: June 1, 2020

Location: Webex Meeting

Members in Attendance: Anthony L. Schlaff, MD, MPH, Chair
David Hemenway, PhD
Pat Maher, APRN, MA MS
Peter Moyer, MD MPH
Gretchen Stoddard, DrPH, MPH

Agenda Items	1. Approval of minutes 2. Update on COVID-19
Call to Order	5:02 pm
1. Welcome	
2. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approval of minutes – May 18, 2020○ One change noted for correction to Dr. Stoddard's credentials○ Minutes approved by attending members, Dr. Schlaff, Dr. Moyer and Dr. Stoddard• Update on COVID-19:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EOC Operations: 823 calls, 330 emails○ Graduations<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Jett has approved several graduations: Brookline High School, Runkle, Health, Lincoln, Driscoll▪ Everyone will use similar format (Heath School plan): A portion of the graduation is virtual, other part was diploma pick up, staggered (every 5 minutes) with limited attendance of four family members, and an opportunity to take pictures.▪ He has not approved Dexter and Green▪ Brookline High graduation most difficult with over 400 students. They will have a caravan, take pictures at the school and drive away.▪ Dr. Schlaff asked if there was any proposals to have students 6 ft. apart on a field for the graduation ceremony. Dr. Jett had one school ask to use this format, but rejected the request since it goes against the limit of 10 people per gathering.○ Town elections

- The Town is still looking for volunteers for the polls, having some difficulties getting people to volunteers.
- Dr. Moyer asked if there is a reason volunteers cannot work half a day. He would be willing to volunteer for part of the day. Dr. Jett said they are reducing the number of hours in shifts for volunteers. He discussed the use of Plexiglas and other PPE for workers at the polls. Dr. Jett will visit polls sites to make sure there are no issues. He believes the low number of poll workers relates to COVID-19.
- Dr. Jett also stated that there were a number of absentee ballots submitted and this could reduce the number of people voting on site.
- **Reopening of restaurants & public ways**
 - Pat Maloney and the Planning Department worked on reopening among restaurants and distributing information to businesses on reopening.
 - Dr. Jett discussed the challenge with expanding public ways and outdoors seating for restaurants. There will be challenges with keeping 6 ft. barriers between outdoor seating and people walking on public ways. Not all restaurants have outdoor seating, which means they will have to apply for special permits to use the sidewalk, working with Health and Building departments.
 - Dr. Stoddard asked if there have been many requests from restaurants to have outdoor seating. Dr. Jett said there are, especially since no one can sit at bars in restaurants and some have limited space indoors. It will be difficult with limited space available to expand seating areas.
 - Dr. Schlaff asked if wait staff would have to wear masks at all times. Dr. Jett mentioned this is something they will have to think about since Brookline has a policy requiring a mask in establishments
 - Dr. Jett mentioned that Trader Joe's began requiring masks in their store before the state and town.

- Dr. Jett discussed the difference between MA and FL. In Florida, only workers are required to wear masks, but patrons are not. Department of Business & Regulatory has some public health power. They regulate themselves and hire public health inspectors, but they do not inspect restaurants, hotels and gyms. The businesses community inspects themselves.
- Global numbers have slowed. Global: 6.2 million confirmed cases, 372,000 deaths
- USA: 1.83 million confirmed cases, 106,000 deaths
- MASS: 96,000 confirmed cases, 6,700 deaths
- Of the deaths in US, 46,000 were in nursing homes
- **Brookline:** 361 positive cases (1 additional case since Friday), 310 quarantined, 250 released from quarantine, 219 released from isolation, 88 suspect individuals and 44 deaths.
- The numbers on Monday went from 344 to 360 because they transitioned from suspect to positive cases. Suspect individuals category is for people who fit the clinical definitions but not tested. Since more people are being tested, there is an increase in the number of positive cases.
- Dr. Schlaff pointed out the number of deaths and Dr. Jett confirmed that most are in nursing homes. CareOne continues to accept new patients from the hospital. He wanted them to discontinue accepting new patients and have more oversight in the future. There should be a place to take healthy people, separate from those with COVID-19.
- When someone goes back to work after having COVID-19, often boss says have to have negative PCR to return to work. He added that he had heard Fauci say that PCR could reflect the virus but could mean you have virus particles.
- Dr. Jett stated that that was the CDC recommendation. Dr. Schlaff asked about the speed of test results. Dr. Jett explained that the test could take several days.
- Demographic breakdown of cases has not changed. The average age of COVID cases is 50 years old.
- Dr. Schlaff stated that he would not be surprised if the average age for cases dropped as we move from PCR to antibody testing with younger adults and kids being asymptomatic.

- Dr. Jett showed a chart, cases peaked in mid-May. Increase in activity during May could be from increased testing.
- Dr. Jett spoke with the Task Force earlier about health inequities, health disparities and the protests. Unemployment is always higher in the African American and minority communities. Reopening restaurants and many workers are minorities, but they are receiving more money from unemployment, which will shift in July. He also discussed poverty, health disparities (disproportionate number of deaths from COVID-19 in African American community), despair and police brutality and the buildup factoring into the current conditions and protests. This will become more difficult during COVID because the issues are not being addressed. The local board of health stressed this in a call earlier today.
- Police Chief Lipson released a statement regarding the recent protests. Dr. Jett will share with the members of ACPH. He also mentioned he has personally witnessed
- Dr. Schlaff mentioned the diversity among people protesting. He also expressed he is worried about the mini-epidemics that could come from protests.
- Dr. Jett mentioned a helicopter landing on expressway to disperse and prevent groups from moving into surrounding communities. People are coming from other areas into cities to the protests. He discussed raising his children understanding this optic and fear, not just dealing with police but also looking for employment and traveling through different neighborhoods. He discussed poverty as a driving force. He discussed working with Public Health Awakening, local groups nationally, on reshaping America, creating healthier and more equitable communities.
- Dr. Moyer mentioned the opportunity for national recognition of importance for public health and the need for universal health care.
- Dr. Schlaff discussed violence seen one way. A small minority of people in demonstrations start violence, but that is what receives attention.
- Pat Maher mentioned the disparities as a form of violence and the ability of public health to address racism by improving health by increasing insurance, etc.

- Dr. Jett would like to put out a statement from ACPH. He discussed creating a visual through the statement to help the broader community understand the conditions and issues, a way to connect and educate them.
- Pat Maher shared a statement from listener: “The one thing Brookline has the power to do is create wide cycle tracks as an alternative to transit/transportation systems that is equitable. Many people of color ride the buses through Brookline and Brookline has not given them transportation alternatives.” She added that this is something that they could discuss as people start going back to work and using transportation. Dr. Moyer inquired about the ways they are planning to clean and schedule, but Dr. Jett mentioned it is on the transportation board agenda. Commenter, Ann Lusk, asked for support from ACPH but the members do not have all information. They will discuss in next meeting once information is shared.
- Dr. Schlaff attempted to share a statement as a starting point for the ACPH, but had technical difficulties.

3. Other Business

- Rescheduling time for next ACPH meeting to next Monday at 3:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:58 pm