

Final
Wellfleet Board of Health
Hybrid Meeting: Zoom/ 715 Old Kings Highway
Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Nick Picariello (chair), Janet Drohan, Deborah Freeman

Others Present: Assistant Health Agent Gary Locke, Alex Nelson, Lezli Rowell

Regrets: Ken Granlaund

Chair Picariello called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm. A quorum was present.

Meeting Minutes:

Approval for minutes for September 13, 2023

An amendment to clarify was made on page three of the minutes to add the word “Watershed.” Elsensohn made the change. Drohan then made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Picariello seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved 3-0.

Old Business:

Chair Picariello informed the Board that he had received a response from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regarding the letter of support approved and signed by Picariello on behalf of the Board in support of the Aids Support Group of Cape Cod (ASGCC) on September 13, 2023. Another step is required, which is to confirm by email that the ASGCC would be a vendor for the Board so that direct services could begin to be provided. This requested email has now been sent.

New Business:

Outer Cape Opioid Remediation Work Group:

Alex Nelson, Network Coordinator of Outer Cape Community Solutions (OCCS), made a PowerPoint presentation explaining the nature of the Outer Cape Wellness Collaborative which is comprised of the Health Agents of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown. The agents meet every two weeks with OCCS. Health Agents, healthcare organizations, and addiction services organizations, with input from police departments (including Wellfleet’s), comprise the Outer Cape’s Opioid Remediation Fund Work Group. These people work together to provide access to healthcare to all residents in the four Towns. The plan adopted by the Collaborative includes: harm reduction, treatment, recovery, prevention, and accessibility (including transportation), and provides programs in the four Towns to provide direct service to all demographics. In addition to this effort, the Collaborative works with other organizations to provide a Town nurse and a behavioral health clinician, NaloxBoxes to provide NARCAN, and community programs. Members of the Collaborative have realized that as the programs and services gain further reach, more data on the needs of the community will be available to adapt the programs to meet those needs. Nelson explained the State funding that already exists as a result of a national settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors. Massachusetts received about five million dollars of this settlement, and has set up, along with the County, regulations on how this money should be spent. Recommendations include Towns pooling funds, involving the recovery community, use-related projects,

and evidence-based plans. The funds will be released over a seventeen-year period, beginning in 2022. Wellfleet has already received approximately \$35,000 dollars. In order for the Collaborative to have access to this money, the Board must vote to accept the proposed program, and bring the Board's decision to the Selectboard. The Selectboard must then formally approve the program to bring the issue up for a vote at Town Meeting. Once a release of the money has been approved at Town Meeting, the funds will be released yearly without need of additional votes. The Board commended the Collaborative for their holistic, well thought out approach, and expressed excitement about participating in, and supporting this good work.

Freeman made a motion that the Board urge the Selectboard to approve the expenditure of these funds for Outer Cape Opioid Remediation and noted that the Board advocates for a swift approval. The Board sees the program and its components for harm reduction, recovery, treatment, and prevention as fully appropriate and is in full support of this effort. Drohan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. 3-0.

The Board reiterated that whatever support the Collaborative may need, it should come to the Board so that the Board may offer it. There are many resources in Wellfleet, and the Board would like to assist the Work Group in making connections. Lezli Rowell thanked the Board for hearing and approving the presentation and credited Hillary Greenberg-Lemos for her work in getting this program established and providing information about and to Wellfleet.

Freeman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Drohan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by



Jennifer Elsensohn, Committee Secretary

Documents:

Meeting meetings: September 13, 2023

Email regarding the Outer Cape Opioid Remediation Work Group

Power Point provided by Outer Cape Community Solutions