

BOH: Minutes from the Meeting of the Board on January 6th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 PM. The Board Members in attendance were: Board Chairperson, Dr. Brophy, Dr. Andrade, and then Eno Mondesir (Exec. Health Officer, Ex. Officio).

I briefly welcomed the members and then introduced Dr. Brophy who led the meeting. The minutes were presented to the Board who then voted unanimously to approve them.

As it has previously requested by the Board of Directors, I gave an update on the COVID-19 statistics in the City. Also, presented other COVID-19 data (including vaccine dashboard) to the Directors.

Our next agenda item that was vaccination: Brewster's Ambulance continues to offer COVID-19 vaccine to every eligible individual who needs one. However, we are seeing a decrease in the numbers. Dr. Brophy has recommended that BOH and the City consider different ways to communicate the message to get people vaccinated.

Contact

Nursing positions at BOH: We have interviewed one Nurse for the vacancy and made an offer to her, which she accepted. Presently, all 3 Nursing positions are filled.

Contact Tracing: Case investigation has been a significant concern for the Board of health. The City has registered more cases of COVID-19 than ever and BOH had limited capacity to follow them all. The suggestion was given by Dr. Andrade that the BOH and the City might consider ways to redeploy their manpower that could help to mitigate COVID-19 case investigation.

Another important issue is the Behavioral Health Need in Brockton. In discussion with other health Service providers in the Brockton and across the Commonwealth, Mental and Behavioral health problems are at an all time high. COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the issues around drug addiction, Behavioral Health. Together with our partners in health care services, such as BNHC, BAMSI, BOH wants to play a pivotal role in addressing these critical aspects of needs, and their social determinants. I have been appointed by Governor Baker on the Department of Mental Health's Statewide Advisory Council. I am scheduled to be sworn in on January 18. I hope that I will be able to help build coalition across various service

providers and professionals with different expertise in an effort to address the City's health challenges in a more comprehensive manner.

The platform to continue with our monthly meetings: The Board has favored the option to continue holding the meetings remotely at this time.

The Board has also delegated to me the task of relaying to our Mayor the invitation for him to attend the next Board meeting for the purpose of updating the BOH Directors on the plan of transition from Board of Health to the Department of Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM; and our next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, 2022.