

BOH: Minutes from the Board Meeting on April 7, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM. The Members in attendance: Board Chairperson, Dr. Brophy, Fr. Fiske, and then Eno Mondesir (Exec. Health Officer, Ex. Officio); Dr. Andrade notified the Board of his absence.

I briefly welcomed the members and then introduced Dr. Brophy who led the meeting. The minutes from prior Board meeting were presented to the Board. Then, Dr. Brophy asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fiske so moved, and the Board voted unanimously to approve them.

Moving through the agenda: Dr. Brophy has asked that I (Eno) brief the Board on current COVID-19 Stats. I presented the latest COVID-19 cases for Brockton, with an explanation on a drop in COVID-related deaths, which Dr. Brophy had questions on.

I explained the reason for a reduction in the mortality rate cases. Basically, DPH has redefined the way that death related to COVID-19 will be reported. Initially, DPH adopted that people who have contracted COVID-19 and then die within 60 days may be reported such death as COVID-related. Under the new definition, anyone who has contracted COVID and dies within 30 days meets the current guidelines and the death will be documented as COVID-related.

Also, I highlighted for the Board an uptake in new COVID cases in the past several days. The City has increased to double digits of COVID-19.

Dr. Brophy asked if a different COVID-19 variant may be an issue, among other things? I responded by saying that it is part of the issue. Also, we have observed a correlation between COVID cases in Europe and the U.S. Usually the United States follow the European trend.

Next agenda item presented is the use of sewer wastewater as a surveillance modality to monitor COVID-19 concentration in the City. So far, the COVID viral load in our sewer here has been much higher than that in most Cities in the Commonwealth (almost 4 times over).

Dr. Brophy has indicated that vaccination remains a major component in our efforts to mitigate COVID-19.

I further elaborated that BOH is pushing to make COVID-19 vaccine available to the people in Brockton. For example, the Public Health Nurses have been

administering vaccine in various locations. Under DPH contract, Brewster's Ambulance continues to vaccinate at the Shaw's Center once a week: every Saturday, from 7:00 AM to 3PM; while BOH vaccinates at the same location every Tuesday, from 2:00 to 7:00 PM.

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. BOH has adopted the suggestion given by Dr. Andrade earlier. The suggestion was for Board of Health to consider ways to redeploy its resources, in terms of manpower that could help to mitigate COVID-19 case investigation. Therefore, a part of our new strategies is that, we have been contacting people who are not up-to-date with their vaccine requirements, and encourage them to come to one of our clinics. This is working well.

Another issue that we discussed on the agenda is the need to maintain an official, ongoing testing site in the City so people have access to testing whenever they need to. We have been approached by Curative, a private organization that is involved in COVID-19 testing, as well as in vaccination. We are in conversation with this company to see if we can use their service.

Mr. Fiske mentions that it is an important initiative to have this service available to the residents of Brockton.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM; and our next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2022.