

## **BOH: Minutes from the Board Meeting on June 2, 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.

Mr. Rob May and Mr. John Fay from the City's Department of Planning and Development attended the for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Board to adopt NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA (rDNA). There were various questions from the Board of Directors. In the end, a consensus was reached to hold another hearing on this matter (Members of the Board expressed the desire to see the City play a more active participation (or some oversight role) on the project.

Prevalence of COVID-19 in Brockton: COVID-19 continues to increase among the population. We have a continued rise of the virus in the wastewater sewer. 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. Another explanation for the uptake is a drop in COVID-19 protocol and a significant behavior change. More people interact without wearing masks.

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. Every so often, the City has registered more cases of COVID-19 than ever and BOH had limited capacity to follow them all. Therefore, 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. We have been delivering Home Test Kits to homes of the residents.

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 5:23 PM. The Board voted to go on break in July and scheduled our next Board meeting for August 40, 2022.