

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, March 9, 2021

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Michelle Gottlieb, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of the Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Andrew told the Board that there are a total of 1172 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in town. The active cases at this time are 15 and there are 31 confirmed deaths of COVID-19. Beginning March 11th, educators, child care workers and K-12 staff will begin the vaccine distribution. A newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine is now available. This vaccine requires only one dose and is available to people who 18 years of age or older. The supply is limited and there won't be much available until the end of March.

In Marblehead, 2429 doses have been shipped and 2170 have been administered. A total of 2872 residents have been fully vaccinated and 2614 have received the first vaccination.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of January 26th as amended. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of February 2nd as amended. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of February 9th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of February 23rd as amended. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Marblehead Covid Mental Health Task Force

Problem

As the COVID-19 pandemic approaches the year mark, so does the associated anxiety we are experiencing as a community, particularly around loneliness and isolation. For the general public, the mental health effects of COVID-19 are as essential to address as the physical health effects. For the one in five who already have mental health conditions, or those who are at risk of developing them, we need to take measures now to address them.

With the shutdown of schools, moves to virtual learning, and disruptions in activities and social lives, children and adolescents are at especially high risk for emotional, attentional, or behavioral difficulties. Young people are experiencing thoughts of suicide or self-harm at alarmingly high rates.

On the other end of the age spectrum, physical distancing has taken a heavy toll on the mental health of our senior population. Living alone and being more digitally isolated, are risk factors, as are fears of re-entering the community as things open up.

The events of 2020/21 had profoundly different mental health

impacts on racial and ethnic groups and we cannot ignore racial differences when discussing the mental health impact of the pandemic, and need to develop supports for communities of color.

Mission

Therefore, In light of this crisis, and because we know that history has shown that the mental health impact of disasters outlast the physical impacts, the Marblehead Covid Mental Health Task Force will convene as a cross-sector group of community leaders to ensure that we are addressing and providing the appropriate intervention strategies to guide our citizens, and particularly the most vulnerable, toward improved mental health.

Potential focus and activities of the Task Force, to be developed as the group is convened:

- Identify mental health data needs in light of covid pandemic
- Identify gaps and ensure access to mental health care across the community
- Identify, develop and determine mechanisms for sharing resources across the community
- Offer community wide speakers, forums, webinars

The Task Force is created, and will operate, under the auspices of the Marblehead Board of Health, and will report to the Board of Health.

Task Force Membership will include:

- Representative from Board of Health
- Representative from Board of Selectmen
- Representative from School Administration
- Representative from School Guidance Department
- Director of the Marblehead Counseling Center
- Representative from the Council on Aging
- Healthcare Professional (Nurse/Physician) - application to BOH
- 2 Marblehead citizens - applications to BOH

MOTION to create Marblehead Covid Mental Health Task Force and mission statement. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to name Michelle Gottlieb the chair of the Marblehead Covid Mental Health Task Force. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Gottlieb, in favor; Dr. Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk

