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# TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Glenn A. French, Esq  
Swati Sane, M.D.  
Lisa Bennett Johnson, DHSc, MPH, RDH, CPH, MCHES

TOWN: Kristin Black, PhD, MS, Health Director  
Angie Sowden, Administrative Assistant

OTHER: Michael Creamer, Resident

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The Board of Health (BOH) met on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**, in The Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Chair, Glenn A. French, Esq.

## **1. Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health - General Update Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

### **Public Health Excellence Grant**

Additional funds were received this year exceeding the initial \$300,000 grant. The epidemiologist position has been transferred to this grant, potentially lasting nine additional years (three renewable terms of three years each). The budget for this grant has been submitted, it includes maintaining the epidemiologist position, Michael Seager's Health Agent position and includes room for salary increases, cost of living adjustments, and merit increases. We are awaiting approval, but the outlook is positive.

### **Contact Tracing Grant**

The Contract Tracing Grant was extended for a third year with approximately \$100,000 remaining unspent this fiscal year that will be added to the initial \$160,000. We originally had a full-time nurse but then all contact tracing hours were reduced and that led to a transition to a part-time nurse who later moved on to Salmon VNA for personal reasons. Preliminary state funding agency approvals have been obtained for purchasing AED and CPR training equipment, including 12 dummies and AEDs, along with associated training supplies to continue offering affording CPR courses.

### **Community Health Improvement Plan**

There is excitement about the possibility of a Community Health Improvement Plan. We would collaborate with a third-party vendor to review the Metro West Community Health Assessment. We have had a positive response in Northborough to the assessment. In addition to Northborough, The Metro West Health Foundation will share the assessment data collected in Southborough and Westborough.

### **Maternal Child Health Program**

We are exploring a Maternal Child Health Program in partnership with Salmon VNA for home visits to mothers with early discharges or complications. Nurses would conduct vital sign checks, baby weigh-ins and provide guidance on breastfeeding and wound care. Outreach would focus on local pediatrician offices and sending welcome letters via the

Town Clerk with their access to birth certificates. Once the program is established, we can sustain it through state grants.

**2. Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds - Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

The town approved the appropriation of the opioid settlement funds, with approximately \$107,000 received fiscal year 2023, and there is more expected over the next 16 years. Interdepartmental meetings will be scheduled to discuss the use of these funds with input from various town departments including Youth and Family Services, Police, Fire, and Schools. Efforts are underway to enhance the health curriculum in schools focusing on substance use prevention. A goal would be to send out postcards to residents to inform them about harm prevention strategies such as Narcan training, the availability of fentanyl test strips and highlighting some of the state's substance use prevention resources. Also, input from the public, especially those directly affected by substance use, could be solicited through a town-wide mailing to determine how the funds should be used. Some options could include hiring addiction counselors and collaborating with recovery centers to support treatment and recovery. The final approval for fund usage lies with the Town Administrator's Office and the Board of Selectman.

**3. Be Well Northborough - Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

The Be Well Summer Kickoff Event is set for Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. That is the last day of school and a half day. The Health Department and several other town departments will provide free information and resources including but not limited to mental health pamphlets, hands on CPR demonstrations, sun safety, tick identification, food safety, swim safety, summer programming at the library, etc. There will be inflatables and fun activities for families. Wegmans has generously donated healthy snacks and drinks again this year. The aim of this event is to foster social connections among residents and connect them with various town departments.

**4. Signing of New Tobacco Control Regulations - Presented by Dr. Kristin Black**

Northborough Board of Health presented the final draft of tobacco product sales and use restrictions. A public hearing was held at the last BOH meeting, and the Board voted to approve as written. There were no tobacco retailers that attended the public hearing, they were notified in advance. The final version is available for Board of Health signatures. Notice of the regulation's passing has been posted in the Worcester Telegram. No responses from tobacco retailers have been received and this doesn't alter their current product offerings. The smoke-free workplace regulation is being worked on separately. Discussion on adopting the separate smoke-free workplace regulation will occur at a future meeting, with a focus on the Massachusetts Officers Association's model regulation.

**5. Any Other Business to Come Before the Board**

**Resident: Michael Creamer Regarding the sale of 345 West Main Street (Tradebe)**

Michael Creamer raised concerns about the sale of 345 West Main Street and inquired if the permits associated with the property would be transferred to a new owner. He expressed

his hope that a hazardous waste disposal business would not be established on the property. The former property owner, a company called Tradebe, was a hazardous waste disposal company. They would transfer waste to and from that location. Large trucks would operate during the day and night.

Kristin Black responded that in the event of a new owner, the process would involve the Planning and Zoning Boards for approvals. The Boards would determine if the new owner's proposed use is allowed or if a special permit is required. Kristin Black assured Michael Creamer that they could flag any related applications that came across the Building or Health Department's desks or other relevant departments. Additionally, we could share a copy of the permit with Michael Creamer and bring it to the Board of Health's attention. Kristin Black explained that there is typically sufficient time for the Board of Health to review such permits before any final permitting boards take action.

**6. Approval of March 21<sup>st</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 Meeting Minutes**

No quorum to approve minutes. Postponed to next meeting.

**7. Establish a Tentative Future Meeting Date: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Kristin Black suggested that since the summer is busy and taking into consideration that all of the grants and deadlines have been completed and met it would make sense to skip the July meeting and meet on August on the 8th.

Approved.

MOTION: Glenn French made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm.  
Lisa Johnson Seconded, Motion Carried 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angie Sowden  
Administrative Assistant, Health Department