

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes - March 22, 2023

Members in attendance: Todd Belfbecker (Chairperson), Helaine R. Hazlett, & Joanne Greer Miller, and Health Director Andrew Petty.

Agenda:

1. Marblehead Counseling Center

Ruth Ferguson, (President of the board for Marblehead Counseling Center) and Ron Grenier (Board member of Marblehead Counseling Center) thanked the Board of Health for their continued support. There have been staffing changes including the addition of a business manager and additional clinical staff to help facilitate the efficiency, availability, and access for use.

Statistics for Marblehead Counseling Center over the past year: 6000 session hours for over 500 clients. 80% of the clients were Marblehead residents. 8% age 9-13; 21% age 14-21; 24% age 22-40; 36% age 41-70; 11% age >70. Currently there are 247 people on the waitlist, 100 of which are Marblehead residents. Marblehead residents get priority for services. It is becoming slightly less difficult to match clinicians and client needs with the new additions to staff and setup. Marblehead Counseling Center receives about 5 new calls a day (100 per month, roughly) for services.

Andrew Petty also noted that we have reached a point where the mental health stigma has lifted and noted: "if you need help, call 833-773-2445. There's also a text chat or mass relay at 711. Numerous other organizations in Marblehead (Mental Health Task Force, Marblehead Police, schools, Marblehead Female Humane Society, Making Ends Meet, etc.) help with social service needs.

Gerry 5 and the Select Board have events this May that they sponsor for the Marblehead Counseling Center.

Due to FY 2024 Budget, spending was asked to be reduced by 4%. Andrew Petty stated that there will be NO reduction to staff, salaries, or benefits. This meant Marblehead Counseling Center would receive \$10,400.00 less in their budget (Roughly \$60k, prior to reduction).

Motion to use ARPA funds to offset the \$10,400.00 reduction to the budget from the Marblehead Counseling Center. Vote passed with 3 YEA votes.

2. Tobacco Control Discussion

Andrew discussed the question of enforcing Delta-9 and Kratom regulations. Currently these synthetic products are illegal in MA (Dept. of Agriculture has deemed these synthetic products illegal), but there is not currently an enforcement group doing inspections. The Board decided to continue to review the information and continue this discussion in FY 2024 when they can look to fund this project.

3. Mental Health Task Force Update

Joanne discussed the upcoming event Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA on April 26, 2023. Marblehead Counseling, Elliot Emergency Services, Children's Friends and Family Services, and private practitioners will be providing quick assessments for stress, anxiety, and depression. Also discussed was the proposal of a budget for website design, maintenance, and branding items for the Mental Health Taskforce. Request to be between \$2650.00-\$3000.00.

4. Transfer Station Update

Andrew discussed how the Department of Environmental Protection permitting will dictate the schedule for the bidding and construction timetable. Final estimates will be ready around the end of July, it will go out to bid in August, and construction will hopefully start by the end of September.

Andrew discussed the new 12-Yard, 50 HP, compactor unit has a 30-week lead-time for completion. It will cost \$257,000.00, while original estimates were around \$380,000.00. Also, the inclusion of a new control panel at the compactor, the motorization of the Green Street gate (\$20,000.00 already passed in prior meeting), and a new front gate.

Motion to approve \$257,000. Vote passed with 3 YEA votes.

5. Director's Report

BUDGET

Andrew discussed how the Board of Health budget for FY 2024 had already been approved, but he had been told to make a 4% cut. He stated that no salary, benefits, or staffing would be affected by this cut. Health Department budget reductions: \$2300.00 to legal and \$10,400.00 to Marblehead Counseling Center bring it to \$303,879. Waste budget will also see no reduction in salary, benefits, or staffing. Reductions to maintenance of \$10,000.00, hauling of \$4,500.00, and landfill maintenance of \$500.00 will be made for a final budget of \$2,625,804.00. Andrew also discussed the inability of the accreditation of the Health Department due to staff size and type of funding. Andrew and Joanne will present the budget to the Finance Committee on 4/3/23.

COVID

Andrew discussed how numbers are down across the state and we are currently recording results from wastewater. Testing kits are available at the Health Department for public use, while supplies permit.

LEAF COLLECTION

On the same day as trash on the weeks of 4/24/23, 5/15/23, and 6/5/23. Please leave brown paper leaves bags, without sticks or brush. They will be collected in a reasonable amount of time.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Currently looking for a new vendor, most likely to be a drop-off date at the Transfer Station-check website Marblehead.org for updates.

DIAPER DRIVE

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Drop off new/unopened diapers or wipes between 4/3/23 - 4/28/23 to the donation bin outside Health Department.

TEXTILE BAN

New vendor CMRK is recycling textiles & home items. If you have a large amount of items from a clean out- you can call for a pickup at your convenience, instead of using the new bins located at Transfer Station.

6. Public Comment

Todd discussed that according to a state judicial ruling public comment must be allowed to continue for a "reasonable amount of time." This has been determined to be four minutes.

Meeting Adjourned @

Next Meeting April 11th, 2023.