

**Lincoln Board of Health**  
**Virtual Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

Members Presents: Frederick Mansfield, MD  
Patricia Miller  
Steven Kanner, MD

Others Present: Trish McGean, Town Nurse, Nicole Benson, Psychiatrist

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

**Update on Youth Mental Health Clinic:**

Patricia said that as reported last month from Abby Butt, Director of the COA, there has been a significant uptick of reports from the high school and to some degree the elementary school of mental health issues in Lincoln students. With the Board finding some extra funds plus a grant from the State, Eliot has been running the mental health clinic very successfully for about a month at the school. As soon as we offered it through the PTO, LincolnTalk and various schools in the area, we had a really huge response to it. The clinic filled up quickly and it has proven to be a much needed service in Town especially since there is a shortage of practitioners for adolescents having issued because of the pandemic fallout and a lot of people have been struggling to find a clinician available to work with them. The first clinic was full and they had nine individuals whose guardians reached out for care with a total of 12 available slots through the summer. Because we reached out to L-S and Birches School, we had gotten several students not living in Lincoln but were able to provide them with resources through Eliot to find help even if we were not paying for it.

The concern now is that the clinic is ending soon but there is still a need. Unlike adults, children seem to need to be seen weekly instead of monthly. Abby recommended that we continue the clinic into the school year on a weekly basis, and we need to talk to Abby about additional funding. We also need to find a location for continuing the clinic. Abby thinks it might be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to run weekly clinics. There may also be another grant that could come into play. Abby wanted to give the Board a heads up that more money may need to be provided. Patricia will talk to Elaine about what we have in the budget for Eliot and what we have paid them so far and get in touch with Tim Higgins and Dan Pereira about what grant money is available. She will also talk with Mary Emmons at the school to see if there is space at the school for these appointments, which worked well during the summer with kids in summer camp. If no space is available at the school, we could try Bemis Hall and another Town facility. With the response, there is certainly a need in Town for this. Fred said if it has worked well so far, he sees no reason why we would not continue the clinic except perhaps for funding. There was also a discussion at the health meeting about doing flu clinics in Town like the drive thru clinics which were done last year. Steve would also like to see if we could give COVID-19 vaccines to people who have not gotten it yet, but Lincoln does not have any vaccine at this time.

Patricia wanted to hear from new resident Nicole Benson, being a mental health practitioner, on her thoughts on the discussion. Nicole said it has been a much bigger problem since COVID, and we are seeing a lot of kids in the emergency rooms and also a shortage of providers. Her question is what happens after the clinic ends. Do you have a way of finding other providers for them? Patricia said she does not know how long this could go on. We will just have to see how the activity is with the clinic, and then make a decision as we go. The biggest question is funding and hopefully we can figure that out. Abby has said the churches in Town have been willing to donate funds so maybe we can come up with the \$4,000 to \$5,000 needed. Steve asked how many practitioners accept insurance. Nicole said only about 5% or 6% have insurance. Patricia said Eliot was able to take the insurance that the military offers for Hanscom students. We just have to do some investigating of our budget and any grant money to finance this clinic into the fall. If the patient has insurance, Eliot would bill the insurance, but if not the cost had been coming out of the \$6,000 contract the Board has with Eliot. We will need to get a breakdown of how many people have insurance, what we are paying for and how many sessions are we offering. Patricia will look into this with Abby and have her and Eliot come to the next meeting to answer some of these questions.

### **Update on COVID from Trish McGean:**

Trish said that prior to 10 days ago, we did not have a case since May 10 and none in June and now we are at 200 cases. Two of the new cases in Lincoln are part of the Provincetown cluster and she just got an 18 year old in Lincoln test positive. What she is seeing in other towns is that 10 and 12 year olds are really problematic right now. She has seen a 6 and 9 year old at the summer camp test positive but they are not Lincoln residents. The guidance now is that if you come in close contact with a positive person but are fully vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine or test unless you become symptomatic. In the case of young kids who come in contact with a positive case, we are quarantining groups of kids again. She did not see this happening this fall but the Delta variant is driving this. It is concerning with the young kids especially with school starting again. She said a couple in their 70s in another town thought they had a summer cold and tested positive and had not been vaccinated. Education needs to continue.

Trish said that Walgreens has reached out to her again regarding flu vaccines. They were the ones who vaccinated the teachers, staff and Town staff at the school campus last year. They asked if we wanted to do a senior drive-thru clinic like we did last year, which people loved. Trish said her question is do we want to do a bigger clinic or say to people that they should go to CVS or your doctor. She thinks Becky McFall would like to have the campus clinic again, but would we open a can of worms with a public clinic. She thinks there is no limit to the amount of flu vaccine we can get. Fred asked if the school was requiring staff to get the flu vaccine or the COVID vaccine. Trish will ask Becky when she returns next week. Patricia said Mass General Brigham is not mandating it until the FDA comes out and officially approves the COVID vaccines. Fred asked if the Board could mandate it for the schools. Patricia thought that could get complicated with the teacher's union. Everyone should be encouraged to get vaccinated and possibly mandate it after final FDA approval in the fall. Fred thought it would be a good idea to have someone from the school come to the August 11 meeting before school starts. The members are in favor of holding a community flu clinic. Steve would like to see a mandate for schools to get the flu vaccine. Trish said she will find out the age limit if any for flu vaccines from last year. She will tell her contact at Walgreens what was discussed tonight and see what their capacity is.

### **Other Business:**

Minutes: Patricia Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021 meeting as amended. Fred Mansfield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steven Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

At 8:30 p.m. Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steven Kanner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Patricia Miller-aye; Steven Kanner-aye; Fred Mansfield-aye.

*Submitted by Elaine Carroll from recording*

*Approved: August 11, 2021*