

BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Voted by the Health and Human Services Advisory Group in their meeting of October 28, 2022 to be recommended to the Board of Selectmen for their enactment

MISSION STATEMENT: The Board of Human Services and Community Health will function as a deliberative body that brings together all the organizations and individuals in the Town who work to improve health and human services for residents. The Board will issue recommendations to organizations and individuals, but will not directly supervise the performance of any Town employees or representatives. In its focus on community health, the Board will monitor and analyze relevant public health information and issue recommendations for the Town.

MEMBERS:

- Voting members will be Two Members with expertise and professional experience in Medicine and/or Public Health; Chairperson of the Board of Health; Chairperson of the Council on Aging; the Interim Director of Health & Human Services (or the successor to that position); a representative of the Rehoboth public schools; and one at-large citizen member. Chairpersons of committees or boards may choose to designate a delegate in their stead.
- A Selectman liaison will be appointed.
- Director-level staff will serve as resources to the Board: such as Director of the COA, Public Health Nurse, Public School Nurse, Health Agent, Veteran's Officer and any such other officials as might later be hired.

ORGANIZATIONAL:

- Membership includes some individuals who serve in various positions in the Town.¹
- Members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Board will elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk.
- Agendas will be formed by members bringing forward issues and concerns from their areas of authority or expertise.

AUTHORITY: The Board makes recommendations to other individuals and bodies that have the authority to enact regulations and direct that actions be taken. These bodies include the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health, as well as entities such as the Council on Aging and administrators acting within their authority as administrators. The Board has no independent authority to enact regulations or direct that actions be taken.

SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE BOARD WILL BE:

I. PUBLIC HEALTH

¹Some members may be paid by the town, and such individuals will need to receive Section 20D exemptions from Massachusetts Conflict of Interest laws, following MGL c. 268A, §20. The Board of Selectmen will need to approve the exemptions.

Monitor and analyze public health (infectious and non-infectious) metrics relevant to Town of Rehoboth. Develop public health policy recommendations based on that analysis. Distribute recommendations in a timely fashion to Board of Selectmen, COA Board, Town Nurses and Board of Health for their review and implementation.

- ➔ Example: COVID-19 variant omega becomes dominant strain in fall 2022 leading to surge in COVID-19 disease activity. BoHSCH determines that indoor mask mandate is advised and delivers recommendation to BOS, COA, Town Nurses and BOH. COA initiates mask mandate at COA building, nurses at HHS building, BOH at all restaurants and food services and BOS at all municipal buildings.

II. INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUM

Provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of matters relevant to COA, BOH, Veteran's Agent, Town Nurses, School Nurses, and Town Social Workers.* Develop joint policy recommendations where indicated and deliver to BOS, COA and BOH for their review and implementation.

III. CONSULTATION WITH TOWN NURSES

Monitor the medical and public health directions taken by the town nurses and recommend to the authorities as indicated. Provide medical and public health consultation to the town nurses and assist them in development of programs and policies.

IV. CONSULTATION WITH TOWN SOCIAL WORKER*

Monitor the social policy directions undertaken by the individuals in social worker positions and recommend to the authorities as indicated. Provide social policy consultation to assist in development of programs and policies.

V. CONSULTATION WITH COA BOARD

Provide social and health policy consultation to assist in development of programs and policies for the Town. Develop recommendations for any restructuring of positions and expansion of roles and services, and deliver recommendations to the COA Board.

VI. CONSULTATION WITH VETERAN'S AGENT

Monitor programs and services provided by the Town Veteran's Agent and provide social and health policy consultation to assist in development of programs and policies.

*Town Social Worker is a position that does not currently exist, but may be added in the future.