



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**JOSEPH A. CURTATONE**  
**MAYOR**

**DOUGLAS KRESS**  
**DIRECTOR**

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
April 16, 2020  
Open Conference Call

**Present:**

Douglas Kress, Director  
Brian Green, MD (Chair)  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Robert Ciccio, Board Member

**Absent:**

None

**Guests:** 3 – 4 callers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

**Approval of April 2, 2020 Minutes:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the April 2, 2020 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

**Covid19 Updates:** The city has 314 positive cases and 85 have recovered and 4 confirmed passings. The numbers will be updated on a daily basis and post to the city's website. Each day the numbers are growing, that is a little bit of a concern; we were hoping it would flatten out. We do anticipate somewhat of a surge. We do know that the public health efforts have helped a lot to flatten the surge to some degree. We are also noted, that within Somerville itself, we are finding positive cases actually showing up between the ages of 30 and 40. We know with this group age that do test positive for covid have more of the severe symptoms usually from having an underlying illness. When we look at the surge, this virus is not discriminating against anyone and it is occurring in all ages of Somerville's population, and across variety of genders and or race, and it has spread throughout the community.

The city has been partnering up with the Homeless Coalition, Respond, and other shelters. We are working with the senior population trying to work closely with them because the older people are more vulnerable. The city continues to work with the VNA and Little Sisters of the Poor. We still have a stay at home advisory in place throughout the Commonwealth and the city strongly believes in it because we know that will flatten the curve. The city supports the wearing of masks when going out into the public, and the 6' foot social distancing. The city is focusing on getting the message out and making sure the messages are getting across to the targeted population esp. the 30 – 50 years old; making sure they are getting the message to stay home, and or when they are out they are wearing their masks. City is also helping with senior centers, and providing them with resources on when to stay in shelter and place; and to stop visitors from entering senior's centers homes, to help stop the spread.

The city wants to let residents to know that they can call 311 and they will be connected to resources. The Economic Development team is working on areas of unemployment, business stimulus packages, working with people to fill out

variety of forms and paperwork to help with unemployment, helping with business to get the finance resources they need. Housing stability has been working with tenants and landlords on rent payments. Our Mental Health team is set up to help with getting people services. The city's website as well as our school district have a variety of workbooks, worksheets to help parents with education and keeping their children engaged while schools are closed.

Getting food to people in need whether they are being quarantine at home or they lost their job no income coming in, is up and running lead by our Shape up Somerville team. Shout out to our two public health nurses Sara and Marlene and Nurse Navigator Liz Kelman and all of our school nurses. Thank you to the COA, Economic Development, Police, Fire and so many more for their work during the covid19 pandemic.

Dr. Green wanted to thank the HHS Dept. for all the great work during the pandemic. Battel has set up facility to clean mask for local hospitals, and the city will also be able to access for fire, police and any other essential workers. Street cleaning has been delayed, but the Director wasn't sure but he will verify if it is May 1<sup>st</sup> it will resume.

Mr. Ciccia asked if Kira Vaughan was still able to provide support to the students, yes she is in contact with student by phone, video conferencing providing post on social media to help in coping with the pandemic. Are there any resources for recovery? We have partner with Tufts to use their dormitories to provide beds for those on the mend to free up hospital beds. Recovery places for homeless are located in Lexington, Cambridge and Boston that we can refer clients too.

Two callers who work at the Stop and Shop over at McGrath Highway, are worry about masks and is the city mandating masks or still an advisory for customers of Stop and Shop and they are concern about customers coming in with their children, and wanted to know if they could get the information over their intercom with other languages that customers not bring children with them when they shop., educating them about the 6' foot social distancing as much as possible while in their store. They would also like to get inspectors in the store between 12 – 2pm to enforce the pandemic regulations/policies for grocery stores.

**Next meeting – Virtually**

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00pm

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

**List of Documents:**

Notice/Agenda, April 2, 2020 Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira  
Board Secretary  
April 24, 2020