

HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

January 11, 2021

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in via teleconference.

Chairwoman Kelly

As Chairwoman of the Human Affairs Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom and the meeting link can be found on the agenda as well as on the City's website.

You can also join by telephone by dialing: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 880 2922 4683 and Passcode: 222695. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Alderman Wilshire called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 5 members of the Human Affairs Committee present:

Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright (arrived after roll call)
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Also in Attendance: Alderman Tom Lopez
Director Bobbie Bagley, Public Health

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Klee

I am here, I can hear everyone and I am alone.

Alderman Caron

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Wilshire

And Alderman Wilshire is here, I am alone and I can hear everyone. We have four members of the Committee present. Also on the line we have Alderman Lopez; we have a quorum.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. So the first item of business is public comment. Is there anyone from the public that would like to give comment on this evening's agenda items? If so, raise your hand. I don't see anyone from the public, but I'll just call one more time to make sure I didn't miss anyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PRESENTATION - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-102

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$35,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT ACTIVITY “COVID-19 VACCINE GRANT”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

The motion is for final passage. Is there discussion on this motion; it seems straight forward but I know Director Bagley is here to give us an update if we need?

Bobbie Bagley, Director of Public Health

Yes, thank you Alderman Kelly. This \$35,000.00 was given to us by the Department of Health & Human Services. These funds are to be used to help with our COVID Vaccination Clinic as well as enhance our Adult Flu Vaccination Clinics as well. The funds are to be used to help us when we set up the Community Clinics throughout our Public Health Network Work Services Region to make sure that we have the technology to be able to do the registration of clients when they come to get their vaccine as well as enter their information into a database so that could be collected and recorded. I don't know if there are any questions but it is just that straight forward. It's all for the work that we need to do to get the vaccine into arms in our community.

Chairwoman Kelly

Very important work Director Bagley. Thank you. Does anyone on the Committee have a question for Director Bagley? I don't see any. I just had one question Director Bagley, not necessarily connected to the funding but you said that you are going to be setting up clinics. How do the people who are going to get the vaccines find out when it's their turn? Is there a little bit of information that you can share there?

Director Bagley

Sure. So right now the State is rolling out its vaccination allocation based on our most at risk individuals for hospitalization or death. So the strategy is to get our healthcare workers vaccinated, First Responders, so that we have a workforce that can respond to this pandemic. And then to also make sure that we can vaccinate those who are at the highest risk of hospitalization or death based on co-morbidities. So we are phasing this out; Phase 1A was to focus on those healthcare workers, first responders and those that are in the hospital settings as well as long-term care settings. 1B is rolling out in the next couple of weeks and that

will include individuals that are over the age of 75 as well as those who have co-morbidities, two or more health conditions that again put them at greatest risk for hospitalization or death as a result of this pandemic.

So what the plan is for getting those vaccines into arms, right now the National Guard is set up at Nashua High South where they are doing the vaccinations for the healthcare workers, the healthcare providers, the individuals that fit into the category that work for agencies that are also providing services for clients that are at high risk. So that's where they will be doing that at the fixed site at Nashua High South. Then we have the opportunity to look at doing what we call closed pods and that's where agencies can get connected with us as the Public Health Networks Services lead to schedule either the Health Department coordinating and getting vaccine for them to administer at their sites if they have people to do that or connecting with us and we set up clinics at their site and then we provide the staff and the vaccinations and we administer vaccines on-site for those places.

We are also looking and preparing, and in fact we had our meeting today, preparing to look at doing vaccinations in the community that are clinics run by our Health Department with the support of volunteers for our community so that we can make sure that individuals that can't get to either and not part of an organization to do a closed pod, can't get to their practitioners office to get a vaccination, we will be able to do that through some of these clinics that we are going to get set up. What the State is now working on, we have a vaccine management system. And we need to have in place because we want to make sure that we are tracking the vaccine that's being administered and being able to follow up with people to see what some of their reactions might be as a result of this vaccine which is typical with any vaccine that you get; there could be reactions.

So we are setting up systems through the State where we can register individuals so that there is accountability in our vaccine allocation and distribution. So people will be able to either get signed up and registered through their primary care providers or through those closed pods that I just mentioned or through clinics that we are going to set up in the community and then we will register them into this vaccine management system. So there's going to be several different ways in which that can happen. At this point in time right now, the State is still getting that set up, this Vaccine Management System so that it is accessible. Primary Care Providers are being onboarded; that work started last week. And then once that is all set individuals will be able to contact their Primary Care Providers and get registered for the vaccine.

And then once the system is set up for us to be able to register folks, that information will be communicated out through the various means that we push out information. Folks will be able to move forward from there. We are still looking at another probably two weeks before that 1B Phase actually does kick off, because they are ramping up this registration vaccine management system, they are ramping that up right now. They are actually phasing out of one system that they used for the responders and the healthcare workers that we were all enrolled in that one and they are trying to get another one that's set up that works a little bit better because there were some barriers or some challenges with the vaccine system that's in place right now. So we need something that's going to work, that's going to be effective, and it's going to be easy to use for the public once it is rolled out.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you so much Director Bagley, I know that is secondary to this piece of Legislation but I think it is really important information for everybody to have so thank you for that. Does anyone else have any questions? Oh Alderman Klee has her hand up?

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much Madam Chair. Director Bagley again related to basically what you were talking about. When you said that the primary care they would be creating their own registry, is that the way it would work? So if I were one being, I'm not, but if I were 1B and I knew that it had started, I would contact my primary

care to be registered, you know, if I had one. It's not going to be a Walgreen or CVS or anything else like that, is that correct?

Director Bagley

Correct, correct. And all of us will be using the same vaccine management system. And so the grant that we are getting allows for us to make sure that we have the technology so that we can actually capture that information right on site at these vaccination clinics. So we have to have the laptops, we have to have the software to be able to do this right on site. So the grant dollars that we are getting allows for us to purchase these laptops so that we can actually be able to collect and register and get this information in real time with the folks that are participating in these vaccine clinics.

But all of us will be using the same vaccine management system. So everybody will be registered into the same system. And it's the first because we haven't had an immunization program in the State of New Hampshire where we had a registry. This is going to allow for us to be able to do that.

Alderman Klee

Madam Chair may I have one quick follow up?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Thank you Director Bagley. So I did understand that correctly then, this will all be into one centralized database is that correct?

Director Bagley

Yes.

Alderman Klee

And so if I were to go to say St. Joe's Family and they were to enter it in, it would go in, you would be able to see from your end that I'd had the vaccination and so on. Not necessarily you but the powers to be up in Concord or something of that nature.

Director Bagley

Yes.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much, I'm done Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just want to note for the record that Alderman Harriott-Gathright has joined us and I see your hand Alderman Lopez. Welcome Linda, nice to see you.

Alderman Lopez

Thanks, I'm being called on right?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yes.

Alderman Lopez

OK just making sure. I have two questions for Director Bagley. The first is my understanding is that the State has discontinued contact tracing but is the vaccine tracking system a local attempt or is it a State attempt? Or is it a State effort and do we have control over that so it doesn't get discontinued.

Director Bagley

Hi, Alderman Lopez. So we have not discontinued contact tracing. What has changed is that it has been prioritized. The number of cases that comes in has exponentiated over the past several months from October through December, you know, our numbers have exponentiated. And so what we are doing with contact tracing, it's prioritized and so what that means is when we do our disease investigation and we identify a case, the individuals will give us all the information that we need to be able to make sure that they isolate. And then we are gathering information from them on their potential contacts. And then the expectation that we have is that they will work with us to make notification of the folks that have been exposed. Those individuals can then follow up either with testing and then follow up that way. It's modified in a way so that it is prioritized. In the past, we used to call every single contact. And we are not able to do that because we just can't keep up with that.

So it's modified to where it's prioritized so that we are following up on outbreaks, we are following up on cases that are current in congregate settings and we are following up on individuals over the age of 60 and individuals under the age of 18. So it's modified. So we are still doing it but we just we – for instance we have over 400, I believe the number this morning was either 450 or 460 active cases. And so each of those cases will then have contacts. And so we are, in fact over the weekend with some of the investigation, in one household I investigated all of the members had tested positive and then I would then follow up and investigate all of their contacts. So we are not connecting all of those folks that way, so it's just modified to prioritize.

With regard to the vaccine management system, once this is in place, this is going to be here and it's going to actually help us because we haven't had an immunization registry in the past. So once this is set up for COVID, you know, the idea is that this will be used beyond just getting COVID vaccination into this vaccine management system, but we will be able to get all of our other vaccines in there as well. So I don't anticipate this going away but it will be something that Statewide and in our local Health Departments and our doctor's offices will be able to use these things going forward. So as Alderman Klee mentioned, if we need it to be able to go in and look at we can see because we will have this vaccine management system in place.

Alderman Lopez

Ok I guess the basis of my question is this something the City controls versus the State controls?

Director Bagley

The Vaccine Management System is controlled by the State and we will have access to it as a third party to be able to register individuals who sign up for the vaccination, we will be able to register them into that system.

Alderman Lopez

And then my second question was with regard to satellite clinics that might potentially go out as part of Phase II or later. Are we looking at a plan to get public housing as location and maybe senior focused housing as well; Mary Sweeney Center or any of the Sullivan Terraces where there's a high population of people with elderly and low access to income and you can literally set up a clinic right there so they don't have transportation barriers?

Director Bagley

So Alderman Kelly can I address that?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yes, Director Bagley.

Director Bagley

So yes Alderman Lopez we actually did talk about that today in our planning for clinics because we know that we are going to have to be able to meet people where they are. That is a plan of the vaccine allocation, that is the expectation of our Public Health Network Regions, that clinics are set up in areas and in neighborhoods where we have the highest risk of populations that meet the criteria of those over 75, individuals that are identified that are disproportionately impacted by COVID; so our racial and ethnic minority populations. So our goal is to get into the community at the sites so that folks can have access to us. So that would include making sure that we have clinics set up as close to those places as possible.

We are looking right now at trying to do as many mobile and drive-through clinics as we can, again, to reduce exposure to folks and not have people gather together in small places, you know when you get the vaccine. So we are going to roll these, you call them satellite clinics, we call them like open pods. We are looking to roll these out in places where we can continue to do the drive-through and have folks get vaccinated that way. But yes, go closer to those sites to be able to do this.

Alderman Lopez

Madam Chair, if I can just ask one final question? It's pretty brief?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yes, go ahead.

Alderman Lopez

So January 29th is the point in time count, it's the annual attempt by the City, State and other partners working with homeless people to identify exactly how many people are unsheltered and how many are homeless. So it's also the day where all non-profits and State Organizations working with those populations are working together. Did we happen to have any luck in organizing a clinic for that day?

Director Bagley

We have not as of yet because January 29th we are hoping Alderman Lopez that we are able to roll into Phase 1B by that time. So we are giving ourselves a two week, and we do not have a finalization on that as of yet.

Alderman Lopez

So it's like two people trying to high five and they are just a little bit too far away. Is there a way that we can coordinate with those agencies to record how to get ahold of people?

Director Bagley

Yes, that's something that can...

Alderman Lopez

Because sometimes you get people who rarely come in out of the woods or you didn't know they were homeless or they are staying with friends or family or something like that and they are really hard to get ahold of. So if we could have them opt in to some kind of system where City Health or Public Health can figure out where they are, maybe that would be helpful?

Director Bagley

Yes sir. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

OK I appreciate your time.

Chairwoman Kelly

Of course. Alderman Harriott-Gathright, please?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you Madam Chair. My question is so you have the option to go to let's say your private doctor or you can get in the mobile line with the Health Department, correct?

Director Bagley

That's what we are planning and again, it's where we are going to do our due diligence to the fidelity of the vaccine allocation phases. And so the primary care providers are planning to do that as well so we are going to stick to those groups that are identified but that is our plan. That is the plan of the State as well. We know that private practitioner offices will be overwhelmed if everyone tried to go to their primary care provider to get vaccinated. We also know that not everyone has a primary care provider and we also know that there are folks that don't have the transportation and won't be able to do that. So we need to set up these secondary ways and clinics if we are truly to be as effective as we want to be with making sure as many as want to be vaccinated can get vaccinated without barriers to making that happen for them.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anything else Alderman Harriott-Gathright, are you all set?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I'm all set, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Do any other Aldermen have questions? I don't see any. Can we please call the roll?

Alderman Wilshire

Certainly. The Motion before us is to recommend final passage of Resolution 20-102.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Klee, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire, Alderwoman Kelly 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Kelly

Director Bagley, thank you for your insight and information for everybody surrounding us.

Director Bagley

Thank you and thank you for your consideration with passing this.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Gathright I assume your hand is up from before? Yes, Ok? I don't see any general discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN – None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Klee, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Wilshire, Alderwoman Kelly 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Committee Clerk