



Lincoln Public Health and Community Nursing

Annual Town Meeting, March, 2018

What Public Health Nursing Functions Does Lincoln Currently Offer?

- ▶ State-mandated disease investigation, reporting, and case management and other state-required tasks such as quarantines, emergency vaccination clinics, and more
- ▶ Participation in emergency planning
- ▶ Well being clinics
- ▶ Community education
- ▶ Consultation to Council on Aging and Public Safety



Who Currently Does These Tasks?

- ▶ Maureen Richichi, Lincoln's School Nurse, paid by the School Department, performs all functions except well being clinics
- ▶ Nurses from Emerson Home Care provide two well being clinics per month at Lincoln Woods and the Council on Aging through grants from the Ogden Codman Trust and the Pierce House



What Is Changing?

- ▶ Maureen Richichi will retire in June, 2018. In recent years school nursing needs have increased so that the School Nurse position can no longer provide both adequate school nursing and public health nursing. The School Committee has asked that the School Nurse position be exclusively for school needs.
- ▶ The grant from the Ogden Codman Trust for the Lincoln Woods well being clinic will end. The grant was provided with the understanding that at the completion of the grant, Town funding would be requested.



And:

- ▶ the emergence of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses, among residents' other public health concerns require more community education
- ▶ the increased number of elders and younger residents with more complex and serious conditions combined with health insurance constraints creates a need for safety and well being visits
- ▶ the clinics at Lincoln Woods and the Council on Aging have repeatedly shown their value with residents with sometimes serious health concerns and a lack of access to health care attending. A number of life-threatening conditions have been uncovered, services provided, and referrals for treatment made.



What Is Being Requested?

- ▶ \$14,000 added to Board of Health budget to fund approximately 6 hours per week to support the public health nursing functions already being provided.
- ▶ The Public Health Nurse will be jointly supervised by the Board of Health and the Council on Aging and located at Bemis Hall.



Additional Slides to Answer Questions



Public Health Nursing Hours: Comparison to Other Area Towns

- ▶ Weston, 11,200 population, 30 hours/week
- ▶ Wayland, 13,000 population, 20 hours/week
- ▶ Sudbury, 17,600 population, 35 hours/week
- ▶ Concord, 17,600 population, 16 hours/week
- ▶ Bedford, 13,300 population, 35 hours/week

- ▶ Average hours/week per resident: 1 hour per 600 residents = 9-10 hours for Lincoln



Administration and Supervision

- ▶ The Public/Community Health Nurse would be located in the current counseling office at Bemis Hall
- ▶ Administration support, budget and supervision by the Council on Aging
- ▶ Health-related support, budget and supervision by the Board of Health



What is Different from the Public Health Nurse Proposal of ATM 2009 that Failed?

- ▶ The services are similar to the previous proposal
- ▶ However, both the state and federally-mandated public health requirements and the number of hours needed for school nursing have grown since 2009
- ▶ The recent COA grant-funded clinics have shown the benefits of this service to the most vulnerable Lincoln residents
- ▶ The townwide survey for the 2009 proposal focused only on services that would be provided to individuals so residents may not have understood the communicable disease report/follow-up mandate and the importance of the public health functions



What Are Other Functions that Public Health Nurses Do in Other Towns?

- Home visits for safety checks, well being checks, and vaccinations
- Health counseling
- Health advocacy including referrals to health and social service agencies

