



Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM
REMOTE ONLY

Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00PM. REMOTE ONLY
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. Public may comment through email: amyers@watertown-ma.gov
- D. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/83188312663>
Meeting ID: 831 8831 2663
- E. Please Visit the Board of Health Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/176/Board-of-Health>

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- 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Acceptance of Minutes
 - A. Review of Draft Minutes of March 20, 2024
 - 3. Public Comment
 - 4. Approval of Permit applications for:
 - A. Empress Therapeutics – 99 Coolidge Avenue
 - 5. Vote on Dumpster Regulations
 - A. Dumpster Regulations
 - 6. Housing Hearing John Catalano - 44 Prescott Street
 - 7. Public Health Nurse Updates
 - 8. Staffing and Department Updates
 - A. Introduction to Lauren Olsen as Chief Environmental Officer
 - B. General Department Updates
 - C. SSRS - 1st Quarter Report
 - 9. Items that could not be anticipated before meeting
 - 10. Adjournment

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a In Person Meeting in The Lower Hearing Room

Wednesday March 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Richard Arnold, Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj and Kim Netter

Staff: Abbey Myers, Acting Director of Health Maureen Foley, Clerk

In attendance Roman Bogorad, David Keane, Mei Zhang, Cory Martin, Cris Yordan, Getzabel Guevara, Fatima Guevara

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for February 21, 2024

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (3,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Approval of an Amendment applications for:

Souffle Therapeutics Inc. – 85 Walnut Street #2N

Roman Bogorad, VP of Lab Operations gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Getzabel Guevara, Safety Partners gave a short presentation of the company's vivarium. Dr. Amirtharaj asked about Souffle's research. Ms. Netter asked about the SOPs for gloving and waste disposal. David Keane stated there are regular biowaste pick-ups.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to recommend approval of a vivarium for Souffle.

(Amirtharaj, Arnold) (2,0)

(Netter) Abstained

Roll Call

Approval of a Permit applications for:

SYNCELL – 200 Dexter Avenue #120 & #161

Mei Zhang, Director of Lab Activities gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Zhang gave an explanation of the MICROSCOOP start up product. Ms. Netter asked who is SYNCELL marketing to? Dr. Amirtharaj asked how the cells react to each other. Mr. Arnold questioned the use of two suites.

Ms. Netter made a motion to recommend approval of a permit for SYNCELL.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Introduction to Dumpster Regulations

Ms. Myers presented the process for the BOH to approve Dumpster Regulations. Ms. Myers stated the Dumpster Regulations were posted as a legal ad in the Boston Globe. Health department contacted the Republic, the largest waste management company in the city. Health Department has not received any comments related to Dumpster Regulations. The next BOH meeting in April will be the time to vote. We will accommodate the residents to make comments before and during the April meeting.

Ms. Netter motioned to keep the public comments opened until the next meeting.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (3,0)

Roll Call

Department Update

1. Lauren Olsen, Health Officer was promoted to Chief Environmental Officer.
2. Shuang Shen, Public Health Nurse participated in vaccinating the migrants and screening for lead poisoning.
3. In a couple of weeks, we will post another Health Officer position to replace Lauren Olsen.
4. Rodent complaints are coming into the Health Department and we are going to send out post cards with rodent prevention information to those neighborhoods.
5. Sharps Drop off event is 4/6/204 at City Hall
6. The Hazardous Waste event starts monthly through November on 4/20/24.
7. We have tested noise complaints from Newton residents coming from a Pleasant Street facility. The DEP is also testing but the results are unremarkable.

Next Meeting

April 17, 2024

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM

City of Watertown
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regulation Regarding the Use of Dumpsters and Waste Hauling

Section 1: Authority

The Board of Health, City of Watertown, Massachusetts, acting under the authority of G.L. c. 111, sections 31A and 31B of the General Laws and amendments and additions thereto, and by any other power thereto enabling, has duly made and adopted the following Regulation. This regulation will become effective July 1, 2024.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to reduce the possibility of nuisance, management of rodent populations and health risks associated with the improper use of dumpsters for rubbish and garbage disposal.

Section 3: Applicability

This regulation shall apply to all businesses, residents, and contractors using dumpsters for garbage and rubbish disposal within the City, and waste haulers.

Section 4: Definitions

- 1) Board of Health means the appropriate and legally designated health authority or its agents of the City.
- 2) Waste hauler means any person who, for compensation, supplies, maintains or services one or more dumpsters, or removes, transports or disposes of the contents thereof.
- 3) Dumpster means any container, receptacle, compactor unit, trailer, roll-off, or similar unit with or without wheels that is used for temporary storage, containment, or transport of refuse, debris, trash, rubbish, garbage, food waste, solid waste, recyclable material, incidental demolition debris, or other discarded or like materials. It shall not apply to ordinary household trash cans of a volume of 64 gallons or less, or recycling receptacles of 96 gallons or less.
- 4) Owner means any person, including a lessee or mortgagee in possession, who alone or severally with others has lawful title to or lawful possession, care or control of any property on which a dumpster is located or proposed to be located. Owner also includes any authorized agent of such person.
- 5) Person includes any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association, or group.
- 6) Temporary Dumpster is one used for construction, demolition, clean up or other like purposes that will occupy a specific location usually for twelve months or less for disposal of rubbish. It can be located at a commercial or residential location.

- 7) Annual Dumpster means a dumpster located on a site year-round for the disposal of rubbish and or garbage.
- 8) Rubbish shall mean all solid waste, excluding food waste or hazardous materials.
- 9) Garbage shall mean rubbish containing food waste, both dry and wet, excluding hazardous materials.

Section 5: Dumpsters – Annual and Temporary

- 1) No dumpster shall be used or kept in the City of Watertown unless a dumpster permit has been issued. The application for a dumpster permit shall be provided by the Board of Health.
- 2) Annual Dumpster permits shall expire on December 31st in the year they are issued and must be renewed on an annual basis.
- 3) No Temporary Dumpsters may be located on a public or private way from November 1st through April 1st. Dumpsters with a permit expiration date within that time frame must be moved off the public or private way or consider the permit null and void.
- 4) The Owner shall ensure that each dumpster is so located as to not interfere with the health, safety, or well-being of any business or neighbor.
- 5) Each dumpster shall be of sufficient capacity to contain all accumulated material without overflowing and shall be emptied on a regular basis or when the amount of garbage and or rubbish is level with the top of the container. All dumpsters being used for the disposal of garbage or other odor-causing material must be emptied no less than once per week.
- 6) All garbage dumpsters must have a tight-fitting lid or cover, which shall be kept closed at all times except when being filled, cleaned or emptied. Each dumpster shall be constructed in such a way as to be leak-proof. If drain plugs are provided, they must be tight-fitting so as to prevent the leakage of liquid.
- 7) All food waste must be put in closed plastic bags before being put in the dumpster
- 8) Dumpsters are to be located on a concrete, asphalt or other impervious surface. The owner shall ensure that each dumpster and the area immediately surrounding it is kept free of obnoxious odors, flies, other insects, debris, overflow and all other nuisances. Watertown Board of Health and its agents reserve the right to order the removal of any nuisance on public or private property.
- 9) The granting of a dumpster permit is not intended to grant permission to use property that is not owned and/or controlled by the permit holder, and all necessary approvals must be obtained by the applicant before placing a dumpster on the property of another.

Section 7: Waste Hauler

- 1) Each dumpster owned, controlled or serviced by a waste hauler shall be conspicuously marked with the name and telephone number of said hauler.
- 2) No dumpster owner, contractor, or waste hauler shall allow a dumpster to be delivered, emptied, exchanged, or removed between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am in an area not zoned for business, commercial or industrial use. Where an employee of a waste hauler or other person acting under a contract with a waste hauler violates the provisions of this section, the waste hauler shall be held

responsible whether or not the employee or other person acting under contract is also prosecuted for the violation.

Section 8: Enforcement

1) Permit Suspension or Revocation: The Board of Health may suspend or revoke any permit issued pursuant to these regulations for any violation of these regulations, or any other applicable General law, regulation or by-law.

If an annual or temporary dumpster permit is suspended or revoked, any dumpsters kept in accordance with said permit must be removed by a waste hauler within 24 hours of receipt of notice of said suspension or revocation. Owner or responsible party shall be responsible to maintain dumpster area in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition free from garbage, rubbish, potential injury hazards, pests, conditions contributing to the accumulation of standing water or other liquids, and or any other condition which affects the health, safety, or the well-being of the occupants or general public after dumpster has been removed.

2) Non-Criminal Disposition: This regulation may be enforced by any City officials, including but not limited to: Fire, Police, Zoning, Building, Health

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by a noncriminal disposition process as provided in G.L. c. 40, section 21D and the City's non-criminal disposition by-law. If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any person who violates any provision of this regulation shall be subject to a penalty in the amount of up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per day for each day of violation, commencing 48 hours following day of receipt of written notice from the Board of Health. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

\$25.00	For First Offense
\$50.00	For Second Offense
\$100.00	For Third Offense
\$300.00	For Fourth Offense, and Any Further Offenses

3) Other: Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by indictment or on complaint brought in the district court. Except as may be otherwise provided by law and as the district court may see fit to impose, the maximum penalty for each violation or offense shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

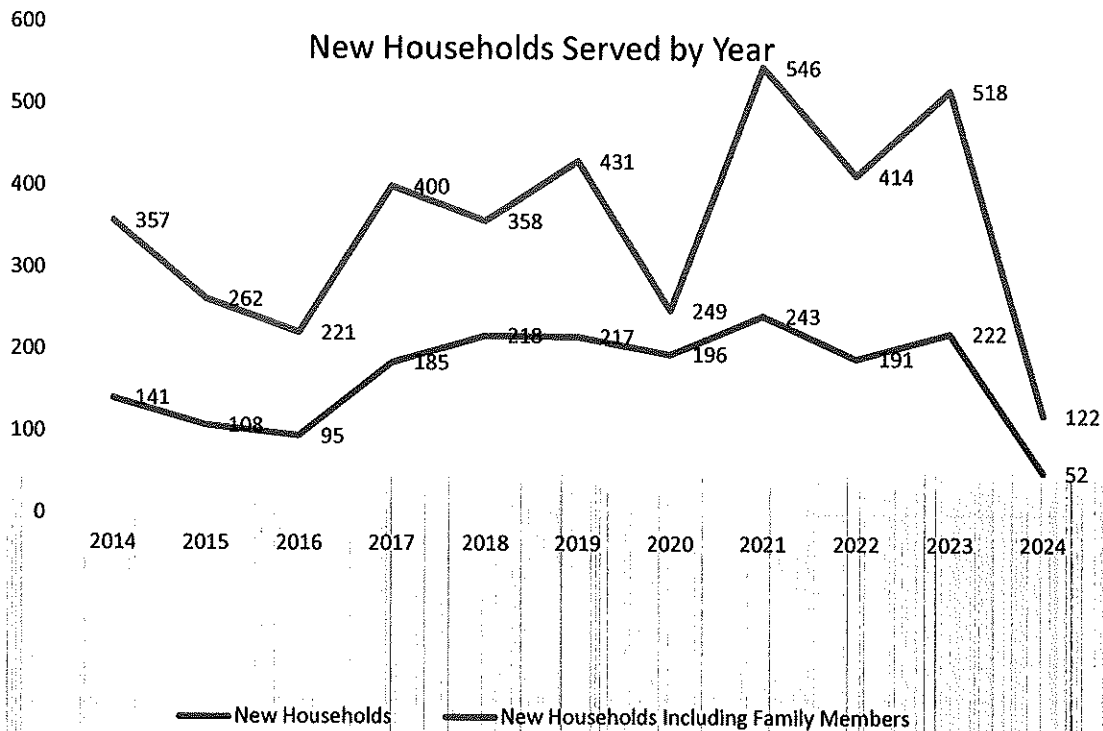
The Board of Health may enforce these Regulations or enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process, and the election of one remedy by the Board of Health shall not preclude enforcement through any other lawful means.

Section 9: Severability

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of the regulations shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

Watertown Social Services Resource Specialist (SSRS) Program January – March 2024

Between January and March 2024, the SSRS program served a total of 145 households, which included 52 new households for a total of 122 new Watertown residents served. The total number of households served by the SSRS program to date is 1,871 for a total of 3,884 residents when including family members.



Please note that the 2024 data reflects only Quarter 1.

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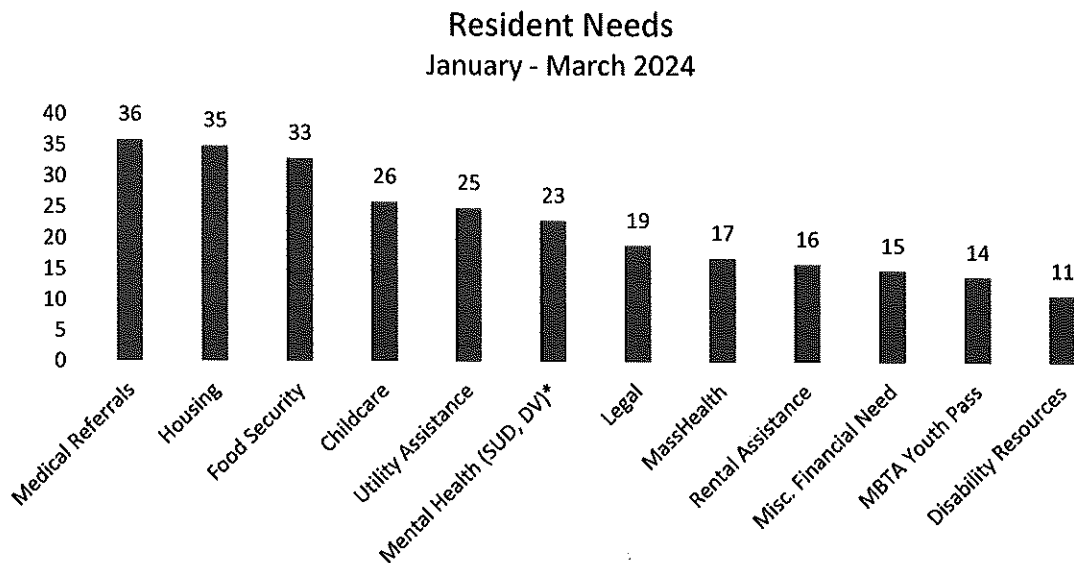
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The chart below represents the assistance needed for new and returning individual residents over the last quarter.



*SUD = Substance Use Disorder; DV = Domestic Violence

Many clients have multiple needs and SSRS Clinicians complete a needs assessment and prioritize with clients to meet their most urgent needs. This quarter, the primary need changed from being food security or housing, as the SSRS Clinicians focused on supporting the newly arrived Haitian Refugee families with getting connected to Primary Care Physicians at Charles River Community Health Center as well as applying for childcare vouchers and getting placed in local day care facilities. This support for the Haitian Refugee families was done in conjunction with the Watertown Refugee Support Group members.

Other high needs included Housing, Food Security, Utility Assistance, and Mental Health referrals (including referrals and support for Substance Use Disorder and domestic violence).

Ways in which SSRS assists with most frequent needs:

- For **Housing Assistance**, SSRS Clinicians work with people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by applying for public housing and other affordable housing programs, as well as connecting people with emergency housing such as shelters.
- To address **food security**, SSRS Clinicians help clients apply to SNAP (formerly food stamps), distribute grocery store gift cards with funds from the Watertown Community Foundation for those impacted by COVID-19, and share local food pantries and the Watertown Community Fridge.

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- **Rental assistance** includes connecting residents to local and state applications and grant funding sources, such as the Helen Robinson Wright Fund through First Parish Church in Watertown and Marshall Home Fund. Residential Aid for Families in Transition (RAFT) continues to be a source of funding for clients only if they have received an eviction notice or need help with moving costs.
- SSRS Clinicians provide **utilities and fuel assistance** by helping clients access Fuel Assistance for heating costs during winter months, the Watertown Emergency Utility Assistance program, and discounts and payment plans through utility companies. SSRS Clinicians communicate with utility companies to prevent shut offs for clients awaiting funding.
- **Miscellaneous financial needs** often include one-time financial needs such as rental assistance, the purchase of a refrigerator, or paying an ambulance bill. These needs are usually filled by local block grants, such as Helen Robinson Wright, Marshall Home Fund, and the Perpetual Benevolent Fund.
- For **mental health needs**, including coping with Substance Use Disorder and domestic violence, SSRS Clinicians discuss with clients their options for treatment and support, and submit referrals for other Wayside programs (such as Outpatient, In Home Therapy, and the Navigating to Emotional Wellness Program), therapists, treatment, and DV agencies.
- **Disability resources**, includes applying or maintaining disability benefits (Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children), applying for Department of Disability Services, and referrals to other disability resources.
- **Legal referrals** are made to free legal aid resources. The most common legal referrals are relating to immigration, housing, and family law.

Outreach

Referrals

This quarter, referrals to the SSRS Program came from the Refugee Support Group, Senior Center, City Hall and City Clerk, City Manager's Office, Public Library, State Representative and City Councilors, Watertown Housing Authority, MBTA, Watertown Public Schools, Social Workers, family, and friends.

Food Security Series

In 2023, SSRS Clinician, Sophia Suarez-Friedman, sat down with Cable Access (WCATV) and Watertown News for a filmed interview about food security in Watertown. The first part of the Video series came out during this quarter and can be viewed online here: [Food Insecurity in Watertown | Part 1](#).

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Newsletter

The SSRS Clinicians email an occasional newsletter to share resources with SSRS clients. This quarter, resources shared were on summer camp registration, upcoming community events, parenting support, and food resources.

Local and State Assistance Programs

Grant Funding

The SSRS Program continues to manage two small block grants through the Marshall Home Fund and the Helen Robinson Wright Fund which provide emergency financial assistance to residents in need. This quarter, the SSRS program was able to connect *2 residents* to emergency financial assistance through these sources. Areas of need were rental and utility assistance.

Community Partners and Engagement

The SSRS Clinicians field many requests for resources from people and organizations in the community. This quarter, SSRS Clinicians were able to consult on resources for: Public Schools, Watertown Refugee Support Group, City Councilors, State Representative, and Atrius Health. Resources shared were related to financial assistance, food security, MassHealth, mediation services, and parenting support.

The SSRS Clinician leads monthly Human Services meetings with other town providers including Veterans' Services Officer Patrick George, Senior Center Case Worker Sheri Melenciano or Director Lydia McCoy, Housing Authority Social Worker Olivia Fields, Watertown Public Schools Community Outreach Counselors Jaimie Leonard and Stephanie Toyias, and the Watertown Police Clinician Julie Plateau.

The SSRS Clinicians continue to attend various community meetings, such as the monthly Watertown Community Foundation Resiliency Task Force and the Wellness (previously Hoarding) Task Force. The SSRS Clinician also attends Systems of Care meetings when possible—these are meetings led by Riverside Community Care and bring together many providers to discuss current resources and programs.

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