

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
January 9, 2015
MINUTES

PRESENT: Jane Fogg, M.D., Chair, Stephen Epstein, M.D.
Vice-Chair, Edward V. Cosgrove, Ph.D.

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Donna Carmichael,
Anne Clark, Tara Gurge, Maryanne Dinell,
Alison Paquette, Carol Read

CONVENE: 7:00 a.m. - Public Services Administration
Building (PSAB), 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham
MA 02492

DISCUSSION:

I. Call to Order - 7:06 a.m. - Dr. Fogg

II. Approve Minutes:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of December 12, 2014 were approved as submitted. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

III. Director's Report - Timothy McDonald

Mr. McDonald stated that Needham is submitting a regional funding application for a new state grant program to prevent underage drinking and other drug use from the Mass Dept. of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Abuse Service (BSAS), funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Mr. McDonald stated that Needham is the lead agency for a cluster, which includes Dedham, Norwood, and Westwood. Mr. McDonald added that the grant is due on January 23rd for \$100K in funding for 3 years with two options for renewal. Mr. McDonald noted that the Public Health Department would also apply again for the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant in March.

Mr. McDonald reported that he has put together a detailed departmental spending plan. Mr. McDonald also reported that he would submit an unexpended fund request to the Annual Town Meeting, if appropriated the Public Health Dept. would use the funds to acquire a refrigerator to store vaccine.

Mr. McDonald stated that Ms. Carmichael and Ms. Paquette are currently at the Center at The Heights (the Senior Center) in a small office. Mr. McDonald stated that he would continue to encourage town administrators to ensure that this temporary location would remain a temporary

location. Mr. McDonald reported on his conversation with a reporter from the Needham Times regarding this matter.

IV. Staff Reports

- **Environmental Health Agents Report - Tara Gurge**

Ms. Gurge reported that demolition sign-offs are down; annual permit renewals are underway, but still waiting for several Septic Installers to come in to take exams. Ms. Gurge also reported that 12 Tobacco Permits have been issued and that Panellas Market wants to remain on the waiting list for a Tobacco Permit. Ms. Gurge reported that the Pool Permit Renewals have been issued with the exception of the Sheraton Hotel's special purpose pool, which will be re-tested.

Ms. Gurge presented an update on Food Plan Reviews, noting that Home Kitchen is all set, pre-operation inspection is pending. Ms. Gurge also noted that the Trip Advisor would open June 1 and that a pre-operation inspection was conducted for the YMCA, a permit has been issued. Ms. Gurge stated that a new Annual Food Establishment Permit has been issued to North Hill's central kitchen.

Ms. Gurge reported on a Housing complaint at 263 Hillside Avenue. Ms. Gurge stated that an Order Letter has been mailed to the Landlord another inspection with the Building Department would be conducted prior to re-renting the unit.

Ms. Gurge reported that she conducted a Pool Plan Review for Goldfish Swim School to be located at #45 Forth Avenue. Ms. Gurge stated that the owner wants to install a bench in the pool, which is not allowed. Ms. Gurge stated that the owner might apply for a variance from the state. A general discussion ensued on the MA Pool Code relative to this matter.

Mr. McDonald spoke briefly about his meeting with Ms. Gurge, Chris Coleman, Assistant Town Manager and Tony DelGaizo regarding feasibility to connect to the municipal sewer system for 23 Cheney. Mr. McDonald noted that Ms. Gurge has spent a lot of time on this matter and would speak more about this later in the meeting.

- **Traveling Meals Coordinator Report - Maryanne Dinell**

Ms. Dinell presented a brief update on meal deliveries. Ms. Dinell reported that Temple Beth Shalom delivered Christmas meals. A general

discussion ensued on logistics around meal deliveries.

Mr. McDonald noted that he submitted a supplementary budget request appropriation for additional drivers. Mr. McDonald stated that he has met with Rick Lunetta from the Finance Committee regarding this request. Mr. McDonald stated that he would also meet with Ms. Dinell and Ms. Carmichael to expand the volunteer base.

- **Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator – Carol Read**

Ms. Read spoke briefly about the work on the BSAS Grant that she and Mr. McDonald are currently working on. Ms. Read stated that the BSAS Grant would fund Underage Drinking Prevention Programs in approximately 31 communities across the Commonwealth with a particular focus on the under 21 population.

Ms. Read stated that Request for Applications (RFA) for the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant would be available mid-January and that she, Mr. McDonald and the Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention (NCYSAP) Leadership Team have met to discuss plans to write the grant again.

Ms. Read reported on the Coalition and a former SWAC Sub-committee request to implement substance abuse curriculum in grades five and six. A member of the NCYSAP met with Terry Duggan, Needham Public Schools (NPS) Director of Program Development and Implementation, and Kathy Pinkham, NPS, Director of Wellness, K-12, to discuss the substance abuse curriculum for the district.

Ms. Read shared an update on her meeting with Mr. McDonald and Marty Cohen, President of MetroWest Health Foundation. Ms. Read stated that the Foundation would be releasing grant opportunities shortly. Ms. Read stated that Mr. Cohen is committed to supporting the health of all Needham residents.

Mr. McDonald pointed out that the data on the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey that Ms. Read submitted last month was funded through the MetroWest Health Foundation, adding that the cost to fund Needham is \$30K, which is funded every year by MetroWest Health Foundation. Mr. McDonald noted that Mr. Cohen would continue to advocate for funding for the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey (MWAHS), with

the Foundation Board.

Dr. Epstein stated that the MWAHS contains key data that has caused communities to develop a comprehensive prevention program. Dr. Epstein added that the MWAHS demonstrates what Needham is doing and that it is important to drill down on survey model. Mr. McDonald asked the Board to write language on the fact that the MWAHS is very helpful. Dr. Cosgrove noted that the MWAHS has value to the community.

Mr. McDonald spoke briefly about plans to apply for an Adolescent and Healthy Aging Grant. Mr. McDonald would bring more information to the next Board meeting.

- **Public Health Nurses Report - Donna Carmichael and Alison Paquette**

Ms. Carmichael presented a brief review on communicable diseases. Ms. Carmichael noted 9 documented cases of Influenza, one case is a child all others are adults. Ms. Carmichael responded to the Board's question on what would happen should an outbreak occur. Ms. Carmichael noted an extremely proactive approach by the Public Health Department.

Ms. Carmichael reported that she still has Flu Vaccine from the state and shots are being administered by appointment with Ms. Paquette on Wednesdays at the Health Department.

Ms. Carmichael reported that the State Audit by, Mass. Dept. of Public Health for Vaccine Management went well, adding that the auditor made a recommendation for a stand-alone refrigerator per the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Ms. Carmichael reported that she performed CPR Training, 11 employees have been trained. Ms. Carmichael also reported that she facilitated and worked with Life Support Systems for AED management in Town buildings.

- **Public Health Program Coordinator Report - Anne Clark**

Ms. Clark reported that the Mass Dept. of Public Health has given 15 communities provisional approval to open medical marijuana dispensaries pending final inspection. Ms. Clark stated that effective February 1, 2015 patients would have to be certified by a qualified health care provider via an online

registration process. Ms. Clark noted that the 15 approved marijuana dispensaries serve 98% of the population within 25 miles and the closest is the city of Newton. A general discussion ensued on locations of the pending dispensaries and logistics.

V. Finalized Concussion Prevention, Education, and Training Regulations and Process for Public Engagement

Mr. McDonald presented the Board with two options for collections of fines relative to section VIII of the draft regulations; a non-standard schedule of fines, which would need Town Meeting approval or use the Public Health Department schedule per Bylaw, which would not need Town Meeting approval. A general discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board to use the schedule of fines according to the Public Health Department's Bylaw.

A general discussion ensued on modifying language relative to return to play. Dr. Fogg expressed that it is important that the language is user friendly with a positive focus. Dr. Fogg noted that Athletes would not be allowed to return to play unless evaluated by a certified health care provider.

Ms. Carmichael suggested that Dr. Alan Stern attend the Public Hearing and consider writing a letter to the Editor of the Needham Times as well. A general discussion ensued around logistics, and next steps. Next steps include a personal invitation to the sport organizations; schedule a meeting with the Needham Times Editorial staff, and inform Town Manager. The Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 24 at Powers Hall. Mr. McDonald would send the Board an updated summary on next steps.

VI. Concept of Tobacco Free Generation - Dr. Cosgrove

Dr. Cosgrove presented information from Doctoral Candidate, Sana Raoof. Dr. Cosgrove stated that Ms. Raoof would like to present a proposal to the Board that would initiate a Tobacco Free Generation in Needham. Dr. Cosgrove stated that it is his opinion that this proposal would lead to prohibition. Dr. Cosgrove stated that he would prefer more regulations. Dr. Cosgrove stated that he would invite Ms. Raoof to a Board meeting to explain her ideas.

VII. Marijuana Zoning Discussion - Ms. Read

Ms. Read shared an update on her conversation with the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Read stated that the Board of Selectmen is meeting on Tuesday they

have concerns about marijuana cultivation in the Highland Ave area. A general conversation ensued on cultivation logistics. Mr. McDonald pointed that the Zoning Board's plans as written calls for a dispensary and cultivation in the Highland Avenue area. A discussion ensued on health issues, the difference between cultivation and retail, and product testing. Mr. McDonald stated he would put together a summary on cultivation. The discussion continued around the issue of access, who would have access to the site. The Board expressed that their stand would be around inspection, creation of food products from cultivation as well as odors and waste. The Board would only address health issues regarding cultivation.

VIII. #23 Cheney St. Feasibility Assessment for connecting to the Municipal Sewer System.

Mr. McDonald stated that the daughter and granddaughter are living in the house of the owner of #23 Cheney St. Mr. McDonald noted that the house is close to the Add-A-Lane project and that a sound barrier would go up 9' from the house. Mr. McDonald stated that the owner want to leave the house to his daughter. Mr. McDonald stated that the owner wants the septic system to be upgraded. Mr. McDonald stated that Tony DelGaizo, Town Engineer has determined that it is not feasible to connect because the cost is over 10% of the property. Cost is more than upgrading the system, which has not failed and his house is 5' over the property line. The owner has been encouraged to look at the plan. Ms. Gurge noted that Mr. DelGaizo has scheduled a perk for next Friday and that right now things are OK. Dr. Epstein stated that if the perk fails the owner would be responsible to go to sewer.

The Board would leave the 10% threshold has is. Guidance with feasibility in terms of height of connections would be a good conversation to have with engineers.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the January 9, 2015 BOH meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Gosmon, Note Taker