

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
October 9, 2015
MINUTES

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

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Maryanne Dinell, Donna Carmichael, Tara Gurge, Carol Read, Rachel Massar

Guest:

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

DISCUSSION:

Call To Order - 7:06 a.m. - Dr. Epstein

Approve Minutes:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of September 11, 2015 were approved as submitted. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Director's Report - Timothy McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported that the Town is making a push on emergency planning. The Town will run a tabletop exercise to practice a response to a water contamination followed by a Boil Water order scenario. Mr. McDonald stated if the Town does a reverse 911 call, the Town may want to set up a phone bank at the Fire Station and the Emergency Operations Center to answer calls from the public. If Public Health Staff is covering these phones there will be a challenge inspecting restaurants to ensure they are following boiled water orders if they are staying open, and the Public Health Department may choose to blanket close all restaurants in that scenario. The practice emergency scenario is scheduled for November 23, 2015.

Mr. McDonald reported that he applied for a grant to cover accreditation costs through the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The application was not selected for funding. This was a competitive national funding opportunity. Mr. McDonald stated the key parts to apply for accreditation will be built into the Department's strategic plan to complete a Community Health Impact Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan over the next couple of years before applying for accreditation. Mr. McDonald stated that he will continue looking for other opportunities to fund these

components.

Mr. McDonald reported that he and Carol Read have been working on a medicinal marijuana regulation. He stated that the town has requested and he would like the Board to consider having a statement in the policy that states if certain conditions are met there can be no home cultivation. Currently there are no dispensaries in Needham, but there are four dispensaries that are interested in locating in the Town. If the Department of Public Health approves one of these dispensaries, it will be brought to the Selectman to either submit a letter of support, non-opposition, or take any another action.

There was a lengthy discussion with the Board about how to restrict and monitor home cultivation of marijuana. The Board would like to require that Registered Marijuana Dispensaries offer free or reduced home delivery. A discussion about organic marijuana followed. Mr. McDonald reported if any of the Registered Marijuana Dispensary applications are approved by DPH they will be reviewed by the Selectman. There was a discussion on the need for a regulation to be considered by the Board before the time a Registered Marijuana Dispensary would open.

Staff Reports

• Environmental Health Agents Report - Tara Gurge

Ms. Gurge reported it was a busy month for Demolitions. Ms. Gurge conducted a few artificial turf field temperature checks during the hot stretch of weather in September.

Ms. Gurge gave an update on food service items. Ms. Gurge reported that Hess is now Speedway. The Jubali Juice vendor at the Farmer's Market was voted out of the market by the Needham Farmer's Market Board due to continued noncompliance with market requirements.

Ms. Gurge gave an update on the caterer Little Lamb. Ms. Gurge reported that she consulted with the State about whether or not this permit should be renewed when the site has not been active. Ms. Gurge stated that she and the Building Commissioner have been in touch with the Landlord. Ms. Gurge and the Building Commissioner, along with Mr. McDonald, decided that for the upcoming renewal they may issue a month-to-month permit. A discussion about the conditional permit followed.

Vote

Upon motion duly made by Stephen Epstein and seconded by Edward Cosgrove that after 6 months the business will be given a 3 month conditional permit after which if there is still no activity the caterer will need to apply for a brand new

permit. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Gurge reported that the Harvest Fair went well, and the Farmer's Market inspections done by Ms. Massar are going well. Ms. Gurge reported that Panellas market is now open, and a few new daycares have opened which she have permitted as satellite feeding sites. New Garden is preparing to open soon.

Ms. Gurge gave an update on housing items, specifically on Hillside Ave. Ms. Gurge conducted a follow-up inspection with the Building Commissioner at that home. Ms. Gurge also reported that she and Ms. Carmichael have been working together on a housing case requiring pest control monitoring. Ms. Gurge reported that the Department received a complaint about dust from power sanding at a house.

Ms. Gurge reported that she has been monitoring noise from BIDMC following concerns from neighbors. Recent readings have shown the noise level to be quieter than over the summer possibly. Ms. Gurge and Mr. McDonald will be meeting with the maintenance staff about this issue. A general discussion about the issue followed including the possible expansion of the hospital and setting up a 24 hour reading be set up to record the noise at night.

Ms. Gurge gave an update on a subdivision project on Rockwood Lane. The project has resumed after switching builders. The new builder will follow noise maintenance protocols issued by the Planning Board.

Ms. Gurge reported that the next Tobacco compliance check will take place on October 30th with a student from Olin College.

• Traveling Meals Coordinator Report - Maryanne Dinell

Ms. Dinell stated she has been training volunteers on packing and delivering meals. There was a notification in the Needham High School Top of the Hill newsletter. There are a number of volunteers both packing and delivering meals. Ms. Dinell stated that she is hopeful that there will be a solid volunteer base closer to November. Mr. McDonald added that the numbers for meal delivery were up this month. Ms. Dinell noted that Springwell has referred many new clients to the program and that Springwell is working to stay in better contact with clients.

• Evaluation and Communications Coordinator Report- Rachel Massar

Ms. Massar reported that she and Ms. Gurge reached out to Newton and Arlington who have implemented the flavored

tobacco ban. These towns reported that no businesses went out of business, but enforcement of the ban has been difficult in trying to identify which products are flavored because they aren't always labeled on the package. The state released a list of flavored tobacco products which will help with enforcement, but it is an ongoing process to add products to the list. Ms. Massar stated that she worked with Ms. Carmichael on researching tanning regulations and received a copy of the Danvers regulation which bans under 18 year olds from indoor tanning. Ms. Massar has begun drafting a regulation that the Board may consider in the future. Ms. Massar reported that she worked with Ms. Read and Mr. McDonald to create a survey for the Center at the Heights to assess the need for expansion of services into the evening. Ms. Massar wrote an article about the R.A.D. program.

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

Ms. Carmichael presented a summary on communicable diseases. Ms. Carmichael is working on Flu Clinics coming up. There are two open clinics scheduled, as well as flu shots by-appointment. Ms. Carmichael reported that she taught CPR classes.

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

Ms. Read reported that Ms. Carmichael invited her to speak at the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses Southeast Region Meeting in September. Ms. Carmichael added that it was well received by the Public Health Nurses. Ms. Read reported that she, Ms. Carmichael, and Mr. McDonald went to a narcan training for school nurses. Ms. Read stated that Medication Take Back Day took place on September 26th and was successful. Ms. Read reported that she is working on staffing for the SAPC and DFC grants. The first multi-town meeting is scheduled for October 29 for the SAPC grant with Norwood, Dedham, and Westwood. Ms. Read will be attending a training for the SAPC grant. There is also a training that Ms. Read and Mr. McDonald will attend for the DFC grant. Ms. Read is working with other towns including Stoughton, Weymouth, Avon, Walpole and Norwood on marijuana to prevent diversion to youth and MIPs and edibles from RMDs.

Update on Body Works Implementation

Mr. McDonald spoke briefly about implementation of the Bodyworks Regulation thus far. There was a question about reduced fees for therapists that are licensed by the state as massage therapists. The Board responded that they are comfortable with a reduced fee for therapists that practice massage and bodyworks. There was another question about bodyworks therapists who are not

vaccinated due to religious or philosophical reasons. The Board agreed that in this case the practitioner needs to post that they have not had the ACIP recommended vaccines for adults.

Human Services and Community Support

Mr. McDonald spoke about supporting Jamie Brenner Gutner, Executive Director of the Council on Aging, on hiring a social worker at CATH. The draft memo which will be submitted to the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Finance Committee for consideration explains that the volume and complexity of cases are increasing and these cases are often supported by Public Health Department Staff. There was a discussion about how to collect data on social work cases. A poll of support to use of funds to hire a social worker at CATH was taken by the Board.

There is unanimous support among the Board.

Mr. McDonald shared that he will resubmit a grant application to the MetroWest Health Foundation with Jamie Brenner Gutner to fund the social worker position as a back-up plan. That grant application was submitted in the Spring and it was not accepted. This would fund the training of the social worker on SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment), a mental health assessment, and an elder abuse assessment.

Other Brief Items of Interest

Mr. McDonald shared that he and Ms. Gurge will attend a meeting about the new Rosemary Pool construction. They will not have construction completed in time for the summer of 2017. The permit that they have from State DEP to drain the lake expires in September of 2016. They will need a new permit from DEP, or will need permission from the Board to clean and operate the pool without draining the lake.

Updates and Revisions to Existing Tobacco Regulation (Article #1)-Public Hearing Opened at 8:05 a.m.

Mr. McDonald outlined the proposed regulations affecting smoking and the sale and distribution of tobacco products in Needham.

Dr. Epstein commented that the FDA regulation flavored cigarettes five years ago and this proposed regulation extends to other tobacco products.

The Board allowed opportunity for additional comments before voting on the Tobacco Regulation. The meeting continued with other items of interest.

Dr. Fogg stated that she is comfortable eliminating flavored tobacco products. Dr. Cosgrove commented on the recent state regulations which require labeling and child proof packaging of liquid nicotine.

The Board voted on the Tobacco Regulation at 8:36 a.m.

Vote

Upon motion duly made by Jane Fogg and seconded by Edward Cosgrove to approve the amended Tobacco Regulation. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Updates and Revisions to Existing Animal Regulation (Article #4)-Public Hearing Opened at 8:25 a.m.

Ms. Gurge reviewed the revisions to the proposed updated regulation including adding miniature horses and an "other" category. The proposed regulation would allow for variances to be handled by the Public Health Department staff on a case by case basis without holding a BOH hearing with the Board's approval. Setback distance requests could also be handled by Public Health Department staff on a case by case basis with the Board's approval. The proposed regulation includes a statement about non-refundable application fees. The proposed regulation also states that animals should be secured overnight for their safety. The Board allowed opportunity for additional comments before voting on the Tobacco Regulation. The meeting continued with a discussion of avian influenza and the Animal Permit Variance. The Board voted on the Animal Permit Regulation at 8:46 a.m.

Vote

Upon motion duly made by Jane Fogg and seconded by Edward Cosgrove to approve the amended Animal Permit Regulation. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Ms. Carmichael spoke about the State conference call avian influenza she took part in. The state is concerned about domestic flocks in fall and spring. A letter from the Department of Agricultural Resources will be sent out to animal permit holders. The possibility of needing a contingency plan if this strain of avian influenza becomes communicable to humans was discussed. Ms. Carmichael will refer to what the state protocol is for this. An article for the newspaper will also be written about avian influenza.

Animal Permit Variance

131 Oxbow Road -

The owner would like to request a variance to keep an addition two chickens, for a total of 6 chickens. The Town Animal Control Officer Danielle checked out the property. Certified letters from neighbors were received.

Vote

Upon motion duly made by Edward Cosgrove and seconded by Jane Fogg, the variance request to keep an additional two chickens for a total of 6 chickens on the property at 131 Oxbow Road was approved as submitted. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Overview Metro West Adolescent Health Survey

Mr. McDonald discussed data from the survey results. There is a discrepancy between perceptions of risk of drunk driving versus impaired driving, such that students don't perceive impaired driving to be as risky as drunk driving. Dr. Epstein commented on the significant jump in usage, mental health indicators, and violence indicators among high school juniors. The slight increase in cigarette smoking was discussed. Dr. Fogg commented that it would be interesting to look at the connection between marijuana usage and cigarette usage in the data.

Access to alcohol has increased somewhat and there may be a case for doing alcohol compliance checks by the Town similar to the tobacco compliance checks. Mr. McDonald pointed out data from a longitudinal study which showed the relationship between 7th grade drinkers and hard drug use later in life. This statistic will be used in a community coalition poster; preventing underage drinking is the topic of the SAPC regional grant.

Dr. Fogg noted that there are a surprisingly high percentage of middle schoolers who responded that they get alcohol at home with parents' knowledge. Ms. Read pointed out the importance of parents locking up their alcohol and prescription drugs at home. Qualitative data from focus groups will be important to supplement the quantitative data. A potential curriculum on tobacco and substance use for schools was discussed.

Next Meeting Scheduled for November 20, 2015

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the October 9, 2015 BOH meeting adjourn at 9:05 a.m. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.