

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
December 16, 2015
MINUTES

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

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

Guest: Emma Murphy

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

DISCUSSION:

Call To Order - 7:05 a.m. - Dr. Cosgrove

Approve Minutes:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of November 20, 2015 were approved as submitted. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Director's Report - Timothy McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported that there are two new part time temporary staff members: Karen Shannon and Monica DeWinter. They are helping with the Drug Free Communities grant until a permanent position can be filled in January.

Mr. McDonald reported that he and the staff his staff have been involved in a great deal of work on supporting Needham's emergency management activities. Mr. McDonald reported that 12 participants and 28 observers attended the Table Talk exercise to explore an E. coli water contamination scenario. Mr. McDonald stated what was learned from this exercise was that the Health Department's role after the Reverse 911 was more than answering resident phone calls and dealing with food establishment issues. The Building Department concerns were their inability to help due to their day to day responsibilities. Mr. McDonald stated that the town's coordinated response would have to be addressed in the after action report.

Mr. McDonald reported that has secured two Emergency Preparedness grants: \$6000 and \$2000 which he hopes to use to secure an Emergency Preparedness contractor. Robert Lewis, Public Works Asst. and Jamie Gutner, Director of Council on Aging and CATH have asked Mr. McDonald to prepare an Emergency

Plan for both buildings, and to do trainings for employees in both buildings. This would be extremely time consuming.

Mr. McDonald presented in front of the Joint Legislative Committee about the Commonwealth's opioid epidemic. He emphasized the importance of both prevention and mental health treatment.

Staff Reports

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

Ms. Gurge reported that the Bodyworks applications are in process and all educational materials have been distributed.

Ms. Gurge reported on continuing demolition applications, a high number of Temporary Food permits in November and one new home kitchen.

Ms. Gurge provided a brief update on an ongoing housing complaint. She has been working with the owner of 321 Hillside Road. Another letter has been sent to the owner with new deadlines set. Ms. Gurge also provided an update on the Doane Avenue housing complaint. Ms. Gurge stated that she and Ms. Carmichael have been working with LaTanya Steele from the CATH on the ongoing Pickering Street complaint.

Ms. Gurge successfully completed a training held for all tobacco permit holders on December 16th. Dr. Cosgrove stated it was received well by the participants.

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

Ms. Dinell stated that it is difficult to deliver meals on December 24th due to the lack of volunteers. She received approval to deliver both the December 23rd and 24th meals together on the 23rd. Meals on Christmas Day will be delivered by Project Ezra, from Temple Beth Shalom by volunteers free of charge.

Ms. Dinell also reported that it has been difficult to keep packers. It is a difficult job that requires standing in the kitchen for 3 hours and is physically demanding for the volunteers. Mr. McDonald stated that it also has no contact with the grateful program recipients.

- **Public Health Nurses Report - Donna Carmichael**

Ms. Carmichael reported that the Health Department still has

some doses of flu vaccine available. The Health Department also continues to administer flu vaccine by appointment.

Ms. Carmichael presented a brief review on communicable diseases. Ms. Carmichael presented an update on fuel assistance for families needing support with utility bills. Self Help applications have picked up. When applicants come in, the nurses can refer residents to other services provided by the Community Council: the Food Pantry and holiday gift programs. The Public Health nurses also provide gift cards to help residents in need.

Good Neighbor, a program of the Salvation Army, opens up in January.

Dr. Cosgrove noted that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has sent out new protocols on domestic chickens and the increase of Avian Flu. The new precautions were sent to Domestic Animal permit holders with the permit renewal applications. Dr. Cosgrove suggested a newspaper article in the spring as a follow up.

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

Ms. Read reported on the annual Middle School Parenting Conference held at the Pollard Middle School on November 21st. At this conference, Ms. Read noted the parents concern about substance abuse. She assured parents that Needham is aware of the problems. With the 5 year federal grand award, Needham has committed the resources to work to combat the problem.

Ms. Read reported on the SAPC regional stake holders meeting. Of the group, Dedham, Westwood, Norwood and Needham, Needham is the only town to have a full time prevention coordinator. All towns have been conducting interviews to collect data on underage alcohol use for the SAPC strategic plan. Dedham school nurses held a focus group on December 16th.

Ms. Read made a presentation at the DFC meeting in Washington, D.C. for new grantees.

Public Hearing about Draft Tanning Regulations

No residents were in attendance at the meeting and one comment was received by email from a resident in support of the tanning regulations. With only 2 Board members in attendance, Mr. McDonald suggested that the vote on the new regulations be

postponed until the January meeting and that comments from the public be extended until January.

Vote

Upon motion duly made by Jane Fogg and seconded by Edward Cosgrove to postpone approval of the Indoor Tanning regulations and allow comments to be submitted until January. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Public Hearing on Draft Medical Marijuana Regulations

No residents were in attendance at the meeting and no comments were received by mail or email from residents regarding the proposed regulations. With 2 Board members in attendance, Mr. McDonald suggested that the vote on the new regulations be postponed until the January meeting and that comments from the public be extended until January.

Upon motion duly made by Jane Fogg and seconded by Edward Cosgrove to postpone approval of the Medical Marijuana regulations and allow comments to be submitted until January. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.

Mr. McDonald directed the Board to Draft Marijuana regulation 20.6.2. With information pulled from the San Francisco Board of Health regarding infused products. Dr. Fogg asked about a method of preserving tinctures. The San Francisco BOH advised that they must be stored at 41 degrees or below for safety.

Mr. McDonald stated that Denver regulations are the same as the food code. Mass DEP has no regulations in place.

Mr. McDonald noted that he has contacted Fire and Building Departments for impact statements before the regulations are finalized.

Home cultivation is only allowed under state law if there is a hardship defined as an inability to access a dispensary. All 3 businesses looking at Needham dispensary sites will offer home delivery making home cultivation unnecessary.

Dr. Fogg stated that Salem and Brocton have dispensaries and Brookline is focused on hours of operation. Ms. Read has received inquiries from MDPH about food regulations and they have asked for Ms. Gurge's input. Ms. Read stated the other towns are adopting a "wait and see" attitude. Dr. Fogg stated that the dynamics between the State and Town will be difficult to understand.

Ms. Read commented that the state wants people to go to dispensaries, not to home cultivate.

Dr. Fogg asked if there is a list of Doctors who are approved by MDPH to issue referral cards. The issue of medical marijuana is still overwhelming to many doctors. Many do not want their names getting out. This opens the field up for a CannaMed business.

Dr. Cosgrove received a call from Dan Matthews (BOS) regarding Draft Medical Marijuana Regulations section 20.4 commenting that we are not spelling out the memoranda, we are leaving it to people to look it up on the mass.gov website, not providing easy access to changes. Mr. McDonald stated that he would contact Dave Tobin to clarify.

The Selectmen had a question about 20.7.9 to clarify the statement about RMD employees allowable statements. Mr. McDonald also stated that the regulations need to define penalties on RMD regulation violations. The purpose would be to prevent diversion of product and mitigate collateral damage at RMD.

Mr. McDonald reported that three proposed dispensary owners came to a meeting with Kate Fitzpatrick, Christopher Coleman, Lee Newman and Timothy McDonald. Two of them have leases pending in the RMD approved business zone. They stated that they are not looking for foot traffic, it would be more of a showroom and they would offer delivery. Of the 3 stages of the application process to MDPH, none of these businesses have made it past stage 2.

Follow up recap

- Mr. McDonald will update the website to extend comments on the Draft Tanning Regulations and Draft Medical Marijuana Regulations to January.
- Contact the Fire and Police Departments on standards and goals for Marijuana businesses and home cultivators
- Develop educational packets for home cultivators
- Look for a list of certified doctors
- Consult with Dave Tobin on 20.7.9 of the Draft Medical Marijuana Regulations

The states of Washington and Colorado have impaired driving statistics since the legalization of recreational marijuana.

With the risk perceptions on youth in Needham interdepartmental cooperation is needed to explain the risks.

Dr. Cosgrove asked about synthetic turf field testing. He stated that we now have a good baseline from previous tests and questioned if we need to test every year. Ms. Gurge works with Patty Carey, Park and Recreation Director and Micah Hauben from the schools on temperature monitoring. Years ago there were protocols to close synthetic turf fields if the temperature and the UV index indicated it. Ms. Gurge will resend those charts to Ms. Carey and Mr. Hauben.

It was also decided to continue testing every year to keep the money allocated rather than to risk losing it.

Cancer registry results were published with no surprise. Dr. Cosgrove noted that the increase in prostate cancer in Needham is related to the increasing older population.

E cigarettes are included in the Needham Tobacco regulations. During the training, tobacco permit holders were given a list of current brands. The number of brands keeps increasing. Dr. Cosgrove noted that data on E cigarettes shows that the additives cause "popcorn lung".

Ms. Read quoted the Youth Risk Survey that 21% of boys and 15% of girls used E cigarettes in the last 30 days compared to 9% of boys and 6% of girls used tobacco.

Mr. McDonald suggested an E cigarette article in the spring.

Next Meeting

By a general consensus of the Board, the next meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2016 7:00 a.m. - Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham MA 02492

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the December 16, 2015 BOH meeting adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The motion carried. Unanimous vote.