

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
June 17, 2016
MEETING MINUTES

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

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Donna Carmichael, Catherine Delano, Maryanne Dinell, Angela Giordano, Tara Gurge, Karen Shannon

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

DISCUSSION:

Call to Order - 7:04 a.m. - Dr. Cosgrove

Approve Minutes:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of May 13, 2016 were approved as amended.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Welcome New Staff Members

Mr. McDonald stated that Catherine Delano was introduced to the Board at the May meeting. She was hired at that time, in a part-time capacity but is now on board full-time. Mr. McDonald welcomed summer intern, Angela Giordano. Ms. Giordano is a Master's of Public Health candidate at Boston University.

Director's Report - Timothy McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported that the Traveling Meals Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon took place on Tuesday May 3rd. Mr. McDonald stated Ms. Dinell, Traveling Meals Program Coordinator, did a very good job in organizing this event. Mr. McDonald stated that the number of volunteers has increased because the need has increased. Ms. Dinell and her team of volunteers have done a great job and that it is very nice to have a luncheon to appreciate them.

Mr. McDonald reported that the Needham Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and three other substance abuse prevention coalitions from Stoughton Weymouth, Avon attended a conference on Friday, May 13th about the Impact of Marijuana.

Mr. McDonald reported on the Healthy Aging through Healthy Community Design mini grant. Mr. McDonald explained that he is working on a three part report that would be completed mid July.

The report would include a combination of assessments of municipal regulations, zoning policies; qualitative data gathered from key informant interviews and focus groups, as well quantitative data from the survey. Mr. McDonald stated he received 650 responses, 200 written response and 450 online responses.

Mr. McDonald reported on water safety at the Hillside Elementary School. Mr. McDonald stated that because of the news reports from Natick, Boston and Newton Superintendent Gutekanst asked that the two oldest schools be tested: Hillside and Mitchell. Mr. McDonald stated that EPA Action level at Hillside was high and was immediately taken offline and a re-test was conducted on every drinking source. He reported that the second round of test came back with a high EPA Action level for a different drinking source at Hillside. Mr. McDonald stated that the town now has a policy on when to remove a drinking source from service. Mr. McDonald reported on his meeting with parents regarding this issue. Mr. McDonald stated that he has developed a document that provides parents with information on this issue. Mr. McDonald stated that the town would conduct baseline testing of all drinking resources in all its schools. A general discussion followed.

Staff Reports

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

Ms. Dinell's report included a description on the number of meals delivered. Ms. Dinell reported that four women would be hired for the summer program. Three are from last summer, 2015 and one is from 2014. Ms. Dinell reported that the summer program begins on June 20th and that summer staff have been hired.

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

Mr. McDonald delivered the Environmental Health Agents Report on behalf of Tara Gurge, Environmental Health Agent. Mr. McDonald reported that there was a sustained discussion about food permits and food trucks at Town Meeting. He stated that this discussion is still ongoing. Mr. McDonald stated that from a Public Health perspective he would like clarity from the town on the process, which would include the Selectmen, Police Department, Building Commission and the Board of Health to ensure that safe food practices are followed. Mr. McDonald stated that he would be working on this initiative over the summer.

Mr. McDonald stated that the Farmer's Market is starting and that there are not as many vendors as last year. Mr. McDonald also stated that there have been requests from the Farmer's Market vendors to sell breads and cheeses that are not

produced on the farm, which causes challenges. Mr. stated that Ms. Gurge is in conversation with DPH regarding this.

Mr. McDonald spoke about challenges with regards to septic reviews, plans and inspections. Mr. McDonald briefed the Board on the status of the 7-Eleven, #173 Chestnut Street, tobacco permit suspension.

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

Ms. Carmichael stated that Ms. Paquette did an excellent job while she was away. She also stated that Ms. Paquette has been very busy with camp openings. Ms. Carmichael stated that there are seven, day camps and one overnight camp. Ms. Carmichael presented an update on communicable diseases. Ms. Carmichael reported on a housing call involving Needham Fire Department and Springwell. Ms. Carmichael noted that fuel assistance help is down.

- **Senior Substance Use Prevention Coordinator - Catherine Delano**

Ms. Delano stated that she worked part-time during the month of May. She spent time acquainting herself with the details of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant materials and attending trainings. Ms. Delano spoke about a campaign she is involved with on educating youth about the risk of impaired drugged driving.

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

Ms. Read stated that Mr. McDonald and Ms. Gurge contributed significantly to the conference on the Impact of Marijuana. Ms. Read stated that the conference was a collaborative effort involving Norfolk District Attorney, Michael Morrissey, Attorney John Scheft, Walpole Police Chief, John Carmichael and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions of Avon, Needham, Stoughton and Weymouth. Ms. Read stated that the goals of the conference included discussions on developing best practices to prevent the diversion of marijuana to youth, as well as discussions on mitigating the collateral consequences of Registered Medical Marijuana Dispensaries. Ms. Read stated that the Board of Health Regulations to adhere to those two goals were presented at the conference and everyone appreciates the work Needham is doing in limiting access and availability. Ms. Read stated that Needham's regulations have been shared throughout the Commonwealth. Ms. Read described what participants were expected to learn as well as educational information on model health regulations participants would walk away with.

Ms. Read spoke about Needham's goal to not have home cultivation in Needham based on the law and regulations. Ms. Read stated that she is enjoying the four town regional Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) grant. Ms. Read stated that the grant's primary focus is on the prevention of underage drinking. Ms. Read stated that having towns that understand prevention and form coalitions bring in other towns into sound prevention strategies. Ms. Read stated that Westwood and Norwood initiated a parent survey modeled after Needham's template. Ms. Read noted that Westwood and Norwood were pleased at the number of responses they received.

Ms. Read spoke about efforts to encourage pharmacies to understand and carry nasal Naloxone and to have their staff trained as a point of access for Narcan. Ms. Read stated that Public Health nurses could also be a point of access as well. A general discussion followed.

The conversation veered to a lengthy discussion on the marijuana referendum. Dr. Epstein stated that if this referendum passes regulations would need to be in place by December 15, 2016. Dr. Epstein noted that there would be home cultivation if the referendum passes. A discussion then followed on the bi-law change for mixed-use zone and residential parcels and establishing a buffer zone.

Mr. McDonald suggested that the Board convene a Chair's meeting involving the Chairmen of the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Health. Mr. McDonald also suggested that Dr. Cosgrove extend an invitation to this group to attend a Chairman's meeting in August or September. Mr. McDonald stated that Special Town Meeting is scheduled for October, if a Public Hearing is needed it would need to happen in September. Discussion followed.

- **Substance Abuse Prevention Program Support Assistant - Karen Shannon**

Karen Shannon stated that she works part-time with Monica De Winter to provide program support to the Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention. Ms. Shannon stated that she has been busy with developing the logic model for Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant. She explained that the Public Health Department is in year six of the DFC grant and that she and Ms. De Winter have been assisting Ms. Delano in putting the logic model in place.

Ms. Shannon also stated that she has been very busy developing a series of Public Service Announcements (PSA) for parents in the Needham community. Ms. Shannon stated

that a taping for a 17 minute long PSA for prom and graduation safety have been completed. She added that it has been aired on the Needham Channel and disbursed through the school system as well as the YMCA via a You Tube link. Ms. Shannon stated a second PSA installment is a man on the street style interview for parents of children K-6. She noted this would air in July.

Continued Discussion of Proposed New or Amended BOH Regulations

- **Body Art**

Mr. McDonald stated that the **Regulation for Body Art Establishments and Practitioners** were revised with feedback from the Board of Health and David Tobin, Town Counsel, to address techniques as well as additional questions from one Needham practitioner. Mr. McDonald stated that the Regulation for Body Art addresses permanent tattoos and temporary tattoos that involve skin penetration. A brief discussion followed on temporary tattoos and microblading. Mr. McDonald will investigate which salons are using microblading techniques. Mr. McDonald stated that this regulation would be brought back for discussion at the next meeting. A general discussion followed on age requirements for obtaining a tattoo and safety versus esthetics.

- **Synthetic Marijuana**

Mr. McDonald stated that the **Regulation for Restriction of Synthetic Drugs** has been revised extensively. Mr. McDonald outlined changes that were suggested by the Board. A brief discussion followed. Mr. McDonald stated he would submit a change memo to David Tobin with a notice for a Public Hearing.

- **Drug Paraphernalia**

Mr. McDonald stated that he had a long conversation with Town Counsel on the **Regulation for Restriction of Drug Paraphernalia**. Mr. McDonald summarized suggestion from Town Counsel. A lengthy discussion followed on kits for planting and the definition of drug paraphernalia as it applies to the sale of marijuana seeds for home cultivation. Mr. McDonald will clarify this with the Department of Public Health. Mr. McDonald stated he would submit a case for change memo to David Tobin with a notice for a Public Hearing.

Board Discussion of Policy Positions

Mr. McDonald stated that Ms. Delano and Ms. Giordano are working on a letter to the editor of the Needham Times that outlines the dangers of synesthetic drugs.

Mr. McDonald spoke about what the Board could do to inform the community on the upcoming state ballot question on the legalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana.

Dr. Epstein spoke about the governor's coalition of doctors, law enforcement officials, and addiction specialists in opposition to legalizing marijuana. Dr. Epstein suggested that the Needham Board of Health sign onto this coalition.

Mr. McDonald stated that the Interfaith Clergy Association asked if the Needham Public Health Department would partner with them on a Public Forum against the ballot referendum to legalize marijuana. Mr. McDonald added that this is an idea worth discussing. A brief discussion followed.

Other Items

Mr. McDonald provided a brief update on developing the concussion data base.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the June 17, 2016 BOH meeting adjourn at 8:45 a.m. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for, Friday, July 29, 2016

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary