

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
January 13, 2017
MEETING MINUTES

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

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Maryanne Dinell, Tara Gurge, Carol Read, Dawn Stiller

GUEST: Emma Murphy, Needham Times, Mathew Roth, Hawthorn Builders, Ryan McDonnell, Hawthorn Builders

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

DISCUSSION:

Call To Order - 7:10 a.m. - Dr. Cosgrove, Chairman

APPROVE MINUTES:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meetings of December 2, 2016 were approved as submitted.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Timothy McDonald

Mr. McDonald spoke briefly on how the transition of the Needham Health and Human Services Department is progressing. He stated that one of the biggest challenges is the budget. Mr. McDonald stated that he has ongoing discussions with the Finance Committee on the Health and Human Services Department budget. The Needham Health and Human Services Department consists of four divisions: Aging Services, Public Health, Veterans Services, as well as Youth and Family Services.

Mr. McDonald also spoke about office-related health concerns affecting two additional staff, Ms. Read, and Ms. Delano who are no longer working out of Town Hall and are spending more time at The Center at the Heights (CATH). Mr. McDonald described potential office space that the Town is considering. He stated that he is strongly advocating for a commitment from the Town on a viable timeline for a plan for a permanent location for staff. Mr. McDonald pointed out that it is challenging to keep the office at Town Hall open because of fewer and fewer staff. There are also space constraints for Public Health staff at CATH. A lengthy discussion followed on environmental effects to the Public Health suite since the renovation of Town Hall and the effects of reduced staff at the Town Hall location.

STAFF REPORTS

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

Ms. Carmichael provided a detailed description of communicable diseases and animal bites.

Ms. Carmichael reported on a Zika that was a travel back and forth to Haiti. She also reported on the Dengue, which was a travel back and forth to India. Ms. Carmichael stated she received a Salmonella report for a small child. Ms. Carmichael stated that the Shigellosis report was a five-year-old traveling to India.

Ms. Carmichael reported on donations received from the First Baptist Church, the Congregational Church, and private residents. Ms. Carmichael provided an update on assistance programs. Ms. Carmichael stated she has Flu Vaccine available for some Flu Clinics by appointment at Town Hall.

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

Ms. Dinell reported on the number of clients on the Traveling Meals Program in December. There were 31 Springwell clients and 15 private pay Needham clients. Ms. Dinell reported on a \$300 donation from a family who's loved one was a consumer of the program. An additional donation of \$1,000.00 was received from a volunteer of the Traveling Meals Program. Ms. Dinell noted that the numbers are down. She explained that this often happens when clients are in and out of the hospital and or Rehabilitation Facilities. A general conversation followed on the Traveling Meals provider and abutting neighbors.

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

Ms. Gurge reported that Environmental Health Agents found a discrepancy with pest control documents for Hawthorn Builders relative to several residential demolition sites. Ms. Gurge stated that she informed Town Counsel and the Building Department of this discovery. Ms. Gurge explained that the Building Department has legal authority to investigate and issue notification of a violation. Ms. Gurge stated that Hawthorn Builders has been asked to attend the Board of Health meeting to talk about their protocol going forward to ensure that this does not happen again. They must also let the Board know who will be in charge of their pest control operation. Ms. Gurge pointed out that the Public Health Department has also improved its review process in terms of needing an original signed copy

of the pest control document. This would be enforced going forward. Mr. McDonald noted that co-owner Mathew Roth spoke with him and Ms. Gurge and explained that this was the first time this has happened. Mr. McDonald pointed out that there were five other incidences where this had happened. Dr. Fogg asked if there were other areas of discrepancy other than pest control. Ms. Gurge replied that she had triple checked the asbestos paperwork and there were no discrepancies. Dr. Fogg asked what are other items that must be reported. Ms. Gurge replied the main reports are asbestos and pest control as well as septic abandonment (If a septic system is present). A lengthy discussion followed.

Ms. Gurge reported that the owner of a Needham base bodyworks establishment would like to meet with the Board to talk about the Regulations Governing the Practice of Bodywork, Article 19. Ms. Gurge stated that the owner would be available for the February Board meeting. A lengthy discussion followed on other town regulations. Mr. McDonald noted that there are four bodyworks establishments in Needham. Mr. McDonald described the process for which Environmental Agents conduct inspections of bodywork establishments in Needham. He stated that a State Inspector and a Needham Police Officer accompany the Environmental Agent on an inspection. He explained that this assures that the facility can be inspected by the local jurisdiction or the state jurisdiction. Mr. McDonald went on to say that in the case of this one owner, her concerns are on the administrative aspects of the regulation. The Board discussed ways in which the process could be less onerous. Mr. McDonald stated that he would continue to do additional administrative work on best practices from other towns.

Ms. Gurge spoke about a Spa establishment on 400 Hunnewell Street that is not licensed and has a licensed therapist that practices bodywork but is not licensed with the Needham Public Health Department. Mr. McDonald noted that there were reports of unusual activity at this establishment. Ms. Gurge has scheduled an upcoming inspection of that facility with the local police and State inspector.

Ms. Gurge reported on a revised septic plan review for 12 Brookside Road. Ms. Gurge recapped the history on this request. She stated that initially, it was a failed septic. She described the process to investigate the failed system as well as mitigation recommendations from the Town Engineer and from the State. Mr. McDonald stated that a variance hearing would be scheduled. A discussion followed

on submitting a recommendation to the Town to seriously consider adding sewer to Brookside Road.

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

Ms. Delano stated that the name of the coalition has been changed to SPAN (Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham) and that a website is currently under construction. Ms. Delano reported that coalition has developed three action teams: marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs. She stated that the group meets bimonthly to discuss accomplishments and collaborate on ideas.

Ms. Delano provided an update on the work she is doing with the Cardinal Health Grant. She stated that Public Services Announcements have been created for NC7 Towns, which are disseminated on local cable channels.

Ms. Delano stated that the coalition is working on an educational pharmacist breakfast, which will happen at the end of March. Ms. Delano stated that she, Ms. Read and Ms. Carmichael attended a meeting at Newton-Wellesley Hospital to discuss developing a comprehensive program designed to work with patients that have substance use disorders, and connecting them with resources. A lengthy discussion ensued on suboxone treatment programs and pain management.

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Education - Carol Read**

Ms. Read stated that she too enjoyed the meeting at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and was glad that Ms. Carmichael encouraged the coalition to attend the meeting. Ms. Read stated that she appreciates that the team at Newton-Wellesley has been meeting with local Public Health Departments, and State Public Health to address addiction and substance dependence issues of the patients who come to Newton-Wellesley Hospital emergency department as well as for surgical inpatient services and after discharge connect to local public health departments.

Ms. Read stated that a representative from Newton-Wellesley Hospital attended the Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) meeting. Ms. Read shared an update on this meeting. Ms. Read stated that the partnership between Public Health and hospitals is powerful in a lot of different ways.

Ms. Read provided an update on grant activity for the four towns. She stated that conversations involve what the four towns want to do collectively on alcohol compliance. Ms. Read referred to the Boston Globe article, "Where and when OUI convicts had their last drinks before an arrest." Ms.

Read stated that commonwealth is trying to encourage communities to be transparent as to what is happening in locales with over pouring. Ms. Read stated that reports and data such as this would be the validation need to enhance the alcohol regulations and moving the alcohol compliance around the four regions more closely with what Needham does with tobacco compliance and training. Ms. Read added that Mr. McDonald is presenting on January 27th the Public Health perspective of legalizing marijuana for recreational use at the event sponsored by District Attorney Michael Morrissey. Ms. Read shared an update on the effects of this referendum on local communities.

BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING - Began at 8:24 a.m.

- **Revise Article 1: Regulation Affecting Smoking and the Sale and Distribution of Tobacco Products in Needham**

Mr. McDonald stated that Public Hearing remained opening from last month. He stated that there were no public comments on the tobacco regulations. He did however, received comments from two vendors on labeling. He noted that the Board was advised by the Mass Municipal Association to either revise or take out. Mr. McDonald reviewed revisions and changes to the draft with the Board. The conversation that followed included a lengthy discussion on establishing a 36-month tolling period for tobacco vendors, clarification on violations attached to the issuance of tobacco permits, and establishing a distance setback requirement. Target a memo for next months meeting with revised language to include changes as discussed. Mr. McDonald spoke about his budget request for funding from the Town for compliance checks.

- **Consider of Article 24: Regulation to Ensure the Sanitary and Safe Operations of Commercial and Recreational Marijuana Establishments, and to Minimize Community Impacts and Collateral Consequences of Widespread Recreational Marijuana Use and Both Commercial and Personal Marijuana Cultivation**

Mr. McDonald noted that he received comments on this regulation. Mr. McDonald reviewed changes to this policy with the Board. The conversation that followed included a discussion on whether or not to include labeling language on the potency of edible marijuana products and inhalants. Also on how to shape the regulations and whether or not the regulations would mirror the Medical Marijuana regulations. A general discussion followed on home cultivation.

Public Hearing will be kept opened.

OTHER ITEMS -**Hawthorn Builders**

Mr. McDonald welcomed Mathew Roth and Ryan McDonnell co-owners of Hawthorn Builders and invited to address the Board regarding their protocols on demolitions. Ms. Gurge gave a brief overview of the purpose for this Administrative Hearing. She stated that the pest control paperwork with regard to demolition review work was not validated. Ms. Gurge pointed out that this is an opportunity for Hawthorn Builders to explain their Pest Control Plan going forward. Mr. Roth gave an overview on protocols that are now in place. He described what staff would be required to do. Both Mr. Roth and Mr. McDonnell expressed their disappointment that this happened. They ensured the Board that this is not the type of business that they engage in, and that they have respect for town procedures. Mr. McDonnell stated that Hawthorn Builders no longer employs the individual involved with this oversight. A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Gurge asked that their proposed Demolition Checklist be forwarded to her for review. Mr. Roth said that he would get that to her in a timely manner.

Board of Health Mission and Goals

Mr. McDonald presented changes and revisions to the Board of Health Mission and Goals FY2017-2018. A brief discussion followed.

Motion and Vote

Ed Cosgrove moved and Jane Fogg seconded the motion to adopt the Board of Health Mission and Goals FY2017-2018 as written.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Concussion Training

Mr. McDonald stated that a beta site is available but do not have the posted domain with the town to test the site. Once beta testing is complete he would be able to post the final product. Mr. McDonald described what the testing would involve and how this would be communicated to the user groups.

Healthy Aging

Mr. McDonald stated that he and his staff are working on a \$20K grant that would continue the work that was done on the assessment of housing and transportation options for seniors. Mr. McDonald stated that the grant would fund the Transportation Summit and the implementation of a Task Force to investigate how to coordinate and publicize transportation options available in Needham. A second phase of the grant would include funding to determine how to make homes accessible for seniors. This would involve a how to guide/brochure on modifying the home for accessibility. A brief discussion followed.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the January 13, 2017 BOH meeting adjourn at 9:05 a.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for, Friday, February 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary