

NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

October 5, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

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

STAFF: Timothy McDonald, Director, Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, Donna Carmichael, Catherine Delano, Carol Read, Dawn Stiller, Tiffany Zike

GUEST: Needham Board of Selectmen: Marianne Cooley, Chair, Dan Matthews, Vice Chair, John Bulian, Moe Handel, Matthew Borrelli, Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m. - Public Service Administration Building (PSAB), 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham MA 02492

DISCUSSION:

Called To Order - 6:07 p.m. - Jane Fogg, Chairman

APPROVE MINUTES:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the BOH meeting of September 15, 2017, were approved as submitted. **The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.**

STAFF REPORTS

- **Health Agents - Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, and Diana Acosta**

Ms. Gurge stated that new Health Agent, Diana Acosta is doing great. She is attending a Food Training Seminar this week. She has taken over demolition reviews and continues to shadow Health Agents during food inspections.

Ms. Gurge submitted an update on Food Plan Reviews that were conducted for Homewood Suites, #200 First Avenue, Sweet Tahini, a new residential kitchen at #215 Fisher Street, and #117 Kendrick - Epicurean Feast, which is a change of owner request.

Ms. Gurge provided an update on Sage Naturals, (new Medical Marijuana Dispensary). Sage Naturals is requesting a Retail Food Permit to sell edibles at their Needham location. Ms. Gurge stated that she and Ms. Acosta conducted a site visit of their Milford grow/processing facility. Ms. Gurge stated

that the facility was secure, with strict guidelines and is professionally managed. Ms. Gurge stated that a meeting was held after the inspection, which included a review of materials and items that will be needed before a permit is issued. The conversation veered to a discussion on product safety and refrigeration and after a brief discussion, Ms. Gurge stated that she would request Sage Naturals put in writing, any oils to be used in their products will be refrigerated at their Milford facility.

Ms. Gurge continued her report on Food Plan Reviews and stated that Gluten Free Food Bank submitted a Food Plan Review and are looking at a site on Pickering Street. She noted that this request is still pending. Spiga Restaurant submitted a Plan Review for materials for proposed renovations. Ms. Gurge stated that she and Ms. Acosta have an appointment with Spiga to review their renovation plans.

Ms. Gurge responded to Dr. Cosgrove's question regarding #26 Highland Terrance. She and Mr. McDonald provided an update on this matter. Ms. Gurge also provided an update on the properties at #161 St. Mary Street and #288 Marked Tree Road. She stated that David Roche, Building Inspector is working with the state on these abandoned houses.

Ms. Gurge provided an update on the Rosemary Pool construction project. She stated that a plan review is still in progress for updated plans there were submitted. Ms. Gurge stated that she and Mr. McDonald are attending weekly progress meetings. Ms. Gurge also provided an update on the Mill Creek/Moderna Complex, #700 Greendale Ave pool plan review. She stated that she is waiting for additional materials, noting that this item is still in process.

- **Nurses Report - Tiffany Zike, RN**

Ms. Zike presented a brief report on communicable diseases and animal bites as well as an update on assistance programs.

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

Mr. McDonald submitted the Traveling Meals Report on behalf of Ms. Dinell. He reported that the numbers are down because some clients have come off the program because of health issues.

- **Substance Use Senior Program Coordinator - Carol Read**

Ms. Read reported on the Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) meetings, structure changes and the work that is done with residents that have chronic or acute needs.

Ms. Read reported she is working with a team of Norfolk County Prevention colleagues to begin a Parents Empowered Campaign, similar to the successful Utah Parents Empowered Campaign. Ms. Read reported that the campaign would tie into positive messaging and strategies on empowering parents on what they can do to prevent underage drinking. Ms. Read stated that Utah has a great campaign and is willing to share their program.

Ms. Read spoke about the Smoking Cessation program that Linden-Chambers have requested for many years. Ms. Read stated that a Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham nurse will run the program for seven weeks at the Center at the Heights, in collaboration with Latanya Steele and Jessica Moss. The program will start in November.

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

Angela, who was an intern last December worked with us on Needham Housing Needs Assessments. She just about wrapped that up Tim, and I are editing the report. One population within that community that we found was missing the Russian and Mandarin speaking community we were trying to work with translators and program coordinator to do focus groups with them before we close out the report.

Ms. Delano stated that Scott Formica presented the 2017 Parent Survey results at the quarterly SPAN meeting. Ms. Delano stated that held first meeting for Youth Diversion Program planning.

RESULTS FROM THE 2017 NEEDHAM PARENT SURVEY

Ms. Delano presented some key points from the 2017 Needham Parent Survey. Ms. Delano stated that 759 participants or 41% of Needham parents participated in the survey. Ms. Delano presented a summary of findings around the four themes of the Parent Survey: Communication, Attitudes, Perceptions, and Behaviors. Discussion followed.

FLU CLINICS 2017

Donna Carmichael reported that the Needham Public Health Division would provide seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics. A clinic will be held on Wednesday, October 25th from 1:00 p.m. – to 4:00 p.m. at the Center at The Heights. A clinic will also be held on Thursday, October 26th from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The Public Health Division will be administering the

quadrivalent vaccine only. Ms. Carmichael stated that the Public Health Division does not have High Dose Flu Vaccine. Ms. Carmichael stated she has a great group of nurses that will help. A brief discussion followed.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Mr. McDonald stated that the Public Health Department had received a grant award from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) for \$14,960 for accreditation support. Mr. McDonald explained that the deliverables that are due June 1, 2018, will move the Public Health Department closer to accreditation readiness.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – BOARD OF HEALTH

Marianne Cooley thanked the Board of Health for their work on the Eversource and Verizon issues. Ms. Cooley shared that the Board of Selectmen will vote to refer to the Planning Board a request that they take a look at zoning that prohibits the sale of recreational marijuana in the town of Needham and request that if there were to be recreational marijuana in town where would the Planning Board recommend it go. The discussion that followed included a conversation on zoning, bylaw changes, buffer zones and the safety of recreational marijuana as well as the distinction between medical marijuana versus recreational marijuana regarding broader health and zoning concerns.

Jane Fogg expressed concerns that the Board has for the loss of support/time for the Public Health Department and Board from its Director because of the merging departments. Ed Cosgrove stated the Board is asking for consideration of more upper management support within the Public Health Department. Dr. Fogg also expressed concerns for other inefficiencies particularly around office space and the need for greater online efficiencies so that the teams could work faster.

The conversation continued with a discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). The report on ADUs was commissioned as follow up to the Assessment of Housing and Transit Options for Needham Seniors. Ms. Cooley stated that this is an issue the Board of Selectmen will continue to discuss. Dan Matthews stated that the ADU Report is very good, and has a lot of good data. He added that the concept might turn out to be very desirable. He explained the issues associated with town's affordability goals.

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

Ms. Gurge reported on grants that she and Ms. Acosta have applied for. She stated that the objectives are a focus on the Standard Nine.

The Public Health Division also received an Emergency Planning Grant for \$14,000 and a grant for \$14,960 to support accreditation.

OTHER ITEMS

- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)
Mr. McDonald stated that the ADU's could be used as a modest tool to help with affordability and the accessibility of housing for some seniors. The conversation that followed included a discussion on increases to property taxes based on upcoming construction projects in town that would further impose a burden to seniors. Mr. McDonald stated that should the Board of Selectmen have a conversation that would move this initiative forward he would like the Board to consider recommendations that would need to be tweaked for policy purposes.
- Resident Concern
Mr. McDonald stated that a resident in town has expressed concerns about the health effects in the town from a construction project and that the town is failing to accommodate her medical needs. He also stated that the resident wanted to speak to the whole board but had a reaction to the room during the meeting. Mr. McDonald explained that there are not many options for a reasonable accommodation within the control of the Public Health Department for the resident but that he has offered to help provide transportation to the Senior Center or Library. Mr. McDonald stated that he would follow up with the Engineering Department and the Needham Police Department to see if there are other accommodations available for the resident. Dr. Fogg spoke with Kate Fitzpatrick about the concerns of the resident during the meeting.

Adjournment -

Upon motion duly made and seconded, that the October 5, 2017 BOH meeting adjourns at 8:56 a.m.

The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for, Thursday, November 9, 2017

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Gosmon, Recording Secretary