

Needham Board of Health Minutes

May 10, 2019

Board: Edward Cosgrove, PhD, Chair
Stephen Epstein, MD, MPP, Member
Kathleen Ward Brown, ScD, Vice Chair
Christina S. Mathews, MPH, Member
Robert A. Partridge, MD, MPH, Member

Staff Present: Tara Gurge, Assistant Director, Maryanne Dinell, Donna Carmichael, Diane Acosta, Carol Read, Dawn Stiller

Convene: Rosemary Recreation Complex, 178 Rosemary Street, Multipurpose Room

Dr. Partridge, Chair of the Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 7:05 am

Minutes

Ms. Gurge distributed latest materials from DJ Wilson and Cheryl Sbarra.

Ms. Gurge said minutes were pending and were being reviewed by Ms. Lynn Schoeff.

Regional Substance Abuse Coordinator Report--Ms. Carol Read

Ms. Read reported on the progress of the alcohol prevention policy project which includes a tool kit for policy and practice. The tool kit contains communication tools and readiness assessment to support education and advocacy related to town alcohol policies. Included among the tools are some identified in a CDC community guide: invention approaches and policies; limiting alcohol advewrtising; retailer compliance checks. Responsible beverage service training; and limiting alcohol outlet density and proximity to schools, playgrounds, and residential neighborhoods.

Ms. Read works with Ms. Carmichael, Ms. Zike, and the police on the Community Crisis intervention team (CCIT). The CCIT reviews quarterly emergency department admission data from Newton-Wellesley and BID Needham hospitals including: acute mental health conditions; alcohol and other drug intosication; overdose; elder falls; and domestic violence incidents. This data is used to identify and track acute and chronic behavioral health conditions enabling town service eproviders to ensure and enhance programs and services.

The Public Health Division and the Police Department are collaborating on a grant application for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Jail/Arrest Diversion program. The proposal is to fund a social worker within the police department to work along with officers in responding to residents with behavioral health challenges. This social worker will also collaborate with other Town service providers including public health nurses and social workers on the CCIT/

Traveling Meals Program Report--Ms. Mary Anne Dinell

Ms. Dinell reported that she has posted a second job posting for summer traveling meals packer-driver position. Three of the women from summer 2018 will return. Ms. Dinell happily reported that she has for another year received a \$1000.00 donation from one of the volunteers. Sadly, a former town employee and volunteer passed away recently. This person's family requested that in lieu of flowers, people could send donations to the Friends of the Board of Health for the Traveling Meals program.

Ms. Dinell noted the May 1st appreciation lunch was well attended and she thanked Ms. Mathews for attending.

Environmental Health Report--Ms. Tara Gurge and Ms. Diana Acosta

Ms. Gurge reported that the three training sessions about the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (FDA Standard 9, program assessment) in April went extremely well. Pamela Ross Kung conducted the trainings and focused on the three risk factors that arose in the fall 2018 survey. These are: poor hand washing, contaminated equipment, and improper cooling temperatures. Both the data and strategies to remediate the program were presented. Ms. Acosta reported that the survey at the end of the sessions indicated an overwhelmingly positive response. Dr. Cosgrove said that he attended one training and was very impressed by the entire session.

Shared Dumpster Discussion (CVS/Hearth/Farmhouse and Masala Arts)

A long discussion ensued on rodent infestation in the dumpster and remediating to prevent burrowing in the soft soil nearby on the day care's playground. The town engineer Tony Del Gaizo is now on board with possible relocation of the dumpster further out in the parking lot. Enclosure design is under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board while the supervision of the dumpsters is within the Board of Health's domain.

Communication has improved among the parties since the restaurant owners are now meeting with the Health Division and the three pest-control companies to share information. Cameras can be checked for illegal dumping but the main issue is training the staff to properly close the doors to the dumpsters. Mid-May daily pickups will begin for both dumpsters which will also improve the situation.

Going forward Ms. Gurge has begun working on a new pest control protocol that must be in place before a big project (such as the current Police/Fire station rebuild) to avoid extensive remediation issues in the future.

Dr. Epstein and Dr. Cosgrove recommended Ms. Gurge speak with the Wellesley Health Department as they have been handling similar issues and planning protocols.

Farmers Market

Dr. Brown queried Ms. Acosta on the status of the application from Del Sur, the new hot empanada vendor. Ms. Acosta said that there is no access to bathrooms again so food code prohibits hot food.

Ms. Acosta noted that the new and returning vendors were pleased with the elimination of the \$50.00 fee. Doris' Peruvian Pastries is going forward as they are prepacked. Ms. Acosta expects more applications during the rest of May.

Substance Abuse Coordinator Report was not available for this meeting because Ms. Catherin Delano was out today.

Public Health Nurse Report--Ms. Donna Carmichael

Ms. Carmichael reported in response to the April Board request for state measles vaccination numbers. She prefaced the response with the reminder that the state numbers are self-reported. Ms. Barbara Singer, the School Nurse, reported a 90% rate for measles vaccines and said that her staff keeps track of the exceptions. Ms. Carmichael noted that the Health Department used to be responsible for day care licensure. Ms. Carmichael is hoping to meet with the preschools and the day care staff to discuss vaccination and review the importance of tracking those with exemptions.

Dr. Partridge noted that when parents are informed that lack of vaccination puts others' children at risk, the vaccination rate may increase. He recommended that this information should be included in the parental discussions and materials.

Dr. Cosgrove and Dr. Epstein noted that people born before 1957 may require a booster shot. Dr. Cosgrove recommended that the booster issue be mentioned in the next Council on Aging Compass along with a suggestions that seniors speak with their doctors about the possible need for a booster shot.

Ms. Carmichael noted that camp paperwork is processing smoothly. She said that ten applications are in so far, with two or three more are expected. Most camps will open June 24.

Ms. Tiffney Zike is away attending the Mass Association of Public Health Nurses conference.

Influenza has begun to decrease.

Other Business

Discussion of Cartwright Road Subdivision

The property consists of two houses under the same ownership which will continue. The 267 house was demolished and the new house has a new septic system. The 260 house has a new septic plan and will continue to be rented by the owner.

A motion was made by Dr. Cosgrove to release the off- street drainage permit early (which covers grading and grass). The total amount of the off-street drainage bond is \$7000.000 (or \$3500.00 per lot) for the two lot subdivision. Dr. Epstein seconded the motion. Upon motion duly made and seconded the off-street drainage bond release. . The motion was carried. The vote was unanimous.

Food Code Update

The Board voted unanimously in March 2018 to adopt the 2013 and 2015 FDA Food Code Supplement. Ms. Gurge noted that the adoption of Annex 1 is now being recommended to all Boards of Health by the FDA. It is slightly stricter with the time frame changing from ten days to five days for hearings. Dr. Epstein asked if the shorter time would adversely affect the Division's work load. Ms. Gurge said that it would not as the Division has routinely needed to organize hearings quickly when needed.

Dr. Cosgrove queried if the State or Annex 1 would apply in questionable cases. Ms. Gurge said that the more stringent regulation, Annex 1, would apply.

Dr. Cosgrove made a motion to amend the initial vote to also include the adoption of Annex 1. Dr. Dr. Partridge seconded the motion. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the adoption of the

complete 2013 FDA Food Code, along with the 2015 FDA Food Code Supplement, which now also includes the addition of the 2013 FDA Food Code Annex 1 was approved. The motion was carried. The vote was unanimous.

Vaping

Mr. Ted Crowell, a Needham resident, came to the meeting to discuss discovering Juul e cigarette in his 15 year old son's backpack and wanted to provide a parental perspective on Juul use. Mr. Crowell had investigated DJ Wilson's writings as well as an exemption on the Juul website which prohibits the shipment of the product to Belmont, MA. A discussion ensued between him and the Board on what may have led to the exception.

Ms. Mathews thanked Mr. Crowell for his comments and told him she would be interested in forming a committee with parents, teachers, and health care professionals to look at current prevention education.

Dr. Partridge specifically thanked Mr. Crowell for preventing his son's Juul use, reinforcing that preventions begins at home.

Dr. Cosgrove and Dr. Epstein suggested meeting with the tobacco control legal team at Northeastern University to see what State laws could be put in place and what is preventing the sale on line for Belmont only. The Board will also consult with Cheryl Sbarra and DJ Wilson. Representative Garlick has presented a bill to tax e cigarettes; the Governor has suggested 40% and the Democrats are asking for 70%; Representative Garlick can be queried on where it stands currently. A discussion ensued on the amount of tax needed to decrease on line sales and methods for preventing under age 21 sales. Dr. Epstein recommended a rate based on the amount of nicotine per manufacturer. Dr. Brown raised the issue of how to treat addicted teenagers.

Ms. Read referred Mr. Crowell to the Tobacco 84 initiative since it has outcome data and involves youth in prevention work.

The Board will updated at a later date about online sales legislation and the opinions of DJ Wilson, Cheryl Sbarra and the Tobacco Control Group at Northeastern University.

Board Policy on Media Reporter Questions

A new policy is needed when the media solicits a Board opinion. Ms. Mathews, Dr. Partridge and Dr. Cosgrove were all approached recently by a Needham Times reporter, Mr. Stefan Geller, on a study forthcoming from the Massachusetts Health Commissioner on Needham's ability to meet the 10 essential public health services as defined by CDC.

Any future press query will require a conversation between the Director of Health and Human Services and the Board Chair on whether or not to respond and if a response is needed a decision on content.

In the meantime Ms. Gurge will formulate a response for Mr. Geller which will be sent to the Board for approval and then disseminated to Mr. Geller.

Dr. Cosgrove provided some background information on the Commission Studying CDC 10 Essential Public Health Services across Massachusetts. Dr. Cosgrove is Representative Garlick's designee since October 2018 but he has been attending meetings on his own since fall 2017. The final report is in the

editing stage and will be shared in June. Dr. Cosgrove said that so far, towns between 10,000 and 50,000 are meeting the 10 essential service goals but there are issues in resources and scope for those under 5,000. The report will include suggestions for meeting the goals in the context of strong local control in Massachusetts.

Discussion of 2019 town Meeting

The budget passed as printed in the Warrant. The article about changing marijuana regulations has not yet been raised. Most of the discussion was on accessory dwelling units, which was referred back to the Planning Board. There was widespread support for the accessory dwelling units, while a proposed new apartment complex approval application was denied.

Concussion protocol

Dr. Epstein asked Ms. Carmichael about the status of the concussion protocol rollout. Ms. Zike will update the Board at the June meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Partridge to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. Upon motion duly made and seconded the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 am.

Next Meetings

June 14 7-9 am

July 19 7-9 am

September 2019 and beyond meetings will move to 2nd Fridays from 9 – 11 am

September 13 9-11 am is tentatively scheduled as the first fall meeting.

Minutes Respectively Submitted,

Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary