



NEEDHAM BOARD OF HEALTH



Needham Board of Health Minutes September 13, 2019

Board members: 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: Timothy M. McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services; Tara Gurge, Assistant Director of Public Health; Diana Acosta; Dawn Stiller; Catherine Delano; Tiffany Zike; Karen Shannon; Michelle, Iovino; Madeline Isenberg, Lynn Schoeff

Guest: Barbara Singer, Director of School Nursing

Convene: Public Services Administration Building, 500 Dedham Avenue, Charles River Room

Dr. Cosgrove, Chair of the Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes from July. **Dr. Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Mathews seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

Staff reports

Environmental Health Report – Diana Acosta

Ms. Acosta reported the following:

- Three restaurants opened in July and August: Chef Mike's, Hungry Coyote, and Latina Kitchen and Bar;
- Servente Bakery was ready to open but needed the certificate of occupancy from the Building Department;
- The pest control issue at the CVS on Great Plain Avenue is finished;
- The one-week suspension of tobacco sales at the 7-Eleven at 845 Highland Avenue was completed. Ms. Acosta will do another compliance check during the last week of September;
- Ms. Acosta will be working with an investigator from the MA Division of Professional Licensure spot checks of body work and massage establishments;
- The Residence Inn had a major pipe burst which resulted in 14 rooms out of commission for 3 weeks. Rehabilitation is complete and has been approved by the Building Department and by Public Health;
- The Newman School had two recent issues including a dumpster fire and a sewage backup. A remediation company was called and has completed the cleanup.

Public Health Nursing Report – Tiffany Zike

July and August were very busy months with infectious diseases, including:

- An infant with enteric virus;
- A young adult with bacterial infection;
- An amebiasis case in an adult;
- A person over 60 with Legionnaires disease;
- A suspect mumps case in a young child;
- A chikungunya case from Tanzania;
- Two cases of anaplasmosis.

Flu clinics will begin in October.

Also in October, Needham Public Health will host a “meet and greet” for the Medical Reserve Corps.

Traveling Meals Program – presented by Timothy M. McDonald

There was an uptick in delivered meals during the summer, largely due to Springwell clients.

Substance Use Prevention – Catherine Delano

Ms. Delano reported that Substance Use Prevention staff members are wrapping up their work on the parent survey and that Madeleine Arthur, the student intern, is working on data from the adolescent health survey.

Ms. Delano also reported on current efforts to address vaping:

- Needham High Schools students determined that there was a need to assess vaping use among their peers. They worked with Scott Formica to develop a survey;
- The prevention team, in partnership with the Youth and Family Services Division (YFS), started a vaping task force, which will be chaired by Sara Shine, the Director of YFS ;
- The Needham vaping task force will get information from a vaping survey conducted in Natick and learn from the Natick approach to the problem;
- The task force will also tap into work being done at the MetroWest Health Care Foundation.

Ms. Delano reported that she will be leaving Needham Public Health in October and that Karen Shannon will be the new director.

Regional Substance Abuse Coordinator Report – presented by Mr. McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported that the Division did not receive funding from two recently submitted federal grant applications.

Carol Read is working with the Dedham and Needham Police Departments to apply for funding for a social worker to be embedded in the police departments. They expect to hear about the decision by the end of the calendar year.

Policies, Safety at Home Program, and Grant Proposals – presented by Mr. McDonald

This past summer, Lynn Schoeff and Rachael Cain provided a grant-writing seminar for all the divisions in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. McDonald also reported that:

- Ms. Schoeff and Dr. Cain are also working on two more grant proposals;
- Dr. Cain has received another small grant to extend the Safety at Home program;
- The Housing Authority health needs assessment report will be finished soon;
- Dr. Cain is working on a new project focusing on extreme weather preparedness for older adults.

Director of Health and Human Services Report – Mr. Timothy McDonald

Emergency Preparedness

Rebecca Ping has returned from her military deployment and will advance efforts for municipal preparedness and hazard mitigation. Ms. Ping will take the lead in the effort to receive full LEPC certification, building on the work done by Ms. Zike and Ms. Illingworth.

Aerial spraying for Eastern Equine Encephalitis

Mr. McDonald reported the Norfolk County Mosquito Control program has sprayed less than half the area so far and Needham has not yet been sprayed.

The Division has received many calls about spraying. Public messaging is a challenge because Needham is considered low risk for EEE but is getting sprayed anyway due to state mandate. Messaging has also been problematic because the spraying has been delayed several times due to weather. There is an FAQ on the website and it will be expanded to include information about the early larvicide prevention in Needham.

Information has gone out through the website, reverse 911, and social media. Dr. Brown requested guidelines about how to respond to Facebook conversations.

The Park and Recreation Department will work with Public Health to determine when fields can reopen (they will be closed until spraying has occurred). The risk level would go up if there is a positive mosquito, an animal, or a human case. If this happens Norfolk Mosquito Control could be asked to do barrier and ground-based spraying.

EEE has strengthened the case for a public information officer. A PIO is expected to be hired soon, hopefully by October.

Public Health Nursing presentation:

Ms. Zike presented an overview of the Public Health Nursing program. See addendum in Board of Health packet.

Continued discussion of 57 Walker Lane Septic System

Board members discussed their role in the dispute between the owner of 57 Walker Lane and the Town regarding compliance with the septic system code. This is a continuation of the discussion at the summer Board meeting about the failed septic system at this property and the requirement that the owner connect with Town sewer rather than replace the septic. The owner wants the Town to bear the

cost of connecting his home, as well as all the others on his street, to the sewer system. There is some discrepancy between the Town engineer's cost estimate for the work (\$30,000-\$40,000) and estimates the owner has received from contractors (\$150,000). Mr. McDonald will get an independent assessment and send it to the Board. Questions remain about whether to give the owner another extension to resolve the issue.

Pressing Public Health Issues

Prevention and Education about mosquito-borne illness

Needham is still only at low risk for EEE but has recently been part of the State's aerial spraying initiative. Mr. McDonald and the Board discussions actions Needham might take if the risk level is raised to moderate, high, or critical. Given that aerial spraying is more effective than ground spraying, the first response to an increase in risk level would be to ask the State for additional aerial spraying. Other options are to ask David Lawson of the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District Commission for selective ground spraying on the Dover side of town, or barrier applications of insecticide at some playing fields and schools.

Mr. McDonald will speak with Mr. Lawson about Needham's options, criteria for barrier applications, and edging school grounds and fields.

Barbara Singer, the Director of School Nursing, said that she has been very pleased with communication with NPHD during this critical time.

Pest management challenges

This is a continuation of a summer Board meeting discussion.

Ms. Acosta consulted with the Arlington Health Department about their pest management program. The Arlington program is very thorough (and labor intensive), requiring an individual permit for each dumpster. Information about the Arlington pest management program is included in this month's Board packet.

A discussion about how to address the pest problem followed. Among the ideas generated were: modifying the trash hauling regulation to require more frequent or earlier pickups; suggesting that restaurants include specific language about pest management in their contracts with trash haulers; requiring trash pickups within two hours of a restaurant closing; revisiting the noise ordinance which prohibits trash pickup between 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM; and a dumpster ordinance with requirements for regular pest control.

Mr. McDonald will report back to the Board regarding dumpster management.

Medical and recreational cannabis, and CBD products

A new CBD facility will be opening soon. The website says that they will carry edibles and pet treats. (Currently, CBD-infused food and pet products are not allowed in Needham.) This company has opened under the radar in other towns and, according to the Braintree Health Department, has taken products off the shelves for inspections, putting them back after inspector has left. This has increased

the environmental health workload with some towns instituting regular compliance checks.

Other items

- Mr. McDonald will be talking to Board of Health members about the budget.
- Discussion about 5G small cell sites and community impact was deferred.
- Madeline Isenberg, the new Climate Change Coordinator has been hired.
- High school students worked with Scott Formica to do a survey about vaping.
- The Planning Board will discuss accessory dwelling units at their next meeting.
- The third week in September will be a campaign focused on healthy and sustainable eating called, Nourishing Needham. Ms. Gurge will reach out to restaurants to engage them.

Upcoming Board of Health meetings:

Friday, October 11, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Charles River Room of the PSAB

Friday, November 8, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Charles River Room of the PSAB

Tuesday, December 10, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., Charles River Room of the PSAB

Mr. McDonald will propose dates and times for January at the October meeting.

Dr. Epstein motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM. Dr. Partridge seconded. Approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.