

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016
5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

BOH: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Madeleine Scammell, Dean Xerras. Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Joan Cromwell and Mary McKenzie (City of Chelsea Public Health Nurse), Amy Lindquist (City Solicitor's office).

Public Comment: Boston College students, Anthony Norman and Katie Wheeler from Timmy Global Health (a student organization), requested input and support for a project. Anthony is a life-long resident of Chelsea and especially concerned by STDs and overall sexual health of Chelsea residents. They are developing pamphlets and educational materials targeting youth ages 12-15. Topics include STDs, communication (partner-partner and parent-child), HIV/AIDS, and teen pregnancy. They include statistics comparing disease rates in Chelsea v. MA, and differences by gender. Also discussed are prevention methods, symptoms and long term consequences of various STDs and a "fact v. fiction" section.

They would like our support to give the handouts at schools and possibly do multi-media educational activities. The Board was supportive and provided recommendations: BOH members suggested that the school system may be difficult to "get into" as materials are very controlled. Anthony and Katie should meet with Roca and the Boys & Girls Club, not only because these organizations have contact with the target population, but because they may have similar existing resources to share, and possible needs that the students could help fill. The students also expressed interest in working with MGH Chelsea and Beth Israel. Luis and/or Mary will send board members the draft brochures for our review and input.

Peter Lam, proprietor of a proposed tobacco establishment on Rt. 16 (next to Russo's Tux) requested information on the new tobacco and nicotine containing products regs.

Public Health Nursing Report: Nothing to discuss.

Tobacco Regulations: Short discussion about the challenges of getting permits to businesses selling only e-cigs and not tobacco products. There isn't a clear way to permit them to operate, although our tobacco regs would prohibit such smoke shops to allow testing and tasting in the shop.

Bonnie Carrol, our tobacco control agent, was unable to attend the meeting but her news was shared that she spoke to every vendor in the city, explained the content of the new regs, and showed visuals. She did not encounter any resistance. There appear to be no obstacles to enforcement of the regs.

Luis will invite her to our next meeting.

BOH Regulations: Amy Lindquist said the City really wants to get all of our regulations finalized and on-line. They need approval from BOH on changes other than the fine structures. Some of the changes are due to state law changes, and some are just formatting. Luis has a binder for the public. April 12 will be a public hearing re. the adoption of all changes.

Other: Luis raised the issue of needle/sharps disposal in the city now that Centro Latino has closed. There is discussion of locating a sharps disposal facility in the police department. Luis gets calls from seniors who need to know where to dispose of their waste according to the law. Board would like to look into the possibility of CVS and other needle sellers also being required to collect.

Although MGH has been accepting medical needles, the rumor is they will cease to collect as of July 1. ISD and the Schools need to identify a new disposal site. Questions were raised about the state law including: Does the law mandate cities to have a kiosk? How can it be funded? Whose responsibility is it for proper disposal? Is responsibility different for needles used for medical purposes v. recreational drug use?

Some suggestion that maybe the substance mis-use coalitions in the city, with MGH, can seek grant funds for a kiosk. Past funds for Centro Latino's kiosk were from the state via a grant to the city. Joan brings them directly to MGH Environmental Services but asks patients to talk to their provider about where to go to dispose of them.

This was Mary Mckenzie's last meeting before her official retirement.
February 26th 9-11 a party! Farewell party... We will miss you, Mary!!

Next mtg: March 8, 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine Scammell