

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2017

5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance:

Dean Xerras and Madeleine Scammell (acted as chair).

Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Paula McHatton (public health nurse/HHS), Bonny Carroll (Tobacco control agent.)

Absent: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Emmanuel Tellez

Guests:

Tom Ambrosino, City Manager

Family Dollar

Greg Miao & Barry Keppard, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Jennifer Kelly & Ron Fishman, MGH Health Chelsea

Gary Langis, representing Mary Wheeler of Healthy Initiatives

Gladys Valentin Agneta, CAPIC

Meeting called to order by M. Scammell at 5:05pm

Minutes: February minutes not approved due to lack of BOH quorum

North Suffolk Collaborative: Greg Miao & Barry Keppard with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council gave a presentation about regional collaboration between Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, and plans to hire a coordinator to be housed in Revere but work on public health issues for all three cities/towns. The agreement to establish the collaborative was signed fall 2016. The next step is to hire a PH coordinator which will represent/be the Collaborative will hopefully be complete by July 1 (start of new fiscal year). The search committee includes reps from each town. M. Scammell is representing Chelsea.

Goals of the Collaborative are: Improve PH outcomes via shared programs and services; adopt a strategic plan; expand local PH initiatives; work with collaboratives and coalitions.

Greg asked the BOH what concerns or questions we have that we'd like the Collaborative to address. Luis requested that the use of public health data needs to be reviewed and strengthened. Recommended that the towns/city agree on a standard assessment tool across municipalities and leverage MGH. Madeleine commented that while MAPC and city managers/mayors may have good knowledge of their respective areas, as well as needs and opportunities for collaboration, each Board does not. An early meeting to become familiar with each other's assets, needs and interests will be important for us to make informed recommendations.

Paula asked how will the PH nurse role change, if at all? Greg responded that the PHN would inform, guide decisions as the collaborative thinks about PH issues. Pool the knowledge from

across municipalities. It was requested that the Coordinator have a presence at monthly meetings in Chelsea.

Health Chelsea Coalition Update: Ron Fishman presented on the Trans Fat Ordinance has been on the books for few years. There is not a standard process to acknowledge establishments that have been inspected, and if they are in compliance or not. The need was identified to incorporate transfat into the documentation of inspection protocol.

Healthy Streets: Representatives from Health Initiatives came back to ask about our progress on getting the City to vote on the syringe access program, and writing a letter to Mass DPH affirming our support/granting permission. The City Manager had not been briefed on this program and would like to have a conversation with Mary Wheeler of Health Initiatives. The city already has a contract with them, and the City Manager is “a fan of their work.” Madeleine will send the City Manger the information about what action is required of the board.

Tobacco control: Family Dollar has had three violations in two years, including many flavored products available and selling to a minor. Bonny Carrol recommended that we treat this as a 2nd violation with 7 day suspension, since the BOH was not timely with our response to the first two violations.

The Family Dollar representative said the error had to do with the delivery of unordered product which were put on the shelf by a new staff on the same day as the inspection by tobacco control. He requested that we not suspend his sales. He has a hard time finding good workers in Chelsea. He terminated the worker who sold to minors. The lack of a permit in the window was due to a burglary when the glass was broken and had to be replaced. He will pay the fine but pleaded that the suspension not be required.

The BOH reviewed recourse for staff members who sell to minors and ways to help educate staff members.

The decision to revoke the 7 day suspension could not be made by the BOH due to lack of quorum. We will have to discuss as a board and let him know.

New Tobacco issues: Wholesaler does not fall under local ordinance, only retailers
Bonny will inform us via email.

Bonny showed an establishment profile form, and a pricing form which helps inform enforcement on the state level.

Public Health Nurse Report

Mumps is on the rise.. every month we are getting more cases. Paula expressed concern that the right testing is not being done. Results are indeterminate. . need to discuss with Dr. Xerras (who had to leave prior to the PHN report).

Presented reports from March and April meetings. She also prepared a special diagram for the BOH on how food inspections are triggered.

Emergency response scenario:

Michael Nelson, from Mass DPH and Montague MA BOH explained the four day exercise that will culminate in a big exercise on Friday May 19th from 9-12:00.

Chelsea and Everett are to organize an emergency dispensing site at the Senior Center of each town simultaneously. We need to demonstrate the ability to do so. This is an exercise for people to learn. Will be and they are looking for volunteers. (Paula printed a summary of what will happen on all the days.)

They want medical and non-medical volunteers and will involve MRC. DPH, Harvard SPH, will be there.

Then they need actors... that can be students or residents.

Next mtg: TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell and Dean Xerras