

# City of Chelsea

## Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017  
5:00 PM – Public Library

### **Attendance:**

BOH: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Emmanuel Tellez, Dean Xerras, and Madeleine Scammell.

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

**Minutes** of January 2017 meeting approved.

**Public Comment:** Luis reported that the Chelsea-Revere-Winthrop collaborative folks will come next meeting to discuss the process for hiring the next coordinator.

Mary Wheeler, Program Director of Health Innovations, Healthy Streets, in Lynn, MA addressed the board. Health Innovations is a drug user health program serving injection drug users. Their main site is in Lynn. Est. 1991 and focused on syringe exchange and harm reduction. They have a variety of services including overdose education. They recently received a grant to do outreach to female sex workers in Revere, Chelsea, Saugus... and Lynn. They manage the Door Knock program with Chelsea PD and Fire, doing overdose follow-up, and follow-up for anyone who has witnessed a fatality of an overdose. They deliver naloxone and provide treatment options, try to connect users with navigators and additional services as necessary. Ms. Wheeler explained that in this last year the State of MA made a change in legislation re. needle exchange, now called syringe access. Amendment includes requirement of community approval for syringe access (although they didn't define community). Now, the Board of Health is required to approve their operation in any city or town, under H.4450, Section 215: "*Prior to implementation of a needle exchange program, approval shall be obtained from the board of health in the hosting city or town.*" They asked for our support in the form of a letter to Mass DPH, attn: Kevin Cranston.

Mary and her colleagues suggested that the BOH include stipulations in the letter, i.e., terms of our agreement/conditions. Specifically, they urged us to consider regular reports to the BOH with data on numbers treated. Our preference re. fixed site v. mobile program. (Given that Health Initiatives already have a mobile van with CAPIC every month, they prefer a mobile program.) Possibly a year-end review on how the program has worked?

The question was raised if this program would attract drug users to our City. Health Initiatives recommended that we encourage our collaborators in Winthrop and Revere to also sign on.

BOH proposed that we have a public hearing on the matter but that we talk first with the City Manager and other service providers in the city to get their input.

The BOH will then draft stipulations for consideration and input by others. The BOH requested examples from other cities. Mary suggested reviewing Holyoke and Cambridge stipulations.

**Board agreed to have hearing in April. Invite Kevin Cranston and others from Mass DPH.**

**Tobacco Control.**

Bonny and Luis met with City Solicitor regarding the appropriate timing of notification of suspension, and requirement for a hearing with the BOH for violators. She shared the letter drafted for a repeat violator explaining the process for a hearing. The board provided input on the letter and agreed to the process recommended.

Hearing with repeat offender of tobacco regs will be at the next BOH mtg March 14 at 5:00.

**Emergency Dispensing Site planning.** In May there will be a full-scale table-top exercise organized by Mass DPH and CDC in Chelsea to practice response to nuclear, chemical or biological emergencies. Luis will update us as he learns more.

**Next mtgs:** March 14, 2017 5:00 PM.

Agenda should include:  
North Shore Collaborative presentation  
Tobacco hearing  
ISD re. transfat enforcement  
Needle exchange plans

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine Scammell