

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019

5:15 PM (EST)– Public Library

Attendance: Christopher Miller (Chair), Allen Jackson, Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras, M.D Emmanuel Tellez,(Board Members); Luis Prado (Director, HHS); Paula McHatton, Public Health Nurse; Bonnie Carroll, Director, Six City Tobacco Initiative, Jeff Stone, Director, North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative; Ryan Barry, Regional Youth Substance Abuse Coordinator

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Chris Miller at 5:17 PM (EST)

Item 1: Public Comments: No Public Comments

Item 2: Approval of November 13 meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

Item 3. Public Health Nurse Report. Ms. McHatton reported an increase in flu activity. Ms. McHatton also mentioned that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommends ongoing surveillance of Meningococcal disease. She also is closely monitoring another case of Hepatitis A that a homeless 28 year old man contracted.

Item 4: Chelsea Tobacco Regulations Ms. Carroll reported several developments on the effort to combat tobacco addiction in teenagers, in particular, the challenges from new smoking implements. Of critical concern is the increased vaping among young people, middle school students in particular. Flavored cigarettes are banned in Chelsea, and now other municipalities are looking to identify menthol and even tobacco as flavors in response to the tobacco industry's efforts to market nicotine in several other forms.

Item 5: Regional Youth Substance Prevention. Mr. Barry presented his strategies for developing a youth-driven social media marketing campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping. Despite the recent success to reduce smoking of cigarettes, nicotine addiction among teenagers is rising because of vaping, nearly to the same levels as previous generations' smoking habits. As part of the five year project, Mr. Barry met with youth from Chelsea, Revere, Saugus, and Winthrop to understand the concerns the above communities have in common. The project is focusing his message on middle school students.

Item 6: Board of Health Agenda for next meeting. One item will discuss the City's efforts to ban the sale of nips and other alcohol products.

Next meeting: February 12, 2019 at 5: 15 PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emmanuel J. Tellez
January 9, 2019