

Meeting Minutes of the Chelsea Board of Health  
October 19, 2021

**Attendance: Names of members and Participants**

Board members, City of Chelsea staff and guests were introduced.

Board Members:

- Ola Bayode
- Corinna Culler
- Allen Jackson
- Stephan Treadway
- Dr. Dean Xerras

City of Chelsea Staff:

- Dr. Flor Amaya, Dir. Of Public Health
- Paula McHatton, Public Health Nurse
- Mark Rossi, City Solicitor's Office
- Stephen Treadway, Asst. City Solicitor

Guests:

- Bonny Carroll, The Six City Tobacco Initiative
- DJ Wilson, Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Sam Lewis, Harvard University

**Adoption of the Minutes of the September Meeting**

The vote to adopt the minutes of the September meeting was postponed because a quorum of members present at that meeting was not present. The vote will occur at the November meeting.

**Tobacco Legislation Changes**

DJ Wilson reviewed the proposed changes to the City's tobacco control legislation discussed at the September meeting, including changes in State law and proposed local regulations.

New additions to the draft regulations included:

- Flavored rolling papers will be banned to align with bans on flavored tobacco products;
- Adult-only retail tobacco retailers cannot be located within 25 feet an existing permitted tobacco retailer;
- The number of retail tobacco permits will be limited to 58; If a permit is retired, the cap will be reduced. If a store is sold, the tobacco permit can transfer to the buyer if they submit a valid application and meet all permitting requirements;
- No tobacco permit will be issued to a retailer located within 500 feet of a school;
- The tolling period, fining structure and suspension periods will be changed to match the State regulations; and

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- The Board considered raising permitting costs from \$75 to \$150. Dr. Amaya will conduct additional research from on tobacco permit costs in other local communities.

**Tobacco Control Regulation Next Steps:**

- City staff will review the discussion and update the tobacco control regulations. The revised regulations will be part of the agenda for the November meeting.
- City staff will place a public notice in the Chelsea Record and invite the public and licensees to the meeting to give their thoughts and comments on the draft regulations.
- The Board will vote on the proposed tobacco control regulations after hearing public comments.
- Dr. Amaya will conduct additional research from on tobacco permit costs in other local communities.

**Body Art Regulations**

Dr. Amaya reviewed a document comparing the City of Boston's body art regulations to Chelsea's regulations. The document is in draft form, and her review is ongoing. Dr. Amaya will circulate a draft of the Chelsea body art regulations shortly.

Dr. Amaya is attending a conference on body art inspections later this week, which will help inform this process.

She also noted that while both the Boston and Chelsea regulations containing systems for reporting complaints, neither have a system to issue fines arising from complaints.

**Updates**

COVID-19 Vaccinations:

- Among the 20 vaccine equity communities in MA, Chelsea has the highest rate of fully vaccinated residents and highest rate of residents who have received a first dose. 73.7% of residents are fully vaccinated and at 85.4% of residents have received at least 1 vaccine dose. Both figures exceed statewide averages.
- Vaccination rates lag in Chelsea for Hispanics (68.8% vaccinated) and Black/African Americans (45.7% vaccinated). All other race/ethnic groups are above 80% vaccinated.
- 74.9% of residents ages 20-29 are vaccinated. This figure exceeds the statewide average.
- The Senior Center has begun administering booster vaccinations. Pending CDC approvals, all three vaccines will be available at the Senior Center.
- Dr. Amaya is working with Mass General Brigham to vaccinate elderly residents of the Chelsea Housing Authority.

Other Health Updates:

- There 2 enteric diseases reported last month: One case of giardia in a recent arrival from Guatemala, and one case of salmonella in someone who had recently travelled to Puerto Rico.

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- There was a suspected case of mumps in a 7-month-old. The patient is too young for the MMR vaccine, but its caretakers are vaccinated.
- The patient with TB that is being followed is still out of the country. When they return, Paula McHatton will continue with directly observed therapy.
- There have been no reported cases of flu, but a number of vaccine clinics have been held/scheduled at the Senior Center and in local schools. In the clinics held so far, approximately 150 people have been vaccinated.
- Two community flu clinics will be held on Saturday and on 10/30. Nearly 1,000 people were vaccinated in last year's community flu clinics.
- COVID-19:
  - Thus far, Chelsea has seen 9,441 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Cases in Chelsea have decreased from 68/week to 24/week.
  - Last week the positivity rate was 1.75%, down from 2.47% last month.
  - The incidence rate is 12.4/100,000.
  - Since Friday, Chelsea has only seen 7 cases.
  - The Delta variant is still present and circulating in Chelsea.

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**Indoor Mask Mandate**

The Board, having heard the public health update, and after reviewing the reopening metrics Dr. Amaya sent, decided against instituting an indoor mask mandate at this time.

**Follow-Up from Previous Meetings**

- Wash Cycle Laundry: There were no updates on this incident.
- Funeral Home Inspections: Dr. Amaya has spoken with a couple of funeral home owners, and they do undergo inspection by the State. She will follow up with Revere and Winthrop to see if they do local inspections. Funeral homes must maintain certifications with the State.
- Tobacco Sales Citations: One of the businesses fined at last month's meeting did make their payment. The payment was deposited into the City's account. If the business owners don't pay their citations, the citation becomes part of their property tax bill.

**Health Next Steps:**

- Dr. Amaya will send the weekly COVID-19 dashboard along with weekly case counts to the Board of Health.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Tobacco Control Regulation Next Steps:**

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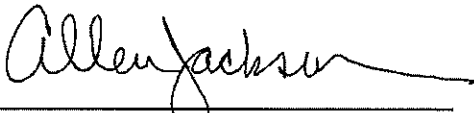
**Health Next Steps:**

- Dr. Amaya will send the weekly COVID-19 dashboard along with weekly case counts to the Board of Health.
- Dr. Amaya will follow up with Revere and Winthrop to see if they do local inspections and circulate a draft of the Chelsea Body Art regulations when they become available.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held November 16, 2021 in person.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.



Allen Jackson, Clerk

12/11/2021

Date

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