

Meeting of: Board of Health

November 8, 2022

Present: Flor Amaya, Paula McHatton, Dean Xerras, Corinna Culler, Joshua Merson, Bonnie Carroll

Call to order: 5:36 pm

Adoption of Minutes: Deferred to the December meeting

New business – Tobacco Regulations

Email from Director of Licensing Coordinator – new tobacco permittee. Previously approved tobacco regulation had not been operationalized, no mapping to schools to enforce 500 feet, or monitor transferring of permits between sales/owners. Gaps exist in the enforcement of regulation.

*Regulation of Chelsea Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products provided to the board.

Section E: Tobacco Product Sales Permit

Discussion on the following subsections:

1. No change
2. Add self-attestation to the online application process and consideration of phone calls tobacco enforcement to review regulations.
3. Director Amaya to collaborate with state agencies to clarify language that the required Department of Revenue proof of license is not a permit to sell.
4. No change
5. Director Amaya to work with licensing to operationalize the city communication process for approval of the new permit.
6. No change
7. No change
8. Director Amaya to work with licensing to operationalize the city communication process.
9. Director Amaya to work with licensing to operationalize the city communication process.
- 10a. 45 Tobacco Product Sales Permits active. Strikethrough the sentence "New Applicants...or are returned to the Board of Health." A logistical process needs to be determined for the transference of permits.
- 10b. Conflicts with a, plan to clarify 10a.
- 10c. Recent review of new permit 498ft./501ft. depending on the map source. Unclear if new permit also involves the transfer of permit as there is no process currently in place to map.
- 10d. Determine an updated tracking system for permit ownership to include store name, address, and owner name.

Next steps: Bonnie and Flor will Determine if changes are allowed without a public hearing. Develop updated regulations with counsel.

Housing Code Updates

Director Amaya: Heating months updated done to alleviate/reduce confusion with property owners concerning heating/cooling months. Info sessions are upcoming.

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Safe Cooling Grant – Employer Education Initial Steps

Director Amaya: Grant paid for A/C unit distribution and employer education on heat-related illness and employee illness mitigation. Will use the funding for additional active education – deadline April 2023.

COVID-19 Wastewater Communication

Director Amaya: City has been doing wastewater testing since 2020. Results have not been actively communicated to residents. Use as a new stimulus for transmission education and guide additional steps.

Vaccination Updates

Director Amaya: Vaccination incentives continue at Senior Center. Partnering with the school department to send text messages to public school residents and reminders to anyone who has received a previous shot at the senior center.

CSO Communications:

A new pamphlet was developed. Today new construction at Soldier’s Home. System flush created an overflow on Lafayette. Board to advocate for investigation before repeat testing and potential additional overflows. Director Amaya to provide further updates.

Public Health Nurse Updates:

1 communicable enteric disease: 4-year-old with salmonella, no travel/ill contacts. Symptoms resolved after 3 days.

TB: 2 active cases. 1 found as an incidental finding, culture pending for confirmation. 1 recent arrival from Peru, bus/walking transport through multiple countries. Arrived in TX, cough in detainment center/blood sputum. Arrived in Chelsea for family. Initiated on treatment. Hospitalized x 14 days.CDC: Health alert to dental providers to monitor dental water lines as contamination of line with Mycobacterium.

Influenza: 7 reported cases of influenza/ILI in October. CDC issued alert RSV/Influenza/Covid is placing stress on the healthcare system.

COVID: 16,853 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic. Positivity rate is currently 3.28%, incidence rate 9.8. The transmission level remains medium in Suffolk county. BQ.1/BQ.1.1 new circulating variant.

Monkeypox: No active cases

Ebola: 2 potential travel contacts from high-risk countries. The monitoring period was completed without symptoms.

Meeting adjourned: 6:38pm

Joshua Merson, PA-C
Joshua Merson, Board of Health Member

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