

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017
5:00 PM – Public Library

Attendance: Christopher Miller (Chair), Catherine Maas, Dean Xerras and Madeleine Scammell, Emmanuel Tellez. Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Paula McHatton (public health nurse/HHS), Mike Sandoval (DPW)

Meeting called to order by C. Miller at 5:07pm

Minutes: October minutes approved.

Solid Waste Regulations: Mike Sandoval has been working for DPW on solid waste enforcement for six years since we passed the solid waste regs. New rule effective 12.1.17 requires that all mattresses and box springs be wrapped in plastic when put out for disposal regardless of whether or not there are bed bugs. Mattresses and box springs that are not wrapped in plastic will not be collected for disposal. Mike recommended that if people buy new mattresses, they can save the plastic from the wrapping and use it to wrap the old. Or, they can buy wraps at a retail store.

Mike also informed the board that the City Council has granted approval for the purchase of ~15000 containers (~7500 for recyclables and ~7500 for trash). Recycling regs will be enforced once everyone can have a container.

For the purpose of controlling rodents, the orange bags will be phased out and barrels will be required of all residents. There will be hearings, etc. before the regs are changed.

The city also has a grant to hire two part-time employees to work under Mike's supervision to assess current recycling practices and do education, education, education.

Currently the city picks up trash at all buildings with up to 8 units. More than 8 units is privately contracted.

The Board thanked Mike for all his work, and acknowledged the big difference he has made in the City with education and enforcement.

Regional Coalitions and Initiatives: The City just hired a substance use prevention coordinator with funding from Mass DPH who will be located at MGH Chelsea. Luis would like him to visit the Board at some point.

Public Health Nurse Report: Paula presented the October report. We now have 48 cases of mumps since February (12 cases since October). The State has requested Paula do an MMR clinic Nov. 29, 5:30 – 7:30. She has created a flyer, and a screening tool approved by the state.

Target population is 20-40 years old. Not necessarily immigrants, everyone. Paula hopes initially to vaccinate up to 100 people. Seven cases of TB.

It is flu season... but minimal activity in MA and none in Chelsea so far. Paula did several clinics last month and is actively vaccinating.

North Suffolk Collaborative: Luis, Paula and Cate reported back on the November 1st mtg of the Health Collaborative meeting in Winthrop. It was mostly health providers/clinicians, from MGH, East Boston, North Suffolk, CAPIC, etc. Question raised by Luis, What is the role of Board of Health in integrating health services? He shared his opinion that the role of government in public health was not discussed in the conversations about the opportunities for working together between Revere, Chelsea and Winthrop at the Nov. 1 mtg. Jeff Stone, the Collaborative staff person, was invited to discuss with the BOH but he was unable to join us this month.

Cate expressed disappointment with the mtg. Mental health was discussed at great length but environmental health was hardly mentioned. Policy was not addressed and the broad array of stakeholders from every town was present. The purpose of the meeting was not clear, nor does she think the result will be reflective the concerns of the residents and issues of importance.

Dean and Chris discussed the recommendation which had been made early on that the BOH Chairs from each town meet regularly as part of the Collaborative, and wonder if that will be realized.

Paula expressed her concern that a structure is lacking for this Collaborative. She proposed that we need for a theme that unifies the Collaborative. Dean asked why the communities don't share successes (e.g., transfat ban, smoking regs, solid waste and recycling,) with groups that work on say, policies, social determinants of health, environment, and health care. The unique challenges faced by each town was not discussed at the mtg. There was an evaluation **form completed** and the board will look forward to the results.

Madeleine suggested the BOH meet to discuss our own priorities as a Board, both in terms of our legally required activities (infection control, communicable disease, solid waste, housing and sanitary codes) and what we do on top of that to address concerns re. air quality, noise, substance use, obesity and cardiovascular disease (transfat). Chris recommended we come up with our own list of desires for this coalition.

Board agreed to have these regular agenda items listed each month, even if there is no discussion, as place holders. Luis has begun to do this, including each month the public health nurse report.

Cate announced that last night the City Council discussed the noise impact from Logan airport by Boston University School of Public Health researchers (Madeleine is a co-author) ... noise was discussed.

Dean suggested we create a strategic plan for our Board. What do we hope to accomplish each year? Madeleine asked that we start with Code of Massachusetts Regulations. Dean and Luis

recommend *Healthy People 2020*. We all agree lead is still an issue in Chelsea (lead in soil, lead poisoning, lead paint, etc.).

Next mtg: Dec. 12, 5:00 PM

Each of us will be prepared to present ideas for the coming year to focus our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell