

Wellesley Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009

Present:

Shepard Cohen, Chairman
Marcia Testa Simonson, Vice Chair
Lloyd Tarlin, Secretary

Staff:

Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Specialist
Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Environmental Health Specialist
Loretta Jaksic, Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Cheryl Lefman, Health Communications
Mary Suresh, Director

In Attendance

Rob Evans, HRS and Crossroads Community Foundation Board
Linda Perlmutter, former BOH member and Crossroads Community Foundation Board

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The agenda was distributed. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

1. Community Health

a) Crossroads Community Foundation

Linda Perlmutter and Rob Evans, both members of the Board of Crossroads Community Foundation reported on the services and functions of Crossroads Community Foundation.

The Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of family life in MetroWest Massachusetts. The Foundation serves as a resource, leader and catalyst for philanthropy by connecting donors with nonprofits, and nonprofits with each other, across the region. The Foundation serves 25 cities, communities and towns in Metrowest. The Foundation began fundraising two years ago and currently has \$250,000 in pledges and approximately \$150,000 available.

Linda Perlmutter reported that the Board of Crossroads Community Foundation (CCF) has agreed to provide two grants by June 2009.

Linda Perlmutter reported that CCF would like the Wellesley Board of Health to be a host for one of the grants. Ms Perlmutter asked that the Board of Health apply for the grant to establish a web-based site on suicide prevention. The grant amount is \$15,000.

The Board of Health discussed various options to include:

- upgrading the current website
- replicating the Needhamacts.org website to suit the needs of Wellesley
- utilizing Warmlines Project Interface which offers mental health referral services to callers from an extensive database of mental health providers. The program provides service access and helps families to navigate mental health services and programs.

The Board of Health agreed that they will send a letter of intent to Crossroads by the end of this week and that a complete proposal will be submitted by May 15, 2009.

Next Steps: Shep Cohen and Mary Suresh will write a letter of intent to Crossroads.

b) Community and Teen Mental Health Update

Rob Evans reported that he is compiling the HRS third quarter report. He has found that statistically the numbers of clients serviced are the same as last year. Dr Evans stated that they are not seeing a direct relationship to the failing economy and that the referral break out is essentially the same.

Dr Evans reported that he has spoken to preschool staff in the community in a group forum. Dr Evans reported that the services provided by HRS are at capacity and that they have had to refer 47 individuals thus far.

Ms. Suresh reported that a QPR-trained group (Question, Persuade and Refer) will appear before the Board of Selectmen on May 11, 2009 to highlight the program and the importance of introducing QPR to the community.

c) Newton Wellesley Hospital

The Board of Health reviewed the 2008 annual report from Newton Wellesley Hospital.

Rob Evans reported that HRS is no longer sending children with psychiatric issues to NW Hospital as they do not have the facilities or staff. Currently they are sending clients to Leonard Morse in Natick.

Next Steps: Shep Cohen will arrange to meet with the CEO and Director of Community Benefits of NW Hospital.

d) Housing Authority

Ms. Suresh reported that Peg Plansky of the WHA is reducing her work schedule to two days per week. Rita Shepard, the former Director of the Needham Housing Authority, will cover the remaining two days.

Mary Suresh reported at our last meeting that Peg Plansky was in the process of gathering data for a quarterly report to be completed by Gary Canavan, Resident Service Coordinator. To date this information has not been submitted.

As noted at our last meeting the Board agreed to give \$12,000 to the Housing Authority if the following conditions are met:

- Baseline data is required
- Quarterly reports are sent
- Wellesley Health Department has the opportunity to review and comment on the Resident Services Coordinator's position
- Resident Services Coordinator contacts the Health Department as urgent public health needs arise
- Resident Services Coordinator assists in the delivery of public health services i.e. encouraging residents to attend a flu clinic
- Resident Services Coordinator attends health related meetings

The Board of Health requests the following specific information from the WHA:

- Number of children residing at Barton Road
- Confirm that all preschool children are inoculated
- Confirm that all children have Mass Health or other insurance
- Women are getting health screenings
- Determine how crisis referrals are being made

Next Steps:

Ms. Suresh will follow-up with Gary Canavan. Shep Cohen will schedule a meeting with the Chair, Bradley Boyd.

e) Vaccine Update- Shingles and Flu

Loretta Jaksic reviewed the practice of how the shingles vaccine is received by some patients. Ms. Jaksic reviewed how medical practices bill insurance companies and Medicare for the vaccine. This is not a viable option for the Health Department.

Mary Suresh reported that she applied for a grant requesting \$10,000 (or any part thereof) to the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club. The requested amount would cover the costs of up to 70 doses of the vaccine. The club announces the award in May.

Shep Cohen suggested that the Health Department contact the Newton Wellesley Hospital Community Benefits Office to see if community funding is available for the shingles vaccine. The Board agreed that the best option was for NW Hospital to run the clinic with vaccine purchased by the Health Department. Mr. Cohen also reported that if this is not an option, the CHNA is source for funding.

The Board of Health voted to approve the purchase of the Shingles vaccine from the Healthy Wellesley Fund.

If all options fail the Board will review purchasing the vaccine thru the Healthy Wellesley Fund.

f) Ambulance Data/Falls Prevention

Mary Suresh reported that she has made several attempts to obtain the Wellesley ambulance reports and data from Chief Richard Delorie.

At the last meeting, Marcia Testa Simonson reported that she has a student interested in doing a Falls Prevention program in Wellesley. The ambulance data is necessary for the program.

Next Steps: Mary Suresh to obtain falls data and ambulance data.

2. Administrative

a) Wellesley Booksmith

The Board of Health approved a variance request to allow pets in the location. This is a waiver from the regulation stating that animals and pets are not allowed in locations where food is being sold.

b) Wellesley College Club

The Board of Health reiterated that the MRC event that was held on April 2, 2009 was a Board of Health approved function.

Next Steps: Shep Cohen will address the invoice in an email.

Next Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Health is to be continued on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner