

Wellesley Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2009

Present:

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

Staff:

Holly Detroy, Environmental Health Agent
Deadra Doku Gardner, Administrator
Leonard Izzo, Environmental Health Agent
Cheryl Lefman, Health Communications Specialist
Mary Suresh, Director

In Attendance:

Marc Kadis, owner of 17 Bow Street
Ray McMillen and family, occupant of 17 Bow Street
Laura Veligor, Council on Aging
Carol Hannenberg, 81 Washburn Road, resident
Jason Whittet, Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am. The Board of Health approved meeting minutes from the October 27, 2009 meeting.

1. Administrative

a) 17 Bow Street – Administrative hearing

Lenny Izzo reviewed the housing issues at 17 Bow Street. The Board of Health voted to condemn the property.

b) FY11 Operating Budget

Deadra Doku Gardner reviewed the draft operating budget for FY11. The Board of Health voted to approve the FY11 Operating budget for the Health Department. The budget will be prepared and delivered to the Advisory Committee.

2. Community Health

a) Crossroads Community Foundation

Mary Suresh reported that the Crossroads Community Foundation (CCF) grant has been awarded to the Wellesley Health Department (\$15k). The \$15k will fund a website and QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) instructor certification. Ms Suresh reported that the website will be similar to the one created and designed by the Town of Needham. The Board of Health agreed that a website and QPR training as a part of the Town's overall effort will strengthen mental health services, especially suicide prevention. Cheryl Lefman of the Health Department and Maura Renzella of the Youth Commission will be collaborating.

Next Steps: Cheryl Lefman will prepare a thank you letter to the CCF and will begin plans for the website.

b) Community and Teen Mental Health Update

Mary Suresh and Lloyd Tarlin reported that the Mental Health Coordinating Committee will plan a meeting for early in the new year. This Committee includes members from the Health Department, Council on Aging, Police, Youth Commission, HRS, and schools. This Committee focuses on raising general community awareness of mental health issues.

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that there has been an increase in drug usage among teens from oxycontin to heroin. The Board agreed that Maura Renzella be invited to speak about the Alcohol program at the High School.

Mary Suresh reported that HRS will submit a quarterly / mid-year report in January. The Board of Health agreed that Rob Evans be asked to attend the next meeting in January.

Next Steps: Dr. Tarlin and Ms Suresh will plan a meeting for the Mental Health Coordinating Committee. Rob Evans from HRS will be asked to attend the next Board meeting.

c) Wellesley Public Schools: H1N1 Influenza and H1N1 vaccination: Update

Mary Suresh reviewed the H1N1 series of events in Wellesley and in the Commonwealth. Ms Suresh reported that the Health Department began vaccinating on October 29, 2009. Due to the limited supply of vaccine the Health Department initially vaccinated only high risk individuals under the age of 18. Since mid November the vaccine has been available to all residents under the age of 64. H1N1 vaccination clinics are scheduled for each public school in December, with the ongoing assistance of volunteers. Plans are in place for large scale clinics as vaccine becomes available.

d) Wellesley Public Schools: Absenteeism and Data

Marcia Testa Simonson presented a web based tool that was prepared by herself and Phase V Technologies. This tool tracks student absenteeism in the schools and will allow administrators and the Health Department Director to monitor daily absences.

The tool will also provide long-term statistics on classroom absenteeism to use as a comparison to current absenteeism.

3. Environmental Health

a) Milestone

Holly Detroy reported that the restaurant is expected to open next week..

b) Brighams Ice Cream

Lenny Izzo reported that Brighams will be closing. A new ice cream shop is expected to open in the same location.

c) Singhs Café

Holly Detroy reported that the location was temporarily closed due to five critical violations. The location reopened after the violations were corrected. Ms. Detroy reported that she will revisit the location in a week.

Next Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Health is to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 11a

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner