

**Wellesley Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2010**

Present:

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

Staff:

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

In Attendance:

Carol Hannenberg, 81 Washburn Road, resident  
Linda Perlmutter, 40 Seaver St, resident and former Board member

The meeting was called to order at 2pm.

The meeting minutes for September 16, 2010 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**1. Administrative**

a) Ambulance Data

Marcia Testa Simonson reported that she will be revising the ambulance data that she presented at the last meeting.

b) FY12 Budget

The Board of Health approved the FY12 Budget, as presented by the Administrator. The Board will be presenting this budget to the Advisory Committee on December 15, 2010.

**2. Mental Health**

a) Fund for Wellesley Grant Update

Ms. Suresh reported that the WellesleyActs.org website is operational, and that

she has been able to track the number of visitors to the site through a Google search engine.

b) QPR Update

Ms Suresh reported that she and Maura Renzella of the Youth Commission will be attending the Department Head Meeting on December 2, 2010. John Mattleman, Director of the Needham Recreation Department has been invited to speak at the meeting. He will be presenting the benefits of training department heads and managers in QPR.

The Board of Health agreed that in January 2011 an effort is to be made to ensure that teachers and students are actively training others in QPR.

c) Project Interface –Proposal

Mary Suresh reviewed the proposal presented by Project Interface. The organization offers a helpline Monday thru Friday during business hours, which is staffed by trained mental health professionals who take calls, assess the mental health needs and risks, and refers the caller to available mental health services within a 48 hour period. The fee to the Town for this service is \$10,000 for the calendar year 2011. Adolescent Wellness and the Interfaith Council have already contributed \$7,000 for the fee. The Board of Health would be responsible for the remaining balance of \$3,000.

Ms Suresh reported that the Town of Needham subscribes to the service. The Needham Health Department Director reported that the service is outstanding and able to connect families in need of mental health guidance.

The Board of Health agreed that they need to research additional information before any decision will be made.

d) HRS

The Board of Health requested that Rob Evans (HRS) and Maura Renzella (Youth Commission) be invited the next meeting. The Board wants to receive a progress report on community mental services in general and specifically on the school outreach services. Also, HRS' participation in the several Health Department mental health initiatives should be discussed, including Project Interface and the proposed mental health coordinator position. Any FY2011 contract issues will also be discussed.

### **3. Community Health**

a) Seasonal Flu

Mary Suresh reported that several large scale seasonal flu clinics have taken place. The department continues to vaccinate residents at smaller clinics throughout town.

e) Newton Wellesley Hospital

The Board of Health agrees that discussions with Newton Wellesley Hospital should be initiated relative to the underserved population in Wellesley, in terms of access to and availability of well as treatment of the uninsured.

Carol Hannenberg has agreed to participate in these discussions and to assist in identifying other Wellesley residents who might also be involved.

f) Public Health Nursing

Mary Suresh reported that Loretta Jaksic has changed her position to a Per Diem Nurse status at the end of September 2010. Ms Suresh reported that the search for a new Public Health Nurse Supervisor has been opened by the Human Resource Department.

Ms Suresh reported that Loretta Jaksic has agreed to continue to conduct clinics and assist the department on a reduced schedule until an appropriate candidate has been found.

#### **4. Environmental Health**

a) Housing Authority

Mary Suresh reported that she will be meeting the new Housing Authority Director next week. She will be inquiring about unmet healthcare needs among residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deadra Doku Gardner