



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE  
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
Thursday, April 17, 2014**

A meeting of the Board of the Boston Public Health Commission (“Commission”) was held on Thursday, April 17th, 2014 in the Hayes Conference Room, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02118.

**Board Members Present:**

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair  
Kate Walsh  
Celia Wcislo  
Harold Cox  
Myechia Minter-Jordan, MD, MBA  
Manny Lopes  
Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH

**Also Present Were:**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, John Townsend, Fatema Fazendeiro, Chuck Gagnon, Maia Brodyfield, Debra Paul, PJ McCann, Nick Martin, Gerry Thomas, Chief James Hooley, Huy Nguyen, Devin Larkin, Rita Nieves, David Pia, Beth Grand, Jeanne Cannata, Michael Melendez, Tim Harrington, Paul Bowman, Maryanne Frangules, Sandra Mangual, Brendan Rafferty, Frank Cunningham, Jessica Gomes, Sarah Mackin, Nancy Ryan, Kathy Scanlan, Brad Cohen, Anita Barry, Pam Jones, Katherine Mikshenas, Cari Rivera.

**Proceedings:**

***Chairwoman’s Comments***

*Paula Johnson, MD, MPH*

- Dr. Johnson opened the meeting at 4:10pm. She thanked everyone for coming and welcomed new board members Myechia Minter-Jordan and Manny Lopes. Dr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and a vote was taken approving the minutes. Dr. Johnson gave the floor to Dr. Ferrer for her updates.

***Executive Director’s Report***

*Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, Med*

- Dr. Ferrer welcomed board members Minter-Jordan and Lopes. Dr. Ferrer stated that she believes this is the best board in the city and looks forward to working with the new Board.
- Dr. Ferrer thanked Chief Hooley, and all of the staff at BostonEMS, for helping the city to heal, helping each other heal, and for continuing to do a lot of important work to get ready for this year’s Marathon. Dr. Ferrer stated that the Commission is unique in that its work in responding to the bombings carried on for the entire year, and ongoing efforts include organizing and offering trauma support services in the neighborhoods and at Our Lady of the Victories near Copley Square as well as offering expanded help line.
- Dr. Ferrer gave an update on influenza, stating that we are experiencing the highest rate of the entire flu season and that we have issued an advisory.

- Dr. Ferrer stated that the Commission, Boston Police Department, and Boston Fire Department representatives were asked to testify about the New England Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL) at a hearing before Boston City Council regarding a bill filed by Councilor Yancey to prevent BSL-4 level work at the NEIDL. At the hearing, the Commission reiterated its role as a regulator. Additional updates, including any proposal to amend the Board of Health regulation will be brought to the Board.
- Dr. Ferrer noted that the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board had granted zoning approvals for the next phase of the Northampton Square redevelopment project.
- Dr. Ferrer stated that the Board has been given an update on the State Budget, which includes increases for the Safe and Successful Youth line and the bed rate for Homeless Services. These priorities have been included in Mayor Walsh's budget letter.

***Presentation/Discussion: BPHC Opioid Treatment Services and Transition Planning***

*Rita Nieves, Director of the Addictions, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Support Services*

- Ms. Nieves recapped the original presentation made to the Board at the March meeting, noting the challenges the FY2015 Budget presents and the approval of the Board to pursue a qualified vendor to assume management of BPHC's Opioid Treatment Program (OTP).
- BPHC has completed the exploratory process with vendors capable of absorbing all existing clients and will share the outcome and recommendations.
- Ms. Nieves discussed the beginnings of the Addictions & Recovery Support Services Bureau (APTRSS) and how it has been accepted as an important part of the treatment continuum in Boston. There are four clinics in Boston and one on the Chelsea/East Boston border which serves East Boston residents.
- Ms. Nieves explained that OTP requires licensing and certifications from State and Federal agencies as well as accreditation entities (CARF). OTP also requires specialized medical, nursing and clinical staffing and client-staff ratios (7RN/LPN, 10 SA counselors, 3 Admin. Staff and 3 Managers). OTP is a 365 day operation.
- Ms. Nieves stated the primary goal of the transition process is to identify an existing and experienced vendor to absorb current census, ensure the maintenance of treatment capacity and expand this level of care in Boston. All aspects of the process have been coordinated with our partners at the MA Department of Public Health and the BMC medical team. This group has developed criteria to evaluate potential vendors and have met with vendors who could absorb the entire program to ensure a coordinated transition.
- Ms. Nieves commented on some of the vendor choice criteria: protection of client choice, services to the uninsured, services to special needs populations and program policies, agreeing to interview existing staff, the ability to provide integrated care in a single site.
- Additional vendor criteria includes have demonstrated experience as a provider and be in good standing with DPH, have an interest in Transition Steering Committee to ensure coordinated transition process with all partners and a willingness to sign an MOA to document all agreements between BPHC and the new vendor. Ms. Nieves also provided the Board with a copy of the DPH's response letter regarding CSAC and a copy of the draft MOU.
- Ms. Nieves described the profile of an identified provider: Community Substance Abuse Centers (CSAC). They are a current Boston provider, have twenty-five years of experience providing OTP, started by 2 physicians and are privately owned. CSAC operates 9 licensed OTP sites in MA and has already acquired a facility with 17,000 square feet on Bradston Street.
- Ms. Nieves noted that the site where the identified provider plans to operate will allow for better integration of on-site mental health and primary care services under one roof, which is not possible at the Commission's Frontage Road site.
- CSAC assumed management of the RoxComp OTP in Jamaica Plain in 2013 completing the transfer of 186 clients with no client/staff complaints to DPH; most of those client profiles matched our client profiles. They are planning an integrated service of OTP, primary care and behavioral health. Priority services to be provided to pregnant women and inmates at Suffolk County House of Corrections.

- The transition has been approved by DPH (as the licensing agency responsible for OTP in MA). The transition implementation timeline was outlined by Ms. Nieves. Beginning with final approval from the Board, execution of MOA with vendor, formation of the Steering Committee, finalize transition plan with DPH, start transfer of clients and staff hiring. Steering Committee updates to the Board will be made in August.

***Final Vote: FY2015 Budget***

*John M. Townsend, Esq., Director of Administration & Finance*

- Mr. Townsend revisited the budget timeline noting that today's Board vote would be the last step before the City Council Hearing on May 19, 2014.
- Mr. Townsend explained the FY2015 budget framework: a BPHC general obligation debt decrease for FY2015; COLA for FY15 is 3% effective January 2015 (not part of City appropriation); and a projected decrease in grant funding of approximately \$979k.
- Budget adjustments for FY2015 include Mayor Walsh's requested changes: expansion of Clinical Trauma Service - CAFHB \$730k; and restoration of 4 positions, CAFHB \$216k/CIB \$168k. Funding confirmation for EMS Supplemental Medicaid: plan waiver allowed resulting in projected \$1.5 million in revenue for FY2015. Funding transfer from APTRSS methadone clinic to referral and resource center for Office of Recovery Services (\$309k).
- Mr. Townsend gave an overview of the percentage of funding sources for FY2015, with the largest amount coming from Boston City Appropriation, followed by Billed/Other, Federal and State Grants.
- Mr. Townsend continued with a chart indicating the program by program budgets for FY2015. He also gave a comparative breakdown of FTEs between FY2014 and FY2015.
- Lastly, Mr. Townsend spoke about the capital budget items for FY2015 including an EMS Station study, Finland Building and Woods Mullen Shelter HVAC Systems, Long Island Pier and Tunnels repairs, SEFC pool repairs, EMS Garage/Storage Facility and Critical Facility repairs. These require total new capital funding of \$12,026,000.
- Dr. Johnson moved for a final vote on the FY2015 budget. Dr. Johnson, Ms. Walsh, Mr. Cox, Mr. Lopes Dr. Minter-Jordan and Dr. Betancourt voted in favor. Ms. Wcislo voted in opposition.

***Adjournment***

With no further business before the Board, Dr. Johnson called for a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Walsh and Ms. Wcislo. Dr. Johnson thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Submitted by:

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Kathy Hussey, Board Secretary