



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 24th, 2018**

A meeting of the Board of the Boston Public Health Commission (“Commission”) was held on Wednesday, April 24th, 2018 in the Hayes Conference Room, 2nd floor, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present

Manny Lopes, Chair, Phillomin Laptiste, Jennifer Childs-Roshak, Rebecca Gutman

Also Present

Susan Belvis, Brad Cohen, Steven Simmons, Rob Goldstein, Leon Bethune, Jen Jaeger, Tim Harrington, Batool Raza, Stacey Kokaram, Aunnakalia Boyce, Wiona Desir, Edna Carrasco, Jannet Sanchez, Triniese Polk, Katie Donovan, Eugene Barros, Sarah Kuruvilla, James Hooley, Debra Paul, Nestor Rijo-Figueroa, Heather Gasper, Shannon McEaney, Anne McHugh, Gerry James, Dan Dooley, Puneet Sharma, Jennifer Lo, Jen Tracey, Devin Larkin, Malaika Lucien, Taylor Jolly, Carl Sciortino, Nancy Kasen, Regine Charlot, PJ McCann

Proceedings

Chairperson’s Comments

At 4:07 p.m., Chairperson Lopes welcomed Board members, staff, and attendees and gave an overview of the agenda. He made remarks welcoming Phillomin Laptiste to the Board. He shared that Ms. Laptiste is the Executive Director of Bowdoin Street Health Center, a great health center in the heart of the city, and she will bring a wealth of energy and experience to the Board, and it’s an honor and a privilege to her with us.

Executive Office Report: Monica Valdes Lupi, JD, MPH

Ms. Valdes Lupi also welcomed Ms. Laptiste to the Board and made the following remarks:

BPHC has been busy pushing out news over the last couple of months. This includes press releases and other original content posted on the web, as well as responses to media inquiries on a range of topics.

Welcome Phillomin! Following her appointment to the Board of Health, Suffolk University published a profile on Phillomin Laptiste and Commonwealth Magazine recorded a profile with Board Chair, Manny Lopes.

Measles cases in the Commonwealth and the outbreak reported in New York State have continued to prompt media inquiries to BPHC regarding our readiness to address potential outbreaks here and what steps people can take to protect themselves against the disease. Dr. Jenifer Leaf Jaeger provided an interview to Boston University News, and BPHC was mentioned in coverage in the Boston Herald, Boston Globe and Metro NYC. Dr. Jaeger will also share some updates with you today.

BPHC announced two grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration this last month. The first was a major grant of nearly \$15 million in Ryan White HIV/AIDS program funding and the other was a multi-year Healthy Start Initiative grant of almost \$5 million.

The Office of Public Health Preparedness's work regarding Extreme Weather and Climate Change was featured in a blog post published by NACCHO and shared widely online as part of National Public Health Week. BPHC conducted several activities during this week as well, including a job fair and three live social media broadcasts highlighting violence prevention programs and partners: My Life My Choice, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and Start Strong.

BPHC joined other public health organizations and nonprofits over the last quarter in recognizing several important awareness days such as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month (January), Children's Dental Health Month (February), Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 7), National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 10), and TB Awareness Day (March 24). These events among other ongoing activities such as promoting Mayor's Health Line services, educating around Marijuana Health Effects, promoting Lead Poisoning, Narcan and other trainings were heavily promoted across social media.

On social media, some of the top performing items across all channels in Q1 were related to information posted alerting the public to a person with measles who passed through South Station, messages of solidarity and support surrounding the issue of sex and human trafficking, promotion of Share Outs for our Neighborhood Trauma Team program, graduation of new EMS recruit class, and promotions leading up to National Public Health Week events.

Over the last quarter, we have made strategic efforts to improve social media engagement with Boston residents with both scheduled and timely posts. The negative numbers on Facebook are a result of a reduction in the quantity of posts and engagement overall. The reduced number of posts was intentional and the reduction in engagement is driven entirely by fewer passive likes, however there was notable growth in the more active share over the same time period suggesting that the content being delivered is of great interest to followers.

Heather Gasper, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, shared the following report:

The Senate recently passed a measure, introduced that recognizes the importance of vaccines and immunizations in the U.S. The resolution (S. Res. 165) is designed to deliver a message of congressional support for vaccines. "Vaccinations and immunizations have saved countless lives and are critical in keeping both children and adults safe from preventable deadly diseases.

Last week, two Democratic House Members released legislation aimed at the increase in tobacco and e-cigarette use among youth, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, which would raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21 years of age. The bill would also make it unlawful for companies to market their cigarette and e-cigarette products to those under 21.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives is working to pass its budget. This will bring the state to the halfway mark of the budget process for fiscal year 2020 (FY20), beginning on July 1, 2019. As expected, the House Committee on Way and Means proposed a larger budget than the Governor recommended last January. In total, the House Committee on Ways and Means proposed a budget of \$46,467,690,563.

Many of the line items that IGR tracks on behalf of BPHC saw proposed increases from the House. In total there is a 2.5% increase on these line items. Individually, increases include: more than \$5 million for housing homeless individuals, \$10 million for the Mass Rental Voucher Program, nearly \$1.5 million for HIV/AIDS Prevention, more than half a million dollars for mental health for children and adolescents and over \$600 thousand mental health for adults, nearly \$1 million for family planning, \$1.2 million for Summer Jobs for at Risk Youth.

During the House debate, State Representatives are considering nearly 1,400 in amendments to the budget. Next month, the Senate will debate and pass its budget which we will report on.

Mayor Walsh presented his Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget proposal, a plan that prioritizes investments in innovative approaches to delivering high-quality and equitable services for residents and upholds the City's strong record of proactive fiscal management. The \$3.48 billion plan increased investments in early childhood education, affordable housing, climate preparedness, recovery services, public safety and economic opportunity. As the budget process continues, Administration & Finance and IGR are working with City Hall to present BPHC's final budget to the board and City Council on May 16th.

Dr. Childs-Roshak asked a question about whether raising the age to buy tobacco and nicotine may open the door for imposing other restrictions on the rights of young people. Ms. Gasper noted that that was an excellent point. What we can say is that this is something that has been done at the local and state level and we have not seen that issue arise. Obviously federal law presents different issues and we will certainly keep this point in mind as we advocate.

Ms. Valdes Lupi then introduced an update about measles and other infectious disease issues.

Jenifer Jaeger, Director of the Infectious Disease Bureau, will share some timely information and answer any questions you may have about seasonal influenza and measles.

Dr. Jaeger gave an overview of the measles disease and presented modeling information to show the relationship between vaccination rates and the spread of measles. Measles is highly infectious and can remain in a room for approximately two hours after a person leaves. The vaccine is highly effective and can provide lifelong protection after two doses of the vaccine. Massachusetts has one of the highest rates in the country, and Suffolk County has incredibly high rates as well. Only .3% of students have a vaccine exemption, and schools have a 93% measles

vaccine compliance rate. Because of this, we don't have the same concentration of unvaccinated individuals that has contributed to outbreaks elsewhere. This year, we have only had one measles case which was travel-related.

Chairperson Lopes asked why our vaccination rates were so high compared with other cities. Dr. Jaeger answered that it may be due in part to the fact that we don't have as many individuals claiming a religious exemption, and MDPH has worked with faith-based institutions to disseminate messages about vaccine safety and effectiveness. She also mentioned that the anti-vax movement does not appear to be as strong here as it is elsewhere.

Dr. Jaeger gave an update about seasonal influenza, noting that it was the lowest number of cases in the last five years. The flu vaccine this year was 40-60% effective, but is effective at preventing flu-related deaths.

Ms. Gutman asked how vaccine rates compare between communities, and is the vaccine offered in schools. Dr. Jaeger noted that school that have BPHC School-Based Health Centers do, and there are vaccine clinics during enrollment.

Ms. Valdes Lupi noted that Dr. Lo would follow up.

Ms. Gutman noted past efforts to offer vaccines to personal care assistants, and suggested thinking about this approach with other unions.

Mr. Lopes thanked staff and asked Dr. Childs-Roshak for an update on the Operational Review implementation. Dr. Childs-Roshak that she has been representing the Board on the Operational Review Committee for one meeting, and can share that there is a lot of work going and many staff engaged in making a lot of progress. It seems like the work is on track, and we have talked about the best way to communicate the progress regularly.

Presentation and Discussion: BPHC Strategic Plan

Ms. Valdes Lupi presented the slides, Boston Public Health Commission 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, to the Board.

She introduced the presentation by saying thank you to the Board, Chief Martinez, Mayor Walsh, and the staff for your support as we developed this strategic plan, and even more importantly as we launch this exciting work together.

The plan reinforces our commitment to equity and identifies innovative ways we can become a public health department of the future. She noted that we will follow up by sharing our Guide to Advance Racial Justice and Health Equity which we use to guide our racial equity change projects.

Chairperson Lopes noted that in ACOs, there is the ability to share savings as we help to create value, and asked how we can position ourselves. Medical Director, Dr. Jennifer Lo noted that there have been some opportunities through our Community Health Education Center through DSRIP funding. We have ongoing efforts to approach ACOs about the flexible services program.

Ms. Valdes Lupi suggested that the big question is how do we know we are making an impact? Which transitions us into our work through the Community Health Improvement Planning process to identify health priorities for the city. Moving forward, we have an RFP to hire a project manager, and we may seek additional feedback about how to display updates.

Dr. Childs-Roshak offered congratulation and noted that the plan seems foundational and asked about plans to move beyond the plan. Ms. Valdes Lupi noted that we are already thinking into the future as we plan with external partners and writing grant proposals for future innovative phases of our work.

Ms. Gutman asked how unions are involved in the workforce development process. Brad Cohen noted that many union contracts have professional development provisions, and we're engaging to make sure staff are taking advantage of these benefits.

Mr. Lopes again thanked Ms. Valdes Lupi and Staff and noted that staff will be presenting updates on the implementation, and bring forth presentations that tie into it the plan to the Board on a regular basis.

Presentation and Vote: Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative Update

Margaret Reid, BPHC, Director of Health Equity Office Triniese Polk, BPHC, Director of Community Engagement, Health Equity Office, and Magnolia Contreras, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Director of Community Benefits presented the slides Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative Project Overview.

Ms. Laptiste asked whether the Dorchester survey participant data was broken down any further. Ms. Reid said that we would follow up with more detailed information.

Ms. Childs-Roshak noted that there are some places where neighborhoods are either over or under represented in the survey. Ms. Contreras said that the sample size of 2400 residents helps to control for that, and also, because this was approached with an equity lens, we focused on neighborhoods of most concern. Steve Ridini from Health Resources in Action noted that the online version will distill down the information into an executive summary and will continue to engage with additional meetings and forums as well as through our Healthy Community Champions model. Ms. Reid noted that this was built in from the beginning.

Chairperson Lopes applauded the work and the team that was brought together. He asked about alignment with ACOs. Nancy Kasen, co-chair of the Collaborative, from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center noted that the ACO question is a bit premature, and we are grappling with bringing the needed groups together. The Social Determinants of Health Collaborative includes Greater Boston hospitals and ACOs, and we had hoped to feed more findings from that work into this, but the time frames have not aligned.

Ms. Valdes Lupi highlighted that this work is unique and that there are no models to follow.

Dr. Childs-Roshak noted that it is respectful to engage the community in a coordinated way rather than having all of these organizations approaching communities separately. Carl Sciortino, co-chair of the Collaborative, from Fenway Health, underscored these points and noted that there is a parking lot of lessons learned that will continue to inform work beyond this. The documentation that HRiA has done throughout ensures that we will have access to all learnings in the future.

Acceptance and Approval of March 6th, 2019 Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes for the March 6th, 2019 meeting.

Adjournment

At or around 5:45pm, a motion and vote to adjourn were taken and approved.

Attest

// Susan Belvis

Board Secretary, Boston Public Health Commission