



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
Thursday, June 20, 2013**

A meeting of the Board of the Boston Public Health Commission (“Commission”) was held on Thursday, June 20, 2013 in the Hayes Conference Room at the Commission’s offices at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present:

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair
Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD
Celia Wcislo
Jack Cradock

Also Present Were:

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, John Townsend, Fatema Fazendeiro, Maia BrodyField, Kathy Hussey, Chuck Gagnon, Leon Bethune, Gerry Thomas, Dan Obendorfer, PJ McCann, Karl René, Anita Barry, Nicole Charon-Schmitt, Devin Larkin, Clelia Beltrame, Heriberto Sanchez, Dr. Huy Nguyen, David Susich, Tony O'Brien, James Orsino, Diane Cavaleri, Michael Bosse, Pam Jones, Scott Mason, Liam Day, Barbara Lottero, Michael Shapiro, Chief James Hooley, Paulette Shaw Querner, Michael Soo Hoo, Telayna Bennett, Yasmin Martinez, Joanne St. Laurent, Peta Thompson, Raia Warfield, Carlson Guillet, and JoAnn Coull.

Proceedings:

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Chairwoman’s Comments

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

- Dr. Johnson opened the meeting at 4:07pm noting it was a sad, but special day for the Board and the Commission because Ms. Fitch is retiring and this would be her last meeting. Dr. Johnson praised Ms. Fitch for her dedication to and love for the City of Boston and the Commission. Dr. Johnson acknowledged that personally she has learned a lot from Ms. Fitch during her tenure on the Board. Dr. Johnson congratulated Ms. Fitch and wished her the best in her retirement.
- Ms. Fitch thanked Dr. Johnson for her kind words. She stated that it has been a pleasure being on the Board and working with the Commission and will miss it greatly.
- Dr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the March 12, March 25, April 18, and May 16 Board meeting minutes. Ms. Wcislo and Ms. Fitch seconded the motion with no objections. The Board then unanimously approved the minutes for March 12, March 25, April 18, and May 16, 2013.

Executive Director's Report

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

- Dr. Ferrer echoed Dr. Johnson's sentiments about Ms. Fitch. She thanked Ms. Fitch for her lifelong dedication to the City and the Commission. Dr. Ferrer stated Mayor Menino issued a proclamation and has declared April 11, 2013 as Ruth Ellen Fitch Day to commemorate her years of service and dedication to the City of Boston.
- Dr. Ferrer gave an update on the Marathon survivors. She noted that Atyia Martin and Debbie Allen continue working with the families. The current memorial will be dismantled with a private dinner for the families afterwards. Plans are in motion for a permanent memorial.
- Dr. Ferrer indicated that the One Fund has collected over \$50 million to-date; of the 265 victims treated, 240 have applied to the One Fund.
- Dr. Ferrer stated the Mayor is focused on terrorism in the neighborhoods. The Commission has a campaign in place and has been going door-to-door in the neighborhoods most affected. We will be out again next weekend at Warren Gardens. Sharyn Moss and Chuck Gagnon do an incredible job setting up the barbeque.
- Dr. Johnson took this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Ferrer on winning the prestigious Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA)'s 11th Annual Paul Revere Award celebrating her achievements within the public health community.
- Dr. Johnson called on Mr. Townsend to present the FY2014 Budget.

Vote to Approve the FY2014 BPHC Budget

John Townsend, Director of Administration and Finance

- Mr. Townsend presented a brief overview of the budget presented to the Board in March. He then read the proposed vote into the minutes:

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2013 the Board considered and approved the Boston Public Health Commission's public health services budget for fiscal year 2014, prepared pursuant to Chapter 147 section 8(c) of the Acts of 1995 and submitted said budget to the Mayor of the City of Boston;

WHEREAS, the submitted budget was approved by the Mayor of the City of Boston and the net cost of said budget was included in the annual budget of expenses for the City of Boston and submitted to the City Council of the City of Boston;

WHEREAS, a copy of said Commission's Public Health Services Budget for fiscal year 2014 is attached hereto;

THEREFORE, the Board approves and adopts, the attached public health services budget, for the Boston Public Health Commission.

- Dr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the FY2014 Budget. Mr. Cradock, Ms. Fitch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2014 BPHC Budget.
- Dr. Johnson gave the floor over to Dr. Barry.

Presentation and Discussion: Overview of Boston Public Health Regulations, Continued

Dr. Anita Barry, Director of the Infectious Disease Bureau

- Prior to Dr. Barry's presentation, Ms. Fazendeiro gave a brief recap for those Board members who were not present last month.
- Dr. Barry stated the Disease Surveillance and Reporting Regulation had been amended on January 10, 2013. The regulation for the Isolation and Quarantine of individuals with Infectious Diseases Dangerous to the Public Health was adopted November 5, 2003.
- Dr. Barry described the different data sources used in the surveillance, the types of information obtained. She explained that some information is used to provide situational awareness and inform control measures, i.e. Hepatitis C in adolescents; Influenza and those at particular risk and alerts to providers.
- Dr. Barry stated that between 2004 and 2011, there were 7,588 reported Hepatitis C infection cases; 798 of those among 15-25 year olds or 10.5% of all cases. Dr. Barry presented data on risk factors and where the 15-25 year olds were when diagnosed.
- Dr. Barry noted a key point was the association of adolescents and young adults with illicit substance abuse. IDB is collaborating with clinicians and community groups in high risk neighborhoods.
- Dr. Barry reported on confirmed Influenza cases and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Emergency Department visits in Boston for October 1, 2012 through March 30, 2013; rates of Influenza continue to be higher in Blacks and Latinos; a significant portion of those hospitalized had a high risk condition: diabetes, asthma, pregnancy; additional efforts to improve vaccination rates in these groups is needed.
- Dr. Barry indicated there is a Health Alert with respect to animal bites for the months of June through September. She reported on syndromic surveillance with respect to bicycle injury related visits and the Boston Marathon bombing and the feedback to be given to contributors and providers.
- Dr. Barry stated the Regulation for Isolation and Quarantine of Individuals with Specified Infections was adopted during the SARS outbreak in 2003. She spoke of the implementation of current regulations being a challenge; more provider education is necessary to enhance the completeness and timeliness of reporting.
- Ms. Fitch had questions regarding the data on diabetes and multiple issues in the neighborhoods, how that information is reported out and the specificity of the neighborhoods. She wanted to know how it was reported to residents as well as providers. Dr. Barry replied she thought we do an excellent job of getting that information to the providers/health centers. Dr. Ferrer followed stating that information is also passed on during community meetings and through the "Health of Boston" report.
- Dr. Barry commented that over the years she has found that folks in the neighborhood, health centers, and community folks are much more credible than we are coming from a health department.

Overview of the Opioid Overdose Regulation, Nicole Charon-Schmitt, APTRSS

- Ms. Charon-Schmitt introduced herself and Heriberto Sanchez from APTRSS who are filling in for Ms. Bishop. Ms. Charon-Schmitt gave an overview of the 2006 Opiate Overdose regulation and the overdose prevention efforts of the APTRSS between 2006 and 2013.
- Mr. Sanchez described how the Pilot program came about and how it works. Ms. Charon-Schmitt also noted that the program was so successful that the State of Massachusetts decided they wanted to take it on and bring it to a statewide level.
- Ms. Charon-Schmitt stated this coincided with the change in the EMS protocol where they began to use Narcan on their ambulances and expanded access to this life-saving drug.

- Ms. Charon-Schmitt mentioned that in 2008, they were awarded \$1.2 million dollars to use towards prevention on the neighborhood level: MassCall2. In 2012, there was development of a best practices Citywide plan to prevent overdoses.
- There have been additional wards of \$320,000 and over \$400,000. In 2013, they plan to address experimentation of NMUPD among youth/young adults and to develop a Boston multi-sector opiate use and abuse Collaborative.
- Ms. Charon-Schmitt stated that prevention efforts have resulted in nearly 3,000 overdose responders being trained; there have been nearly 300 Boston reversals; overdose prevention and Narcan trainings will be expanded to populations that are impacted by active opiate drug users; and overdose prevention products/materials will be created.
- Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. Charon-Schmitt and Mr. Sanchez and asked if there were questions. A gentleman in the public audience stated it was admirable that the BPHC wants to reduce overdoses but expressed that the emphasis from the Commission's point of view should be placed on treatment and rehabilitation. Ms. Charon-Schmitt responded that we do have an extensive treatment continuum in place that helps in all areas with the exception of detox.

Due to time constraints, the remainder of this presentation was put on hold and Dr. Johnson introduced the next presenters from the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Presentation: "2011 Data Impact Snapshot" by the Boston Conference of Community Health Centers, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Paulette Shaw Querner, Co-Chair

Barbara Lottero, Co-Chair

- Ms. Lottero and Ms. Querner explained that the data was collected from 23 health center organizations that are both independently and hospital licensed which serve all neighborhoods of the City and its surrounding communities.
- Ms. Lottero and Ms. Querner provided a breakdown of health center patients by service type, by visit type and by age groupings. This also included categories of patients by race/ethnicity.
- Ms. Lottero and Ms. Querner described the coverage status of payors for services rendered and the people who make up the health center workforce.
- Ms. Lottero and Ms. Querner commented on the "economic engine" and the impact within the community made by service providers and employers.
- Dr. Johnson thanked Ms. Lottero and Ms. Querner for their efforts and then introduced Mr. SooHoo for the next presentation.

Presentation: BPHC Youth Advisory Council 2012-2013 Update

Michael Soo Hoo, Senior Policy Analyst

Raia Warfield, Project Manager

- Mr. Soo Hoo explained the purpose of the Youth Advisory Council was to bring youth representatives from the various organizations in order to identify and propose policies, initiatives and programs that support healthy youth development.
- Mr. Soo Hoo stated the council represents no more than 30 youth between the ages of 14 to 21 and strives to reflect the diversity of the city including racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation and neighborhood diversity.
- Mr. Soo Hoo noted that the council members have already demonstrated significant leadership skills and work as a team with youth from different backgrounds.

- Mr. Soo Hoo reported on the partner organizations and current Youth Advisory Council members. The youth representatives present were:
 - Artists for Humanity – Joanne St. Laurent and Carlson Guillet
 - Dorchester Bay Youth Force – Telayna Bennett
 - Hyde Square Task Force – Yasmin Martinez
 - Teen Empowerment - Peta Thompson
- Mr. Soo Hoo gave a recap of the past year accomplishments and the top 3 goals for the current year which includes: improving and increasing sexual health education and resources; advocating for jobs for teens; and raising awareness of and improving services and resources for teen parents, especially teen dads.
- Sexual health education was voted by the members as the priority goal for the YAC. The youth representatives discussed suggestions for the BPHC regarding sexual health education. Dr. Ferrer thanked the youth members for their service and they received certificates of appreciation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kathy Hussey, Secretary