

David Mulligan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

Board vote to approve May minutes:

David Mulligan, Chair, made a motion to accept the May minutes. The Motion was seconded and approved.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Dr. Norman spoke regarding Communicating Public Health messages, the successful presentation of the budget to the City Council and the launching of a couple of new campaigns.

Do You Use – Richard Stevens

Richard Stevens, Director of the AIDS Program, gave a brief update regarding condoms and condom use, linking the “I’m a User” message to “Know your status regarding the HIV” campaign. Mr. Stevens stated that there will be billboards regarding condom use in Mattapan Square, by the Strand Theater and Melnea Cass Blvd along with posters in the neighborhoods throughout Boston.

Dr. Paula Johnson asked if there will be any billboards in the medical community in the Huntington/Longwood area. Mr. Stevens said they would look into the possibility.

David Mulligan asked where the highest population was concentrated and where we stood with the status of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Stevens answered that we have a little over five thousand (5,000) living with HIV cases, approximately 50% are heterosexuals and 50% are homosexuals.

Ruth Ellen Fitch responded that the programs billboards did a good job targeting groups of color, however,, she would like to see more billboards around the city targeting a bigger audience.

David Mulligan asked if there is any chance that the DPH will help out and he also inquired as to whether there have been any objections to the posters. Mr. Stevens said there have not been any objections to the posters.

Celia Wcislo asked if there was any reason why the posters are targeted to AIDS as opposed to pregnancy. Richard answered that the funding comes from HIV/AIDS.

Boston Medical Reserve Corps – Brian Mazmanian

Brian Mazmanian, Coordinator for the Public Health Preparedness Program, gave a brief update regarding the Boston Medical Reserve Corps. The program focuses on recruiting both medical and non-medical staff. Billboards will go out on MBTA cars, buses, and stations and in community newspapers. They will be focusing on the City’s readiness program.

David Mulligan asked if the staff will have to go through training. Mr. Mazmanian reported that there will be an on-line training and that they are coordinating with the Harvard School of Public Health.

Celia Wcislo asked whether he had thought of going through union networks and offered her assistance.

Ruth Ellen Fitch asked if they require periodic updates. Mr. Mazmanian reported that a yearly update is required. They also have a monthly newsletter which provides updates and a leadership program with a four (4) part series.

Dr. Johnson asked is there were slides from the trainings and requested that the Board see the slides.

Watch Your Mouth – Mary Ellen Yankosky

Mary Ellen Yankosky, Director of Oral Health, gave a brief update regarding oral health. Ms. Yankosky stated that tooth decay is the most common childhood disease and that it is five (5) times more common among children. The focus of the “Watch Your Mouth” program is to educate the public about tooth decay.

David Mulligan asked how many people in Massachusetts have dental insurance. Ms. Yankosky responded that she had heard approximately 68% but she felt that percentage seems higher.

David Mulligan asked how much was free care and how much was primary care. Ms. Yankosky said that she didn’t have the specific numbers.

Greener Boston, Healthy Homes – Margaret Reid

Margaret Reid, Director, Asthma & Diabetes Prevention and Control, gave a brief update regarding the exposure of cockroaches and mice as it relates to asthma. The focus of the program is on establishing what the relationship is between asthma and pesticides. Cockroaches exposure leads to the onset of asthma.

David Mulligan asked whether the Boston Public Health Commission was working with pest control contractors to limit the exposure to unsafe pesticides. Ms. Reid said that it is not pest control contractors bringing in unsafe pesticides to residences but it is individual home owners.

Greener Boston, Healthy Yards and Safe Shops – Kerlee Nicolas

Kerlee Nicolas, Public Health Advocate for the Environmental Hazards Department, gave a brief update regarding safe shops. Mr. Nicolas stated that it is a new program to create environmental responsibility. The goal is to reduce chemical hazards and to address health disparities in communities who are overburdened with auto repair shops.

David Mulligan asked how the shops react when we approach them and how the BPHC program saves the shops money. Mr. Nicolas said that by switching to different paints they will be using less paint and create less residue.

EMS Regulation on Quality Improvement – Fatema Fazendeiro, Esq.

Fatema Fazendeiro, Assistant General Counsel for the Legal Department, gave a brief update on the proposal of EMS Quality Assurance Regulation which the Board had already approved for public comment. The purpose of the Regulation is to allow the EMS Medical Director to follow-up with the EMS transports. Attorney Fazendeiro reported that the public comment hearing was March 20, 2007 in which no public comments were received and that Dr. Moyer followed up with all of the hospitals and they have no objection to the regulation.

The Chair made a motion which was seconded and the Board approved the Proposal EMS Quality Assurance Regulation as a regulation of the Commission.

Board vote on EMS Regulation on Quality Improvement

Yeas 5 No’s 0 Absent 2

David Mulligan adjourned the Meeting at 5:15 PM.