

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, M.ED called the meeting to order at 4:25 PM.

Board vote to approve July minutes:

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

Introduction of Senior Policy Analyst

Dr. Nancy Norman, Medical Director, introduced Maurice Myrie as the Commission's new Senior Policy Analyst.

Commission Community Meetings – Dr. Nancy Norman

Dr. Nancy Norman, Medical Director, gave a brief update regarding "Youth Focused Public Health Community Meetings". The focus will be on health issues of concern to youth such as youth violence and the work being done around prevention. Dr. Norman stated that we will be working closely and partnering with Boston Public Schools and that neighborhood youth organizations will co-sponsor and host the meetings which will be held on the 22nd, 24th, and 29th of October 2007.

Ruth Ellen Fitch asked what age ranges will be included for the community meetings. Dr. Norman replied that the main focus will be on high school youth ages 14-18. Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Executive Director, stated that the Boston Public Health Commission will be collecting data from the Health of Boston report and that the data will include ages 14-20.

Boston Globe/Herald Articles

The Board was provided with copies of the following 3 articles:

- "School hope chef's touch whets cafeteria appetites" –
- "Food for thought (Healthy School Lunches Are Making the Grade in Boston)" –
- "Bioterror drill to test distribution of drugs"

Stairwell Initiative – Anne McHugh

Anne McHugh, Director, Boston Steps, gave a brief update regarding the stairwell initiative. The focus will be on getting adults to be more active in their daily routine. Ms. McHugh stated that American adults should engage in moderate activity at least 30 minutes a day. The stairwell initiative goal is to incorporate physical activity into the workplace. Ms. McHugh reported that since the Boston Steps campaign to improve stairwell usage began 30% of people going in and out of the 1010 Massachusetts Avenue building have used the stairs.

Boston Steps will be cross marketing with the American Heart Association to promote the workplace wellness campaign. The public kickoff will be October at Northeastern University.

Legislative Update – Valerie Bassett

Valerie Bassett, Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Public Health Advocacy, gave a brief update regarding the violence prevention and intervention bill. Ms. Bassett stated

that the hearing is scheduled for September 12, 2007. The focus of this bill will be to improve the safety and health of victims of violence who seek medical care by increasing access to programs that provide information, resources, and advocacy to victims, and help bridge the divide between clinical and community settings.

Ms. Bassett stated that the bill directs the Department of Public Health to develop voluntary guidelines for the establishment of programs to address the health and safety of all victims of

violence seeking medical care. Ms. Bassett said that this bill is a top priority for the Commission and the Mayor.

Dr. Paula Johnson stated that the data from the Nurses Health Study concluded that exposure to violence is a predictor to chronic disease. Dr. Johnson stated that she will provide the link to the Nurses Health Study and encouraged Ms. Bassett to include the study in the Commission's presentation at the hearing.

Ruth Ellen Fitch asked if this is the first time we have focused on this type of bill. Ms. Bassett replied that it is our first time and that we are the first state to do so.

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Executive Director, informed the Board that Ms. Bassett would be leaving the Commission to pursue a career at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and thanked Ms. Bassett for her contribution, dedication and hard work for all of her years of service and wished her well.

Dr. Ferrer announced that Maddie Ribble, Coordinator for PH Advocacy, would be taking over as the new Interim Director of Intergovernmental Relations and PH Advocacy.

Biological Safety Update – Anthony Gemmellaro

Anthony Gemmellaro, Director, Biological Safety, gave a brief update regarding the biological laboratory permit review process. Mr. Gemmellaro stated that we are at the point where permit are being provided to the various applicants. The permit status to date is that seven entities and eleven labs have been provided permits.

Mr. Gemmellaro stated that one (1) entity has received a permit and six (6) have received provisional permits and that the inspection process has begun. Mr. Gemmellaro said that once approved, the permit will be issued for 3 years.

Ruth Ellen Fitch asked whether there was a time frame for moving from provisional permits to permanent permits. Mr. Gemmellaro responded affirmatively and explained the process.

Chairman's Comments

David Mulligan, Chair, announced that this is his last meeting as a member of the Commission. Mr. Mulligan spoke regarding his 10 year tenure as Chair to the Board for the Boston Public Health Commission and stated that is has been a great 10 years.

David Mulligan thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.