



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

A meeting of the Board of the Boston Public Health Commission ("Commission") was held on Thursday, November 21, 2013 in the Carter Auditorium at 35 Northampton Street, 4th floor, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present:

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair
Kathleen Walsh
Celia Weislo
Jack Cradock
Harold Cox
Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH (*participated remotely*)

Also Present Were:

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, John Townsend, Fatema Fazendeiro, Kathy Hussey, Chuck Gagnon, Dr. Huy Nguyen, PJ McCann, Lisa Conley, Maia BrodyField, Nakia Bernard, Marie Buesereth, Diane Cavaleri, Aliza Wasserman, Pam Jones, Debra Paul, Leon Bethune, Makaila Manukyan, Cara Mathews, Beth Grand, Carol Fabyan, Chief Jimmy Hooley, Sangita Shurtha, Manny Lopes, Triniese Polk, Philip McGovern, Nikysha Harding, Myechia Minter-Jordan, Sindelle Robles, Veronica Marquis, Nick Martin.

Proceedings:

Chairwoman's Comments
Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

- Dr. Johnson welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Dr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:10pm after Dr. Betancourt was connected via conference call. Dr. Johnson commented on the Mayoral Prize in Primary Care Awards. She wanted to thank Dr. Nguyen and Maia BrodyField, in particular, for their phenomenal efforts in putting it all together. Dr. Johnson feels the awards are spectacular and it was great to have the finalists present. She thanked Dr. Ferrer for her leadership before turning the meeting over to her.

Executive Director's Report
Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

- Dr. Ferrer acknowledged Dr. Johnson for all her efforts on behalf of the Commission. A lot of our work with primary care has been led by Dr. Johnson who is instrumental in creating reports that guide our action plans. Dr. Ferrer agreed that the Mayoral Prize was a wonderful event. She wanted to thank the Communications Office particularly. Over the last couple of months they

have been extremely busy putting videos and social marketing campaigns together. All of their work has been of the highest quality. Dr. Ferrer was very appreciative of their efforts.

- Dr. Ferrer noted that Rita Nieves, Bureau Director of Addition, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Support Services (APTRSS) would be hosting an Overdose Prevention Summit. It is an invitation only summit of about 100 people who are both prescribers of opiates and the folks who work the treatment side. The purpose of the summit is to explore issues around poly-drug use and its relation to the increases seen in overdoses. Dr. Ferrer stated we would come back to the Board with the next steps in reducing overdoses.
- Dr. Ferrer commented on Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh, noting he has been a great friend to public health and has been a great supporter of our programs. She also stated we are officially in transition.
- Dr. Ferrer took this time to thank her staff. The transition creates an extra level of work to prepare and get to the transition team and the Mayor-Elect to ensure there is no disruption in the services we provide. The whole team is working to make certain the Mayor-Elect has everything he needs to help manage the public health side of his job. BPHC has a tremendous relationship with him, as do many of the Board members.
- Dr. Ferrer said it is also sad to bid farewell to Mayor Menino. He has left the City and the Commission in really good shape. Dr. Ferrer looks to continue moving forward with Mayor-Elect Walsh in a positive direction.
- Dr. Johnson thanked Dr. Ferrer for her report then gave the floor to Ms. Conley and Mr. McCann.

Presentation/Resolution: Review of Public Hearing and Comments on the Proposed "Regulation to Ensure Safe Access to Medical Marijuana in the City of Boston"

Lisa Conley, Director of Intergovernmental Relations & Public Health Advocacy

PJ McCann, Assistant General Counsel

- Ms. Conley introduced herself and Mr. McCann. Ms. Conley then gave a quick update on where we are with the regulations and what we heard during the public comment period. Ms. Conley recapped the regulation timeline: Boston Zoning Commission passed a code amendment in January 2013; DPH finalized regulations on May 8, 2013; on September 23, 2013, DPH invited 19 of the 22 Suffolk County applicants to the more rigorous Phase 2 review (between 1 and 5 will be permitted in the county). Today is the deadline for submitting applications for RMDs. Decisions are expected to be made by January 31, 2014.
- Ms. Conley indicated City response will be coordinated through an interagency working group. The only indication of support from the City will be any locally-required permits and approvals.
- Ms. Conley noted that state registration must be reviewed annually. The DPH will conduct inspections on an as-needed basis to ensure compliance (local inspections are not precluded). Currently, there is no mechanism in state law for local review of RMD applications and plans (local disclosure requirements are not precluded).
- Mr. McCann reviewed the process leading up to the comments received regarding the public hearing. The public comment period ran from September 19th to November 14th. We received four (4) written comments and had six (6) people testify in support of the regulations at the public hearing on November 7th.
- Mr. McCann noted that one dispensary proponent testified in support, citing preference for operating in a well-regulated business environment. Two potential patients testified in support, citing the need for safe access as soon as possible. A food and commercial workers union testified in support, citing the potential for job growth. A medical marijuana advocacy group also testified in support.

- According to Mr. McCann, in addition to the two letters accompanying oral testimony, two other written comments were received: a letter of support from a Boston resident, supporting the regulation to ensure access to medical marijuana for a friend with cancer; and an email from a Cambridge resident citing conflict with federal law and lack of clarity regarding the ban on non-marijuana products.
- Ms. Conley and Mr. McCann presented their recommendations: 1) consider adopting, with the following revisions: resolve the issue of requiring compliance with federal laws by removing the federal compliance requirement, but adding the following language from the state regulation - "Nothing in this Regulation gives any immunity under federal law or poses an obstacle to federal enforcement of federal law"; 2) remove language citing initial permit fee amounts, allowing them to be set and revised administratively; and 3) address further clarifications in the guidelines.
- Ms. Wcislo inquired about who gets the fees. Ms. Conley replied that right now, the \$30,000 fee goes to the DPH who has their own fee schedule. She indicated that we will be setting up our own administrative fee schedule.
- Mr. McCann asked if there were any other questions before voting on the resolution. There being none, Dr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the Medical Marijuana Regulations. Ms. Wcislo and Mr. Cradock seconded the motion with no objections. The Board unanimously approved the Medical Marijuana Regulations.
- Dr. Johnson complimented Ms. Conley and Mr. McCann on a great job, stating it was a major accomplishment to get it done. She was also surprised to see that essentially most of the comments were positive and the suggestions were really constructive.
- At this point, Dr. Johnson introduced Ms. Jones to present information on BPHC's Organizational Identity Statement.

Presentation: Boston Public Health Commission Organizational Identity Statement

Pam Jones, Director of Policy and Planning

Makaila Manukyan, Program Coordinator, Policy and Planning

Cara Mathews, Program Coordinator, Planning Council Support

- Ms. Jones gave a brief overview of the points to be discussed beginning with the Racial Justice and Health Equity Initiative. The rationale behind the initiative was the need to develop an organizational identity statement consistent with BPHC's vision and principles related to racial justice. The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee (ARAC) had the lead on this project.
- Ms. Jones recapped the timeline for the initiative which began in 2009 when ARAC advocated for process of organizational transformation. Between 2011 and 2012, ARAC presented a final draft and proposed listening period to SLT (Senior Leadership Team) and Board as well as listening sessions with internal and external partners. In 2013, ARAC made revisions to the final draft which was approved by the SLT.
- Ms. Jones then detailed the process used and the key themes learned. Positive themes included: racism as the main focus with clear goals and looking outward to partnerships/collaboration. Detractions were: too long and complicated; too idealistic; should list all oppressions; missing ant-violence element; and lacks context of health equity and an introduction.
- Ms. Manukyan noted that as a result of the feedback, a preface to the Mission statement was created. She commented that the Mission Statement itself was updated by making changes in the language. Ms. Wcislo had a grammar question as to why "white" was capitalized and "color" was not; it just stood out to her. Ms. Wcislo also commented on the statement in the Preface that communities of color and high poverty areas lack certain resources which create inequities. Her thought was that the focus on certain communities comes across as one-sided and does not reflect the overlap that occurs.

- Ms. Mathews indicated that the original BPHC Vision Statement was re-written and condensed as a result of comments received. Ms. Mathews stated the language in the Guiding Principles had also been clarified and re-written.
- Ms. Mathews recapped the initiative's timeline beginning in June 2013, through the presentation for Board approval, and culminating with a report back to the Board sometime between December 2013 and February 2014.
- Mr. Cradock commended Ms. Jones, Ms. Manukyan and Ms. Mathews for their good work. He and Mr. Cox appreciated their using the Board's suggestions to fine tune and condense the Mission and Vision Statements.
- Dr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the changes to the Organizational Identity Statement. Ms. Weislo and Mr. Cox seconded the motion with no objections; the changes were unanimously approved.

Acceptance and Approval of October 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- At this time, Dr. Johnson called for a motion to approve the October 17, 2013 Board meeting minutes. Ms. Weislo and Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. As there were no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Site Tour: The Renovations at 35 Northampton Square

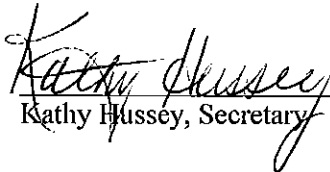
Eva Erlich, Project Manager, Trinity

Hank Keating, Vice-President of Design and Construction, Trinity

Adjournment

- There being no other business before the Board, Dr. Johnson called for a motion to adjourn in order to take the site tour of Northampton Square. Ms. Weislo and Mr. Cradock seconded the motion with no objections. Dr. Johnson adjourned the regular Board meeting at 4:50pm. Ms. Erlich and Mr. Keating then escorted the Board members and others in attendance out for a tour of the renovations at Northampton Square.

Submitted by:


Kathy Hussey, Secretary