

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
May 3, 2012
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

Board members present: Chairperson: Claudia Schweitzer; Vice–Chairperson: Dr. Richard Sagall; Fred Cowan, Joe Rosa, and Robert Harris. Present from the Health Department: Public Health Director: Noreen Burke; Manager of Environmental Health: Max Schenk

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no “Public Oral Communication”.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 5, 2012 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Presented by Noreen Burke

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARD JULIE LAFONTAINE- *Ms. Burke* invited board members to the Second Annual Community Health Award for Julie LaFontaine 7:30-9 a.m. to May 17, 2012.

MEETING WITH MAYOR KIRK- *Ms. Burke* reported that she met with Mayor Kirk to discuss ongoing issues. She stated that it has been really positive to have direct contact with her.

DENTAL CENTER- *Ms. Burke* reported that she and Mr. Schenk are still determined to be dedicated to the Gloucester Children’s Dental Center. She encouraged board members to give positive support towards the Gloucester Children’s Dental Center. She stated that Mr. Schenk will set up a meeting with the City Auditor to discuss the dental center’s financial situation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM- *Ms. Burke* reported that she had her first meeting with the City’s Emergency Management Team, Carol McMahon and Miles Schlichte. She stated that she, Chassea Robinson and Karin Carroll met at the Fuller School to discuss the public health role in an emergency.

HEALTHY GLOUCESTER COLLABORATIVE- *Mr. Cowan* asked if the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative with its communication with the Sawyer Free Library discovered that the population of homeless people are the same population as that of the Rose Baker Senior Center. *Ms. Burke* responded that the homeless population at the library is the same population of that of the senior center. She stated that they discussed that the same group of homeless people move from place to place, possibly because of the more rigorous guidelines of the Action Shelter. *Mr. Cowan* stated that Lucy Sheehan might have some insight on the issue, since she has dealt with the same issues at the senior center.

Mr. Cowan asked if there was a working generator at Fuller School. *Mr. Schenk* stated that there is to the best of his knowledge.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT

Presented by Chassea Robinson

EXPANDED FLU SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM- *Ms. Robinson* reported that they have been trying to get an expanded flu surveillance system into the schools to report flu-like systems for absent students. She stated they set up to do a presentation for superintendents and only one superintendent from Rockport showed up.

VACCINE- *Ms. Robinson* reported that there have been some questions about different vaccinations for children. She stated that she is looking into different types of forums, possibly Cape Ann TV on the importance of vaccines. She stated that she spoke with Dr. Orr at Gloucester Pediatrics and he suggested that forums might actually be more detrimental to the community since the percentage of non-vaccinated children is so low.

CRUISE SHIPS- *Ms. Robinson* reported that she has been meeting monthly with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding cruise ships. She stated that a tabletop cruise ship drill is being planned for September 4th and a functional drill with Holland America (MS Eurodam) is being planned for October 6th. An Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) drill is being organized for the Cape Ann Emergency Planning Team and will likely be carried out by the Care Delivery Team.

FLU REIMBURSEMENTS- *Ms. Robinson* reported that the Health Department brought in \$26,000 in flu reimbursement this year with \$17,000 still pending.

SHINGLES VACCINE- *Ms. Robinson* reported that they vaccinated 105 people with Shingles vaccine and they were reimbursed for some, so they are trying to turn that into more vaccines.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTERN- *Ms. Robinson* reported that she and Ms. Burke interviewed the summer intern last week and they offered her a position this week. She stated that the intern starts on May 31, 2012.

OLD BUSINESS

6A & 8 LINCOLN STREET

Map 237, Lots 52&54
Owner: Mark Stevik
Engineer: Mill River Consulting

Request continuation

Mr. Schenk stated that the applicant had requested a continuation at the next meeting so they could go to the Planning Board before the Board of Health voted on the proposed variances. He stated that the Planning Board will hear 6A & 8 Lincoln Street in two weeks, so this item will be on the June agenda.

JOYCE REDFORD, TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM-

Joyce Redford of the Tobacco Control Program, appeared before the board. She stated that there are eight other communities in the collaborative currently reviewing tobacco regulations. She gave an overview of the regulations that the board may want to review, particularly nicotine delivery products. The board reviewed and discussed each regulation.

JOYCE REDFORD, TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM, CON'T- *Ms. Redford* stated that she will submit a final draft to board members with the changes they have suggested. The proposed regulation as presented would ban sale of tobacco products in drug stores. The board chose, on a vote of three to two, to modify that regulation to give a drug store manager a choice: Cease the sale of tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems with the exception of cessation products such as Nicorette Gum or nicotine patches OR restrict sales, minus the exceptions, to products stored and sold from behind the prescription counter. Before that revised order is included in our Tobacco Control Regulation, Joyce will consult with the Attorney General's office to determine the board's authority to direct the placement of products within an NGO drug store.

Ms. Redford stated that she when is out doing enforcement, the enforcement officer would let the board know about any violations and then the Health Department would let the vendor know that they were in violation. She stated that she would like to propose the use of a "Tobacco Control Regulation Violation Notice" so that when vendors are in violation she can hand the vendor the notice so they are aware that they will be contacted by the Health Department regarding the violation.

The board thanked Ms. Redford for her time and her effort with the Tobacco Program.

MOTION by Mr. Rosa that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the "Tobacco Control Regulation Violation Notice". **Seconded** by Mr. Cowan. **CARRIED**.

NEW BUSINESS

PRE-SEASON OCCUPANCY OF PUBLIC BEACHES

Ms. Burke stated that Mayor Kirk contacted her regarding Patriots Day weekend at Good Harbor Beach and asked for the Police, Fire, and Health Department to write an after action report. She asked the board for their input on the public health issues that resulted from the thousands of people at the beach while there is no staff on duty including life guards and also no bathrooms.

Mr. Schenk stated that he has been in communication with the DPW as well regarding the human mess in the dunes. He stated that the Health Department is required to do beach water testing during beach season only and upland of the water, the board has enforcement authority through the State's health nuisance regulations.

Chairperson Schweitzer asked if there were any calls made to the Health Department that weekend. *Mr. Schenk* responded that there was a complaint made by residents who participated in the Earth Day Cleanup event that took place at the beach. The person representing the group had stated that the condition of and waste left in the dunes was "appalling".

Chairperson Schweitzer stated that she is still concerned with the City's carrying in/carryout policy at the beaches. She stated that it is a public health issue. She suggested that if people from out of town come to the beach and pay they should be handed a trash bag so they know they have to take their own trash home.

Mr. Cowan stated that he would be willing to cooperate to create an ordinance if proved to be useful. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he believes an ordinance should be a last resort.

The Board of Health detailed the following health hazards that occurred during the Patriots Day weekend at Good Harbor Beach: sanitation, the use of the dunes as a restroom and emergency vehicle access in the parking lot. *Mr. Schenk* recommended that the board may want the City to revisit the Beach

Management Plan. The board agreed that that was a good idea. *Mr. Cowan* stated that the City is lacking portable facilities in the downtown areas and the beaches could benefit from them during the off season as well.

2012 HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

Ms. Burke stated that she has had some discussions about the Health Expo with the Health Department Staff regarding the Health Expo. She stated that they had some discussions about doing some smaller speaker forums and events.

2012 HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO, CON'T-

Ms. Burke stated that they approximately 300 people attend the expo; last year they had 500 attend. She stated that she has started to discuss next year's expo with Lucy Sheehan as well, since 27% of Gloucester residents are seniors. *Chairperson Schweitzer* stated that the atmosphere of having the clinic at the High School was more receptive; however the venue this year was good for showcasing the hospital. *Ms. Burke* thanked board members for assisting at the expo.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMONWEALTH CONNECTOR- *Mr. Cowan* stated that he was trying to help a friend with health insurance through Commonwealth Connector and was disturbed to hear that Lahey does not accept the two carriers, Celticare and Neighborhood Health Plan. *Ms. Burke* stated that she would speak to Cindy Donaldson regarding the issue.

BOARD OF HEALTH PHONE NUMBERS- *Chairperson Schweitzer* stated that the Board of Health phone numbers were removed from the website at her request. She stated that she receives calls every day that need to be redirected to the Health Department.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING- *Chairperson Schweitzer* stated that the next meeting is on June 7, 2012 at 6:15 at the CATA Training Room. She stated that she will not be able to attend the meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Harris to adjourn.
Seconded by Dr. Sagall. **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Claudia Schweitzer, Chairperson