

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Board of Health
Minutes of the Meeting
November 7, 2013
CATA Training Room
3 Pond Road
Gloucester, MA 01930

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

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION

There was no “Public Oral Communication”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer that the Gloucester Board of Health approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 3, 2013 as written. **Seconded** by Mr. Rosa. **CARRIED**.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Presented by Noreen Burke, Lianne Cook, and Max Schenk

FLU CLINICS- *Ms. Cook* reported that the Health Department has been in many different venues to hold flu clinics over the last six weeks. She stated that they have been at all the schools, the senior housing sites, and many other community sites. She stated that they made an effort to vary the hours of the clinics to accommodate people’s schedules. She stated that they also did clinics at many non-profit organizations in Gloucester. She stated that in six weeks they have administered 2000 doses and anticipate another 500 by the end of the season. The last flu clinic will be on November 12, 2013 from 8:30-11:30 at the Addison Gilbert Hospital. She stated that under Obama Care all insurances are mandated to cover flu vaccines. She stated that she did receive a supply of pneumococcal vaccine from the state but with it came a very definitive policy that says Medicare covers the vaccine and they are not to use it unless they fit the criteria. *Chairperson Sagall* asked if the Health Department was gaining any income from the vaccines. *Ms. Cook* responded that she did not know but was going to gather that data. The board discussed the flu clinics and how they are now competing with pharmacies that also offer flu vaccines.

SHINGLES CLINIC- *Ms. Cook* reported that there will be a Shingles Clinic in two weeks for people who are on the Shingles waiting list.

SEPTIC ENFORCEMENT- *Mr. Schenk* reported that Ms. Kirchner has been doing an amazing job at sending out certified enforcement letters to residents that have failed septic systems. He stated that Ms. Kirchner has been checking the certifications for the Operation and Maintenance providers as well. *Mr. Rosa* suggested that the Health Department and a board member should meet with the new Ward 5 Councilor to update him on the West Gloucester area. *Mr. Schenk* responded that they have done that in the past and he will schedule that meeting. He stated that they have started having bi-weekly inspectional services meetings.

DATABASE- *Mr. Schenk* reported that he is working on a creating a database for the Health Department.

STAFFING UPDATES- Ms. Burke reported that interviews have begun for the part-time dental hygienist at the Children's Dental Center. She stated that Terry O'Hanley is back full-time but will be retiring at the end of the year, around December 20, 2013. She stated that first round interviews are scheduled for the Grants Accountant Specialist position and the part-time principle clerk position for the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative. She stated that she will invite Karin Carroll to the next meeting to discuss the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. She stated that that grant is probably ending in 2014 and will probably result in ending of three positions in the Health Department: Karin Carroll, Jade Langley, and Joanne Christopher. She stated that they will try to look for new grants to save these positions.

GRANTS- Ms. Burke reported that they need to be proactive and plan in terms of the Mass in Motion grant. She stated that she is meeting with Steve Winslow and Tom Daniel, the new Community Developer Director. She stated that the city really needs an Open Space Planner and there is discussion that some of the places in Gloucester, such as Stage Fort Park are being neglected as a public space. She stated that the Mass in Motion grant is ending, as well. She stated that Jessie Williams Reynoso, the new grant writer is working out very well. She stated that Ms. Williams Reynoso has been helping the Dental Center write some grants. She commended David Holden, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority for assisting the Health Department with renovations at the Dental Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Results from the 2013 Gloucester Student Health Survey

Joan Whitney, Director of the Health Gloucester Collaborative appeared before the board. She presented and summarized the substance use results from the 2013 Gloucester Student Health Survey. She stated that they have trend data from 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. She stated that they cannot compare data to other communities because the questions are a little different. She stated that there is a downward trend in every category except for marijuana use. She stated that the alcohol has trended down; however of that number, 71% said that they binge drink. She stated that 34% of high school students said they used marijuana 30 days prior to the survey, double the number of tobacco use which is now to 15%. She stated that their two areas of concern are around the alcohol binge drinking and the use of marijuana. She stated that alcohol use from 8th to 9th grade jumps from 11% to 32%. She stated that one of their goals is to collect some qualitative data. She stated that 75% of 12th graders said that marijuana was very easy to get, so the access is high. She stated that in the 2011 survey of the young people that drank, 66% said they got their access from adult strangers, so with the partnership of Gloucester Police Department and the Gloucester Licensing Board they have targeted the third party buying issue and over a two year period the number has dropped from 66% to 53%. She stated that from 2003 to 2013 the depression rate has gone from 23% to 28%. She stated that the perception of harm for alcohol is 71%, for tobacco 88%, prescription drugs 86%, and marijuana 28%. She stated that they are concerned that kids don't think marijuana is harmful.

Mr. Rosa stated that there is very little difference in numbers from male and female responses. Ms. Schweitzer stated that the number of teenagers that reported depression and eating disorders is underrated. She stated that depression might be an area in the schools to educate students.

She invited board members to the forum, "The Growing Opioid Epidemic: Prescription Misuse & Heroin Use" Wednesday, November 13, 2013 from 5-7 at Cruise Port.

The board thanked Ms. Whitney for her presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

END OF SEASON MOSQUITO CONTROL REFLECTIONS- *Ms. Burke* stated that they have had a hard frost the third week of October so the threat of mosquitoes is now gone until the spring. She stated that they did not have any change in the threat level the entire season. She stated that Essex is going to consider joining the district at their November Town meeting. She stated that Hamilton is in the district but will no longer spray and Manchester is in the district and will continue to spray. She stated that the Mayor is still interested in the Salem, New Hampshire approach. She stated that thanks to Karin Carroll and Dr. Sagall they were able to step up their prevention messaging this year.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA UPDATE- *Ms. Burke* reported that she spoke with Greg Cadematorri and he said both the Planning Board and the Planning and Development Standing Committee for City Council has recommended a zoning amendment that would provide for the consideration for medical marijuana/cultivation centers in a limited portion of the Blackburn Industrial Park. She stated that such uses would be reviewed in a special permitting process administered by the City Council. She stated that there will be a City Council public meeting on November 12, 2013 regarding the issue. She stated that there have not been any applications in Gloucester.

ANNUAL REPORT- *Mr. Schenk* stated that they received the formatting of the annual report and the Health Department went through and gathered statistics and sent those to Mr. Rosa. *Mr. Rosa* asked if Mr. Schenk could collect data regarding enforcement statistics in the Health Department. *Mr. Schenk* responded that he would get that data to Mr. Rosa. *Ms. Burke* suggested that they add a category regarding the budget. *Chairperson Sagall* responded that that is important data to gather, and to include grants in that summary as well.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SITE- *Ms. Burke* stated that they are still looking at O'Maley School as the emergency dispensing site for the City. She stated that she would like to conduct a drill sometime within the next year and asked the board to support her.

CONFERENCES - *Ms. Burke* stated that she attended the Ounce of Prevention conference. She stated that much continues to change with healthcare reform and funding for prevention and wellness. She stated that she also went to Mass Health Officers Association with Karin Carroll, Rosalie Nicastro, and Erin Kirchner. She encouraged board members to consider trainings offered by the Mass Health Officers Association. She stated that the trainings are in Taunton and take place over two Saturdays. *Ms. Schweitzer* requested that they ask for the trainings to be offered in the Boston area.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

TERM OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS- *Ms. Schweitzer* stated that she would like to see the term for the Board's officers be two years instead of one. *Mr. Schenk* stated that it would have to go before the City Council to change that. The board agreed to have "Election of Officers" in January of 2014.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS- *Ms. Burke* stated that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on December 5, 2013. *Mr. Rosa* stated that he will not be able to attend the December meeting. The board discussed changing the January meeting to January 9th, rather than January 2, 2014.

MOTION by Ms. Schweitzer to adjourn.
Seconded by Mr. Harris **CARRIED.**
MEETING ADJOURNED – 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by:

Dr. Richard Sagall, Chairperson