

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – October 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas McLaughlin, MD at the Town Managers Meeting Room at 7:00 P.M. Also in attendance were; Edmund Kowalski, Member; Dutrochet Djoko, Member; Judith Ryan, Public Health Nurse; Alicia Linehan, Clerk; and, Mark L. Carleo, Assistant Director of Public Health.

ADMINISTRATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Prior to requesting a vote to approve the minutes, Carleo apologized for the lack of timeliness on providing members the minutes. For the last several years, Carleo has prepared the Board's agenda, provided counsel at meetings, and was expected to record the minutes of those meetings as well. Due to this, timeliness has been a challenge. As a remedy, Carleo has requested services of a clerk, either contracted or in-house, to record minutes to ensure timely delivery. Until then, we are most fortunate that our Administrative Assistant Alicia Linehan will record our meeting minutes.

The Board then unanimously voted to approve the minutes from September 12, 2019 as written.

NEW BUSINESS

VAPING PRODUCTS BAN

Carleo requested that the Chair skip through the agenda to allow for Joyce Redford, our tobacco policy program Director to discuss the matter of the Governor's public health emergency declared due to vaping illness (EVALI). The Chair agreed.

Carleo reviewed the actions to date, from the appearance of illness, mandatory reporting requirements, and then the Governor's public health emergency declared on September 24, 2019. Included in the Board's packet was the Order issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health banning vaping products from Massachusetts stores. We were fortunate to have a regional emergency preparedness meeting the following afternoon, however very little information was flowing from DPH at that time. It was unclear who was able to enforce this. The Chief of Police had already sent his officers to retailers to demand removal of product from the shelves. After finally receiving word from DPH which clarified our authority to some degree, Carleo was able to deliver written notices to affected retailers on Friday the 27th of September.

The Chair recognized Joyce Redford. Redford confirmed Carleo's summary of the events and answered the Board's questions with the very limited information available at the time. She was asked if legal challenges have been mounted yet, to which she replied yes, the first lawsuit was filed by a Danvers business located in the Mall. Two other lawsuits were filed in Federal Court. Redford expressed similar frustrations as Carleo, particularly the slow trickle of information from DPH on the matter. She was aggregating questions from local health and others and would be working to get answers from DPH. She informed the Board that the prohibition on the sale of vaping products is set to expire January 25th, however that date is subject to change by the Commonwealth.

Carleo suggested that we simply continue to monitor the situation, review the data available, and plan for some sort of educational forum for the community in December. The Board agreed with his recommendation but requested that this remain on the agenda until there is some sort of resolution. Carleo introduced Angelo Fernandes, owner of The Kingdom Tattoo located at 10 Elm Street. He further informed the Board that Mr. Fernandes was present to discuss the "skin course" requirement of the

regulations and request that the Board approve a new course offering so that he may continue to hire artists and build his business. He reminded the Board that the regulations are onerous, and often times confusing prompting Dr. McLaughlin to ask what “being of good moral and ethical character means and how Carleo makes a determination on this.” Carleo expressed the Board’s appreciation for the need for revision, and again stated that these regulations are slated for revision in the spring.

Due to the Quincy Health Department discontinuing the *Skin Course for Body Artists*, the industry in Massachusetts is unable to hire qualified personnel. In its place, Fernandes has sent employees to a course in Greenfield. He was in attendance to provide the Board with a summary of the course, and the course workbook/curriculum.

Carleo stated that he reviewed the material and found it satisfactorily addresses the anatomy requirements and included the additional information on skin diseases, diabetes and others as required by the regulation.

While the Board reviewed the material, Carleo reviewed the history of the body art regulation in Danvers. Some time ago, tattoo establishments were prohibited by law. The Supreme Court overturned the law as it was in conflict with the First Amendment. Boards of Health were given a limited time by the Court to establish regulations to protect public health. During that time, the Board consulted model regulations from the Massachusetts Health Officer’s Association and others including local industry members. The regulations are outdated by industry practices, equipment and even procedures such as microblading which didn’t exist in that time period.

Upon review of the materials provided, the Board unanimously approved the course for permitting under the local body art regulation.

Mr. Fernandes thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PERMITS AND LICENSING UPDATE

Carleo stated that permitting was quiet as is typical for this time of year. They are preparing to send renewals for all permits expiring December 31. Our renewal process could not be simpler, especially with the addition of online payments this year.

NUISANCE REPORT

Again, Carleo informed the Board that the last month was quiet for complaints, and with EEE and the vaping products ban he was grateful.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Carleo provided the Board with a report on his recent actions surrounding the threat of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Surveillance conducted by Mosquito Control and DPH was used to develop a “risk map” which was a quick method of determining if certain virus interventions might be prudent. In sum, as Danvers reached moderate risk, Carleo made a determination that applying a “barrier spray” surrounding athletic fields in heavy use would be reasonable and appropriate. Additionally, this was in-line with our Best Management Plan, a copy of which was provided to the Board. The Board agreed with his actions.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

NURSE'S REPORT

Nurse Ryan was present to provide her routine updates to the Board.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Nurse Ryan will be recording a radio ad for 104.9 the following week along with Jeff Vaughn the Health Director for Swampscott. The topic will be influenza and the importance of vaccination.

Nurse Ryan continues her role on the infection control committee for Recovery Centers of America.

Coming up in the next few weeks is the Citizens Academy, and Ryan is preparing her presentation for the participants.

DanversCARES has a grant to purchase Narcan for distribution to locals in need. Full details are not yet available such as how to identify those in need, and the method of distribution. Dr. McLaughlin cautioned all that Narcan is both an agonist/antagonist of the opioid receptor, and at high doses will exhibit similar affects as morphine. With the highly potent black-market products, it is taking more and more doses of Narcan to stop an overdose. Carleo didn't disagree, but stated that this is the tool we have for now to reduce harm and stop the high mortality rates while research and clinical practice determines how best to end this crisis we find ourselves in.

INFLUENZA

Nurse Ryan has scheduled flu clinics, 5 of which have already been held at the Senior Center. She has additional clinics for Town Employees, School Department staff, North Shore Community College, and is working to get St. Mary's on the schedule. Carleo suggested that she also contact Essex Tech.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Nurse Ryan is in the midst of preparing the Town for a tabletop drill on January 9th. The drill will be overseen by DPH and will involve an emerging infectious disease. Further information is embargoed by DPH until the drill begins.

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

The Board was provided with a monthly account of reportable diseases by Nurse Ryan. This included several cases of Lyme Disease, as well as a single Salmonellosis which was part of a multi-state outbreak.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Carleo provided the Board with a summary of the animal health and animal control issues since the last meeting.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Carleo asked the Board to table this discussion for a future meeting as some internal discussion is still ongoing. The Board will be provided a clean working draft for possible adoption prior to the next meeting.

With no further business at hand, the Board adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,
Alicia Linehan
Clerk for the Board of Health