

City of Chelsea

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2015
5:15 PM – Public Library

Attendance: Christopher Miller (BOH), Catherine Maas (BOH), Madeleine Scammell (BOH), Luis Prado (Agent/HHS), Mary McKenzie (City of Chelsea, Public Health Nurse), Joan Cromwell (new City of Chelsea Public Health Nurse), Mike Sandoval (City of Chelsea), Chris Naitza (BOH)

Absent: Dean Xerras (BOH).

Public Comment: Concern was raised about the illegal over the counter sale of prescription medications at convenience stores. Generally speaking, the process is for MGH or the City to call the Feds to do an undercover investigation. The City has had experience with this matter in the past. Three particular stores were mentioned.

Discussion among the board about what can we do to let residents know why this is unsafe. PSAs on cable television? Require that convenience stores post something by the register explaining why it is illegal? Request to put this topic on the October agenda. Luis will make Cheryl Watson aware of the most recent reporting of the problem.

Public Health Nurse report: Mary McKenzie is retiring in March 2016; Joan Cromwell and Mary will overlap for the next six months with Mary holding the title of PHN Advisor.

Suspect measles case is not trackable- do not know if he had or has measles.

Big campaign with TB patients to get them pneumonia and flu vaccines continues.

Minutes of July 2015 meeting: Unanimous approval of minutes prepared by Luis with the edit to the sentence on pg 2, paragraph 4, “The board decided on a motion related to non-criminal fines aimed at getting the BOH included among the boards and authorities in the City with the power to issue fines according to the City’s fine schedule.”

Tobacco Control: Last mtg the Board agreed to increase the age for the permissible sale of tobacco and nicotine containing products from 18 to 21. Discussion re. industry response. Chris M. will e-mail the Board the edited tobacco containing and nicotine delivery products to be discussed and reviewed at next mtg.

Substance Abuse: Luis expressed that our City Manager is interested in working on this issue with a new perspective. Dealing with issue of homelessness, working with people using, navigators, the Methadone clinic has 750 “slots;” people who hang out around Bellingham Square, etc. Luis had wanted the City Manager to meet with us and discuss some of these ideas. Catherine proposed that we ask MGH, Sarah Ou, what they learned from the last two years with the work of Dan Cortez and the investment in substance abuse, and the vision/recommendations

for moving forward. Madeleine will follow up with Sarah Oo at MGH and ask her specifically about the involvement of the methadone clinic.

Nuisance Properties: In response to a memo from the City Solicitor, question: who is the Board of Health Director? Do they mean “and” or “or”? who exactly do they want to hear from? Luis? Chris? Luis will follow up with the City Solicitor to ask these specific questions.

Regardless, the information we would like is the address of each property, its issue, and the number of properties.

Next mtg scheduled for October 13· Chris M. will not be there.

Try Oct. 6: Chris will ask Dean if he is able to make it then.

Chris N. is not sure of his schedule yet... waiting to hear.

Would like to invite City Manager and Sarah Ou.

Discuss Tobacco regs.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeleine Scammell