

**CITY OF SALEM  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES**

*June 9, 2015*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Danielle Ledoux, Acting Chair, Mark Danderson, Janet Greene & Paul Kirby

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Larry Ramdin Health Agent, Suzanne Doty, Public Health Nurse, Heather Lyons-Paul Clerk of the Board & Wendy Kent, Opiate Task Force Coordinator

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dr. Shama Alam (Chair),

**TOPIC**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**1. Call to Order**

7:20pm

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

(May 19, 2015)

**J Greene motioned to accept the minutes. P Kirby 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor. Motion Passed**

**3. Chairperson Announcements**

Dr. Ledoux forwarded the article from the Salem Evening News on the public meeting to the members of the Board. She has submitted her resignation from the Board to the Mayor's office.

**4. Monthly Reports-Updates**

**A. Public Health Nurse's Report**

Copy available at the BOH office

**B. Health Agent's Report**

DEP will be installing cameras on Harmony Grove Rd due to the influx of illegal dumping in the area. The community service program has cleaned up the area. The department will be looking into purchasing four cameras to be placed at locations around the city where illegal dumping is an issue.

Waste Management has taken over the trash and recycling contract from North Side Carting  
Copy available at the BOH office

**C. Administrative Report**

Copy available at the BOH office

**M. Danderson motioned to accept reports. J Greene 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor. Motion Passed**

**D. City Council Liaison Updates**

No Council report tonight

**P. Kirby motioned to take item 5 out of order to hear Wendy Kent 1<sup>st</sup>. J Greene 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor. Motion passed**

**5. Wendy Kent, Opiate Task Force Coordinator, program overview and update**

Funding for opiate overdose studies was started back in 2006 in Lynn, MA. A community wide assessment was done. In 2013 the grant was expanded to a regional level adding Salem and Peabody to The Opiate Task Force. The numbers of overdoses are still growing. Although white males and females are the highest at risk population onset is getting younger due to prescription

drugs. No one is immune to opiate addiction. It's a chronic brain disease.

In the last year the public has become much more aware of opiate use even though it's been an issue for many years. Wendy is working with Salem Now to get more information out there. The North Shore Medical Center, Police, Fire, Schools, Boards of Health, and local businesses all on board to help educate the public.

The focus for Salem is primary prevention and to educate the public in hopes that it will lead to support systems for user, families and friends and more treatment facilities. Lynn now has a residential treatment center.

The Board discussed what their role is on this topic.

J Greene – The Board needs a clear mission; Improve the quality of life for everyone seeking help. There is not enough post overdose care. It's as important to follow up with these people as it is for victims of violent crimes. I think we are underestimating how big the problem is.

W. Kent - North Shore Medical Center is working on getting programs in place for post treatment. There is still a stigma around opiate use so a lot of data is not available because of that.

L Ramdin - On June 17th there is a Public Health Safety and Environmental Committee Meeting at Salem High School at 6:15pm. This will shed some light on the issue. As we continue to look into this the Board of Health will have a clearer path on how they can be involved.

W. Kent - In closing the ground work is being laid but there is so much more work the communities need to do to lead people into recovery. Rates are climbing in the US to a great degree. This is a multilayered addiction so it's very challenging to understand. Larry Ramdin or Suzanne Doty will collect data for the Board about people entering the hospitals and arrest records for opiate overdose.

## **6. New Business / Scheduling of future agenda items**

Larry will be on vacation for the July meeting.  
Keep opiate updates on agenda.  
MAOPC Salem working group update

## **7. MEETING ADJOURNED:**

**P Kirby motioned to adjourn the meeting.**  
**M. Danderson 2<sup>nd</sup> All in favor. Motion passed**  
8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lyons-Paul  
Clerk of the Board

*Next regularly scheduled meeting is July 14, 2015 at 7pm  
At City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, Room 311 Salem.*