



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING

JUNE 23, 2009

1010 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
ROOM

HAYES CONFERENCE

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH
Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD
Jack Cradock, Harold Cox

Board Members Absent:

Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Celia Wcislo, Elaine Ullian

Administration & Staff Present:

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, M.Ed,
Maia Brodyfield, Nakisha Skinner,
William Kibaja, Julie Webster,
Chuck Gagnon

Dr. Johnson MD, MPH, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:55 PM on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.

Executive Director's Report – Barbara Ferrer

Barbara Ferrer, Executive Director, began by thanking everyone for attending the emergency meeting on such short notice. Dr. Ferrer stated that on Friday, June 19th the Public Health Commission received notice of a \$500,000 decrease in appropriated funds from the City of Boston.

Dr. Ferrer said that the Public Health Commission was faced with two immediate concerns in apportioning the \$500,000 reduction. The first is that the City of Boston's revenue stream will not begin to flow until 6 months from now. Which means the City of Boston will make restorations, if able, once the revenue comes through in 6 months. The second is the Commission is trying to stay true to its commitment not to lay off employees.

FY10 Budget Review – William Kibaja

William Kibaja, Budget Director, gave a very brief summary of the FY10 amended budget. Mr. Kibaja stated that each bureau has received a budget cut in the amount of \$50,000 and that within each bureau at least one position has been cut.

Dr. Ferrer stated that the Commission met its reduction without further reducing the community center grant amounts.

Dr. Johnson asked questions concerning the impact of not filling vacant positions. She wanted to know whether any Bureaus will be impacted by not filling the positions. She also inquired about the effect of distribution dollars on any Bureau without regard to filling vacancies.

Dr. Ferrer answered that the Commission will look for places where positions can be eliminated. Some positions are more critical than others but we are a large enough organization to count on some attrition. Dr. Ferrer stated that the Commission has done a lot of consolidating and shifting of employees to other positions in order to avoid layoffs.

Board member Cox asked if the Commission has begun to think about what is next.

Dr. Ferrer said that there are a couple of places the Commission feels vulnerable. One concern is that there will be less services for the wintertime programs. Dr. Ferrer stated that she is hopeful and is positive that we will receive some of the stimulus money.

Vote to Approve Amended FY10 Budget – Nakisha Skinner

Dr. Johnson invited a motion to approve the amended FY10 Budget. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Yeas 4 Nays 0 Absent 3

Dr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.