



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 11, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boston Public Health Commission was held on Thursday, February 11, 2010 in the Hayes Conference Room at the offices of the Boston Public Health Commission, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

Director's Present:

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

Director's Absent:

Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH

Also Present Were:

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, M.Ed, Maia BrodyField, John Townsend, Nancy Norman, MD, MPH, Gerry Thomas, Cindy Engler, Lourdes Orbinola, Elizabeth Barry, Ann Scales, Sandra Vasquez, Jim Hooley, William Kibaja, Timothy Harrington, Gerry Byrne, Lisa Conley, Pam Jones, Julia Gunn, Anne McHugh, Rosaline Valcimond, Chuck Gagnon

Guests:

Huyen Ngo, Dorchester House Multi Services Center, Katherine Christopher, Boston Medical Center, Jill Driscoll, Boston Medical Center, Jen Lopez, Carney Hospital, Roberta Lancione, Carney Hospital, Myrthlene Hurst, Carney Hospital, Nilza Merides, Ellen Hatch

Counsel Present:

Nakisha L. Skinner, General Counsel

Call to Order

Dr. Paula Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM. A quorum of directors was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, proceeded with business.

Executive Director's Report
Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, Med

The Commission continues to hold public clinics throughout various neighborhoods in partnership with the community health centers where people have been allowed to come in during normal operating hours to be vaccinated. Three public clinics were held in the last couple of weeks. There is still a demand for the H1N1 vaccine.

The last large flu clinic will be held Saturday, February 13, 2010 in East Boston. The clinic will be held in conjunction with a summit the Commission is hosting with the Mayor around substance abuse.

The door-knocking effort in East Boston was a tremendous success. Over 6,000 households were visited where employees/volunteers spoke with over 1,300 residents and distributed information encouraging vaccination. A total of 800 residents completed a survey around city services, drug use in East Boston and H1N1. Results of the survey will be discussed at the East Boston Summit. The Commission supports the "No Drug Coalition" in East Boston.

The Commission has been advertising on television and also radio around getting vaccinated for H1N1. There are three different ads running now. All three ads are in English and two are in Spanish. The ads will run through February into early March. At this time, there is very little H1N1 and seasonal flu activity.

The Commission plans to speak with the State (Department of Public Health) about spending time in March in communities where there is a lot of resistance against getting vaccinated. The Commission's aim is to go back out into those communities and do more dialoguing, exchange information and speak about vaccination safety issues. The information will be used to launch the Commission's efforts for flu vaccination in the fall.

The Commission has taken the lead in organizing and supporting Haitian families that migrated to Boston since the earthquake. In conjunction with SEIU Local 1199, a support center has been set-up where families can go and speak with mental health counselors and volunteers and obtain free internet/phone access. The support center has moved to the Mattapan Public Library and will remain there until February 12, 2010.

The State has opened up a support center in Government Center. Therefore the Mattapan Center will close and services will be redirected to Government Center as of February 12, 2010. Partner agencies will make sure that there is mental health and counseling support available to serve Haitian families. The Department of Public Health is trying to get additional funding to community-based organizations in order to respond to the increase in demand for services at agencies that serve Haitian families.

Presentations and Updates

Proposed FY2011 Budget

John M. Townsend, Director of Administration and Finance

The FY11 proposed budget is being prepared for submittal to the Mayor. The total budgeted amount for FY11 is \$155 million. There is a proposed 5% cut in City funding and FTE numbers are down from last year.

The Commission's budgets have now been extended to five years. The core principles in the budget process is to create budgets that capture realistic program expenses and revenue, preserve essential services, support staff training and development opportunities, minimize the impact on staffing, maintain progress made in priority areas and to improve data management and analysis.

The Commission has set three (3) inspirational/priority goals for FY11 through FY16. They are:

- 1) to reduce the gap between the white and black low birth rate by 25%;

- 2) to reduce the gap between white and black obesity rates by 30% for children and 20% for adults;
- 3) to reduce the gap between black and white sexually transmitted infections by 30%.

Emerging and priority issues for FY11 include:

- Building health equity;
- Reducing the burden of chronic disease;
- Supporting families and youth;
- Collaborating with other City Departments and community-based organizations to support healthy communities;
- Strengthening the skills of the BPHC workforce;
- Improving efficiencies in business operations;
- Improving health outcomes.

The FY11 budget is broken down by Bureaus. There are six bureaus within the Commission as well as the Office of Administration and Finance and Public Health Services Center. Each bureau has identified specific goals and objectives for FY11 through FY16, ranging from increasing regular physical activity among public housing residents by 30% to reducing disparities in infant mortality and morbidity through 25% reduction in preterm births to black women in Boston.

The Board requested an interim report on the budget goals, specifically the numbers for the five year health outcome goals and also suggested that benchmarks be set by the summer.

The Board would also like to see the referenced Boston Emergency Medical Services goals incorporated into the Commission-wide goals, specifically:

- Improved response to individuals with chronic substance abuse and mental health illness through collaboration with BPD;
- Create a better sharing arrangement for information with BPHC programs, such as Violence Prevention, Homeless Services and Communicable Diseases to support the efficiency of operations; and
- EMS Transport.

Vote to Approve the FY11 Budget for Submission to the Mayor

Dr. Johnson invited a motion to vote to approve the FY11 Budget for Submission to the Mayor. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Yeas 5 Nays 0 Absent 1

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Paula Johnson, Chair presented to the Board the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting of the Board for approval, whereupon a motion was duly submitted, seconded and unanimously adopted.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Webster, Recording Secretary

