



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 14, 2010**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boston Public Health Commission was held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 in the Hayes Conference Room at the offices of the Boston Public Health Commission, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present:

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair
Celia Wcislo
Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD
Kathleen Walsh
Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH
Harold Cox

Board Members Absent:

Jack Cradock

Also Present Were:

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Nancy Norman, John Townsend, Nakisha Skinner, Maia Brodyfield, Paul Shoemaker, John Shea, Cindy Engler, Lisa Conley, Tim Harrington, Gerry Byrne, Leon Bethune, Beth Grand L'Heureux, Pam Jones, Deborah Allen, Ann Scales, Tiffany Skogstrom, Michael Soo Hoo, Gerry Thomas, James Hooley, Jack Tracy, Rosaline Valcimond, George-Marie Jasmine, Michelle Urbano

Visitors:

Lauren Ditollio, Anthony Gulicia, Jason Mastrodanto, Jessica Melanson, Manisha Punjabi, Jackie Rapetti, Hillanjo Rourke, Allisa Walker, Northeastern University; Vince Droser, Eva Erlich, Patrick Lee, Trinity Financial; Bethany Crebe, Boston College; Erin Fuchs, University of Wisconsin - Green Bay; Mieka Sanderson, Google

Proceedings

Chairwoman's Comments

Dr. Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

- The meeting was called to order at 4:06 PM. The minutes from June 1, July 8, and September 16, 2010 were approved.

Executive Director's Report

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

- The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) received bronze, silver, and gold awards for its public health awareness campaigns from the National Public Health Information Coalition.
- The Department of Justice awarded BPHC a planning grant to assist in preventing and addressing youth violence. The grant combines domestic and family violence work, child abuse and neglect work, and community and interpersonal violence work into one city plan. Boston is one of six cities to receive this grant.
- The BPHC's response to the recent Mattapan violence provided a well-defined and visible public health plan, during which support was provided for family members and neighborhood residents. There will be more proposals to the board in the future regarding more detailed work around trauma response and recovery through the BPHC.
- The Northampton Square site tour was well attended. Proposals for the project are due October 15th.
- Celia Wcislo expressed concern about communication with tenants regarding the Northampton Square Project. It was resolved that the concern is unrelated to this project; however, steps will be taken to improve communication throughout.

Mattapan Redevelopment Project Update: Phase V

Patrick Lee, Executive Vice President, Principal, Trinity Financial

Vince Droser, Vice President, Development, Trinity Financial

- Mr. Lee and Mr. Droser provided an overview on the previous phases of the Mattapan Redevelopment Project before discussing plans for phase V.
- There are over 500 people on waiting lists for housing at Mattapan. Highlights include 272 units of mixed income housing, new roads, new utilities, restored landscaping, a new home for Entre Familia, and the Mattapan Adult Day Health Center.
- Phase V is broken up into two sections, A and B. Mr. Droser stated that he would like to have Phase V-A underway before discussing Phase V-B. There will be 60 new units with \$24 million in development costs and the courtyard established in Phase III/IV will be completed. Also, 30% of housing will be set aside for homeless services, with 6 units specifically set aside for SAMSHA and 12 units set aside for other programs, such as *Home to Stay*.
- The project is currently awaiting a State Department of Housing and Community Development funding announcement regarding a long term lease, after which a board vote authorizing a City Council vote will be requested. Trinity hopes to begin the City Council hearing and approval process in January or February 2011, assemble financing documents, and close in March 2011. Construction is planned to be completed in December 2011 and occupancy to begin in January 2012.

Boston Nail Salon Hazards: Regulations

Paul Shoemaker, Associate Director, Environmental Hazards

Nakisha Skinner, General Counsel

- Mr. Shoemaker and Ms. Skinner presented on proposed regulations for nail salons in Boston.
- There is currently a lack of sufficient regulations in place regarding nail salons. The proposed regulations would fill these gaps, including more regulation at the business level.
- One major concern with nail salon safety includes the handling of certain chemicals known as the toxic trio; formaldehyde, toluene, and phthalates. Other concerns include improper sanitation practices, limited access to educational material, and potential detrimental health effects.
- The proposed regulations contain 14 Sections providing definitions and outlining sanitation procedures and requirements for facilities and nail technicians.

- The board requested several changes be made to the regulations. The term “workers” should be changed to “nail technicians”. The purpose and scope of the regulation should include language for visitors. Whistle blower language should be included to provide protection against retaliation. The ability to submit injury reports should be available for nail technicians as well as clients (Section 9).
- The board also made suggestions for the regulation guidelines. A list of products containing prohibited chemicals should be added. Educational materials should be made available in English and Vietnamese. The fee for the permit should be added to the guidelines. It was also noted that the procedure regarding ventilation will need to be clarified.

VOTE

- The board voted to release the proposed Nail Salon Regulations for public comment for a period of 60 days. The votes were as follows: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent.

STIs: Teen Sexual Health Report

Michael Soo Hoo, MA, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Policy & Planning

Cindy Engler, RN, MPH, Director, School Based Health

- Mr. Soo Hoo and Ms. Engler presented on the insufficiency of current sexual education in Boston and steps that can be taken to provide improvement.
- The BPHC position statement regarding sexual education is as follows: *Sexual expression is a natural and healthy part of human behavior. BPHC affirms that effective public health practice includes culturally and linguistically appropriate sexual health education, services, and policies for the populations being served.*
- Limitations in capacity and public comprehension of sexuality issues led the STI committee to begin questioning teen understanding of sexuality issues. The committee hopes to foster discussion and data sharing on the issue and to involve parents.
- According to a survey sexual activity is beginning at a young age and 70% of youth understand the importance of contraceptives. Research and surveys suggest that teens want education on healthy relationships and access to condoms. support for parents and access to health care services was also recommended.
- There will be a forum on sexual health towards the end of November. More information regarding the forum will be available October 15th.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Submitted By:

Jamie L. Martin, Secretary