

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, July 14, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors ("Board") of the Boston Public Health Commission ("Commission") was held on Thursday, July 14, 2011 in the Hayes Conference Room at the Commission's offices at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present Were:

Barbara Ferrer, John Townsend, Nakisha Skinner, Maia BrodyField, Chuck Gagnon, James Hooley, Pam Jones, Gerry Thomas, Lisa Conley, PJ McCann, Margaret Reid, Odessa Ortiz, Nikysha Harding, Francesco Tena, Raia Warfield, Wilbur Smart, Fatema Fazendeiro, Liam Day

Visitors:

Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards; Monique Anderson, Linda Castrilo, Tracy Devitt, Alexis Auliso, Regis College; Fernando Domenech, Domenech, Hicks, & Krockmalnic Architects; Eva Erlich, Patrick Lee, Trinity Financial; Katharine Bachman, Karlene Aiken, Wilmer Hale

Proceedings:

Chairwoman's Comments

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

- The meeting was called to order at 4:07 P.M. The minutes of the board meeting held June 23, 2011 were approved.

Executive Director's Report

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, Med

- Dr. Ferrer invited the board members and their families to attend the Commission's annual family barbeque to be held on August 13, 2011.
- The Boston Bike Share Program will be launched on July 26, 2011. Board Member Cox expressed a desire to attend. Early registration for bike share membership is \$60.00 for one year. The Commission plans to provide some subsidized memberships and has also been distributing free helmets.
- The Commission will be hosting federal Communicable Disease Control staff for a three day Communities Putting Prevention to Work ("CPPW") site visit.
- The Commission's application for the community transformation grant will be submitted July 15, 2011.
- The second week in August is Community Health Center ("CHC") week. The Commission will be working with CHC's to identify activities and launch parts of NeighborCare.
- Dr. Ferrer recognized the high rate of violence in the City of Boston. The Division of Violence Prevention is hard at work addressing this through increased hours and outreach work. The Commission has been working with Mothers for Justice, a group of mothers who have lost a child because of violence, to facilitate playground rallies and work to reclaim public spaces. Board Member Cradock asked for the name of the Commission program and the people involved. The name of the program is Prevention and Access to Care and Treatment ("PACT") with Roy Martin, Division of Child and Adolescent Health, among those performing outreach. The board will receive an update in September on PACT's accomplishments. In response to Chairwoman Johnson's inquiry it was stated that the PACT program is unique to Boston because it involves families, communities, and public safety.

Mattapan Redevelopment Project, Phase 5A

Nakisha Skinner, General Counsel

Patrick Lee, Executive Vice President, Trinity Financial

Eva Erlich, Assistant Project Manager, Development, Trinity Financial

- Nakisha Skinner provided an overview of the Commission's role in the Mattapan Redevelopment Project ("Project") and discussed the next steps, including a board vote to approve Phase 5A.
- Board Member Cox requested clarification on the involvement of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 121A. Once the Board votes to approve Phase 5A the Mattapan Corporation, a 501(c)(3) under the Commission, will enter into an agreement with Trinity Financial through a 121 A corporation in order for the land to remain tax exempt. This is to facilitate the provision of low income housing.
- Board Member Fitch noted that none of the proposed units in Phase 5A have more than two bedrooms. The size of the units is a result of a balance between resident desires, community desires, and what is necessary for the Project. Also, each building on the Mattapan Campus ("Campus") has its own waiting list for available units, allowing larger families to join a waiting list for a building with larger units.
- Board Member Walsh inquired as to whether Phase 5A is the final project on the Campus. Trinity representatives responded that they also have plans to implement a phase 5B for underutilized buildings on the Campus. Board Member Walsh also inquired whether financing for Phase 5A is already accounted for outside of city and state funding. Funding for Phase 5A has been secured according to Trinity representatives.

- Board Member Cradock asked about the use of tax credits. Mr. Lee stated that there is no historic use of credits in the Project. Tax credits are sold to outside organizations that then help fund the Project.
- Board Member Cox asked about the term of the Campus lease and the structure of Phase 5A compared to other phases. The lease is for ninety-nine years, and the structure of Phase 5A is the same as the structure for the prior four phases.
- Chairwoman Johnson expressed her approval of the Project. Board Member Cradock shared this approval and Board Member Wcislo suggested getting the word out to the community about the Project's success. Chairwoman Johnson also expressed a desire to return to the Mattapan Campus for a visit in the fall of 2011.

VOTE

- The board voted to approve Phase 5A of the Project.

The votes were as follows: 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Follow Up: OTPs and Unregulated Nicotine Products

Nikysha Harding, Program Director, Boston Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

Odessa Ortiz, Project Director, CPPW Tobacco Initiatives, Boston Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

- Ms. Harding provided the board with updates, including the Governor's veto of the cigar bar legislation discussed at the May 12, 2011 board meeting.
- Tobacco Control is proposing two new regulations. One regulation will mandate that cigars and cigarillos be sold in packages of at least five. The other will regulate novel nicotine products to limit youth access. The Board will review draft regulations at the September 8, 2011 board meeting. Board Member Walsh expressed an interest in attending the public hearing regarding the novel nicotine product regulation.
- Board Member Cox asked if other cities have passed regulations similar to the proposed novel nicotine regulation. Ms. Ortiz stated that other cities have successfully passed similar regulations, such as Baltimore, MD.
- Ms. Ortiz stated that Tobacco Control is working on identifying a lab to test nicotine levels in novel nicotine products. While nicotine poisoning may not constitute a great risk for adults, it is considered a risk to youth. Board Member Fitch asked if novel nicotine products were viewed as a gateway to the use of tobacco products later in life. Ms. Ortiz stated that the FDA has issued warnings regarding this. Board Member Fitch suggested that the potential gateway effects should be included somewhere in the regulation.
- Board Member Cox expressed concern about whether evidence is available to back up reasoning behind the proposed novel nicotine regulations and urged the Commission to be clear about this. Likewise Chairwoman Johnson suggested including a preamble stating the addictive and toxic nature of novel nicotine products.

BAHEC Summer Programming

Liam Day, Director, BAHEC, Child and Adolescent Health

Raia Warfield, Program Manager, Training and Development, Child and Adolescent Health

Wilbur Smart, Program Manager, Men's Health


Francesco Tena, Coordinator of Systems

- The Boston Area Health Education Center ("BAHEC") summer program is said to instill resiliency and build leadership capacity in Boston's youth. Four programs are involved in the summer program, including BAHEC, Start Strong, Men's Health, and The Peer Leadership Institute ("PLI"). In order to run the summer program, there are thirty instructors, thirty internship placements, relationships with 5 community health centers, and partnerships with five universities and five hospitals.
- Mr. Smart discussed BAHEC's Summer Health Crew ("SHC"). The SHC internship lasts six to seven weeks and provides an option to continue on in the main Health Crew internship, lasting an additional six months. Chairwoman Johnson asked if the BAHEC experience changes participant sense of health and healthy living. Mr. Smart responded that the experience does improve understanding of health and healthy living. Many interns share the information they've learned with friends and some go on to work in health related careers. Board Member Fitch inquired as to the age of participants. Mr. Smart responded that generally BAHEC participants are young men between eighteen and twenty-four years of age. A diploma or GED is considered a pre-requisite for the program, however applicants are reviewed on a case by case basis and there are some exceptions.
- Ms. Warfield discussed PLI, a program to help high school students become peer educators. Partners include Benson Institute for Body and Mind, Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, and Center for Social Equity and Health Justice. Chairwoman Johnson asked how this program is applicable to the Commission's Overarching Chlamydia Goal. Ms. Warfield stated that this summer members of PLI will be trained to facilitate topics, including substance abuse prevention, health and fitness, and sexual health with a primary focus on Chlamydia in accordance with the Commission's Overarching Goal.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 P.M.

Submitted By:



Jamie L. Martin, Secretary