

**Board of Health Meeting
January 20, 2005**

PRESENT: David Osler, M.D., Chairman
Babette Mello, Member
Cecilia Sosa-Patterson, Member
Noreen Burke, Director
Cesar Pungirum, Director of the Five City Tobacco Collaborative
Rita VanSteensburg, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Mike Coffey, Supervising Physician of Schools
Mr. Patel, Minute Market

Dr. Osler called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Accept Minutes – December 16, 2004:

Upon review of the December 16, 2004 board minutes Ms. Mello made a motion to accept minutes as presented and Dr. Osler seconded the motion. Motion passed three to zero.

Introduction of Dr. Coffey:

Dr. Michael Coffey gave an overview of his background including education and work experience relating to his role as School Physician. He listed his community involvement highlighting his role in the Shape Up Somerville project.

Dr. Coffey's goals include reviewing the Asthma Registry introduced by the Cambridge Health Alliance and instituting an action plan for school nurses relative to asthma treatment. He shared an idea about the possibility of developing a Somerville Primary Care network that would allow physicians to communicate with each other through the web. His role places him as a conduit/ liaison between community physicians and school nurses. He is currently in the process of visiting all of the City's schools and familiarizing himself with the work of school nurses.

A question arose relative to medical coverage in the Charter Schools. It was noted that in the past the Charter Schools have subcontracted with various physicians to provide services for their students.

Tobacco Suspension Hearing:

Cesar Pungirum testified that the Minute Market, 141 Broadway, Somerville, MA sold tobacco to a minor three (3) times within the last year during routine compliance checks. He listed a history of violation dates, fines and status leading to the necessity of the hearing. He noted that on 11/10/04 a violation occurred and a \$300.00 fine was paid. On May 17, 2004 another violation occurred and a \$200.00 fine was paid and on 11/26/03 a \$100.00 fine was incurred. In lieu of the \$100.00 payment management of Minute Market attended a training session relative to tobacco sales and protocol.

Owner Mr. Patel apologized to the Board and stated that sales to minors will not happen again. He indicated that maybe there was a rush of business and his employee became less careful in checking I.D.'s. He also said that he fired the employee. Dr. Osler asked if the same person was sold tobacco during the three occurrences. Cesar stated that different individuals made purchases and noted that three different clerks made sales to the minor.

Discussion followed and it was noted that in other communities anyone purchasing tobacco no matter what the age must show identification. This suggestion would significantly reduce the sale of tobacco to minors and with the frequent turnover of employees this could minimize the possibility of it happening in the future.

Dr. Osler stated that the law requires the revocation or suspension of license to sell after three violations. Ms. Mello made a motion to revoke the tobacco sales permit of the Minute Market for one month. Dr. Osler seconded the motion. Ms. Sosa-Patterson voted in opposition of the motion. Motion passed two to one for suspension.

Good Times Update – Cesar reported that the state has come up with a draft for MDPH regulations relative to smoking rooms.

He stated that Good Times built two rooms attached to it's establishment with walls that do not meet the ceiling and he has gotten inquiries from two other establishments as to how to go about doing the same. Conversation followed relative to the legality of such rooms. It was requested that David Shapiro from the Law Department come to the next meeting to share legal advise.

Cimex Eradication Plan:

Noreen reported that the Cimex Planning team has met on two occasions. Members of the team include: Noreen Burke, Jennifer Birk (Harvard Pre-Med Student), Cecelia Sosa-Patterson, Leonina Herringer, Alex Pirie, John L. Sullivan, Michelle Bowler, Guy Selfridge, George Landers and Rita VanSteensburg. The team met and started the planning process for short and long-term eradication policies. Jennifer compiled a notebook entitled Cimex Eradication & Education that includes research, goals and tasks that the team will implement as meetings progress. Cecilia raised the issue of identifying precautions for inspectors relative to dress protocol when responding to cimex complaints. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2005 and Noreen will keep the Board apprised as to the progress of the group.

Director's Report

Ms. Burke presented the monthly Departmental report. Ms Burke highlighted the following:

Flu Clinics: The following clinics have been held: Immigrant Health Fair, Council on Aging, Ralph & Jennie Senior Center, Cross St. Senior Center, City Hall, Fire Dept. on Broadway, 3 walk-in clinics at BOH, plus appointments, Regional Flu Clinic at Whidden Hospital, Stop & Shop, Somerville Schools: SHS, Healey, West Somerville, Cummings,

East Somerville, Capuano, Kennedy, Somerville Library and the Social Security Office. Two remaining clinics will take place.

Powderhouse move: Noreen reports that when the move takes place to the Powderhouse Inspectors will continue to be part of the Inspectional Services Division of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, reporting to the Superintendent of Inspectional Services George Landers. Calls and complaints will be received through the ISD phone lines. The Health Dept will be in close proximity so that the two Departments can work in harmony. The Inspectors will continue to derive their powers and authority from the Board of Health.

Noreen is in the process of investigating how other health departments function vis a vis integrating human service programs and how boards of health work with housing inspectors who are part of another city department. She recently met with the Cambridge Chief Public Health Officer and has requested a copy of the contract that exists between their Inspectional Services Division and the Health Department, which governs the work of health inspectors and their reporting relationship to the Health Commissioner.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40p.m..

The next meeting will take place on March 3, 2005 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Somerville Health Department, Conference Room located at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA

Respectfully submitted,

Rita VanSteensburg
Administrative Assistant