

**Board of Health Meeting
March 03, 2005**

PRESENT: David Osler, M.D., Chairman
Babette Mello, Member
Noreen Burke, Director
Cesar Pungirum, Director of the Five City Tobacco Collaborative
Chad DeForce, Enforcement Officer
Leni Gross-Young, Youth Trauma Network Manager
Rita VanSteensburg, Administrative Assistant

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

Director's Report:

Ms. Burke presented the monthly Departmental report and highlighting the following:

Cimex:

The working group submitted a draft of a "Provider Alert" notification to Dr. Osler for editing relating to the re-emergence of Cimex Lectularius. Ms. Mello and Dr. Osler reviewed the letter in final context and agreed that it be sent to Health Care Providers in the City. Ms. Sosa-Patterson was not present at the meeting and will be sent a copy for her approval after which the letter will be prepared for distribution.

The second endeavor of the Cimex working group is a brochure detailing "Facts and Help" information relative to identifying potential bed bug problems. The brochure is a work in progress and will address issues such as: What to look for, Where to look, Pesticides Warnings and who to call. Included will be a brief summary of "What to Do" for both landlords and the tenants.

Ms. Mello had requested a time to go out with Housing Inspectors to observe what they do and shadow a day of activity. A date was set and when Ms. Mello arrived the NIT team did not go out that day but they welcomed her to come back another time.

SAMHSA/Drug-Free Community Grant: Noreen reported that she is working on a five (5) year, five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) Grant that is due to be mailed March 10, 2005. This grant will enable the continuity of the Mayor's commitment to a drug free Somerville.

Rodent Control: Noreen mentioned that Zachariah Baker, a Tufts student is working with the Dept. to help update the rodent control policy.

Tobacco Suspension Hearing:

Cesar Pungirum testified that Central Variety, 433 Medford Street, 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 12/20/04 a violation occurred and a \$300.00 fine was paid. On May 12, 2004 a violation occurred and a \$200.00 fine was paid and on 1/09/04 a \$100.00

fine was incurred. In lieu of the \$100.00 payment management of Central Variety attended a training session relative to tobacco sales and protocol. He also mentioned that a prior violation occurred on May 29, 2003 and in lieu of the \$100.00 payment they attended a training session.

The Owner's daughter Amanda Nguyen spoke for her mother Hira Phan. She explained that her mom does not speak English well and admitted that she was at fault. She did say that she (Amanda) has tried to impress upon her mom the importance of checking identification and tries to leave a daily calendar indicating which dates are not in compliance. She explained that this will be a financial hardship for the family and asked for leniency in the penalty phase of the hearing.

Dr. Osler asked if there is anything the Board or the Tobacco program can do to help the owners not be in this situation in the future. Cesar offered to give them calendars to help aid in date determination and also agreed to further educate the owner of the business relative to tobacco compliance.

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 Central Variety for one month. Dr. Osler seconded the motion. Ms. Sosa-Patterson was absent. Motion passed two to zero for suspension.

Introduction of Leni Gross -Young- Youth Trauma Network Manager:

Leni Gross Young was introduced by Ms. Burke and gave a brief history of her work experience and education. She explained that her intent is to compile quantitative research that will aid in the design of a protocol for program intervention of adolescent suicide. She listed her professional experience as Sr. Technical Advisor to Dr. Robert D. Macy in which she assisted with the design, development, and implementation of an administrative and clinical risk management system to reduce adolescent suicide. She also stated that she worked in private practice in Psychotherapy and clinical supervision. She also worked as a project lead/researcher as a data analyst. It was noted that fifty-five community people, including police, School Personnel, adjustment counselors, Doctors, Ms. Burke, Social Workers, etc. have been trained to identify and get high risk people into services as needed.

Dr. Osler asked Ms. Gross-Young if she would be limited in response to adolescent children. She indicated that the way the position is defined is youth trauma response with a little bit of cross over. Ms. Burke interjected that there is a high-risk group between sixteen and twenty-four, many of who have dropped out of high school and are in dead end jobs who have significant involvement with substance abuse and some involvement with crime. They mostly are white working-class kids. Ms. Gross-Young also mentioned that there is a high-risk group between twenty and twenty-one years of age and it is centered on grief. She stated that it is difficult to target these individuals because they are not in school.

Discussion followed relative to the immigrant population and the emergence of these individuals from being connected to their families, church involvement and extended families to becoming encultured into their new environment. It is at this time that a shift may occur.

Brief discussion followed relative to the progression from Oxi-Contin to heroin due to the cost factor.

State Tobacco Control Update: Smoking Cessation on the statewide level-

Eileen Sullivan, Director of Policy & training from the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program reported that since the enactment of the Law in July 04 overall the State is experiencing 90% compliance.

She did state that there are some problems areas in the central part of the state and the southeast part of the state as well as some rural communities. She mentioned that the Good Times smoking area came to the States attention very early on and there are a couple of other places in the state that have come up with creative areas for smoking. She also stated that she is getting calls from responsible business people wanting to know what they can build that would be O.K. In August the Dept. made a statement that they were looking into getting regulations and recommended that people waited before they build anything. A commission of about thirty people including the Mass. Restaurant Assoc., Mass. Beverage Assoc., Representative from Tobacco Control and some local boards of Health has met several times to address these issues. It was concluded that the area of outdoor seating as well as a definition of private club membership needs further definition. The Dept. has drafted regulations and is in the process of being reviewed by the Governor's Office and will be presented to the Public Health Council on March 22, 2005. The process is that if the PH Council accepts recommendations, a hearing is held and the staff will report back to them what the results are. It is expected the hearing date will be sometime in early April and the recommendation will be made to the Public Health Council the fourth Tuesday of April to present recommendations.

She stated that they are proposing very common sense things such as member definition – i.e. must be full members of clubs and every guest will have to be accompanied by a member. These regulations are in conformance with the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. The other component of the recommendation is for Outdoor seating stating that the intent is to allow outdoor dining – not an outdoor smoking room. It will also state specific structural limitations and conditions to outdoor smoking areas.

After the hearing and law is established the regulations will be binding and enforcement powers will be given to Boards of Health.

Accept Minutes – January 20, 2005:

Upon review of the January 20, 2005 board minutes Ms. Mello made a motion to accept minutes as presented and Dr. Osler seconded the motion. Motion passed two to zero.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25p.m..

The next meeting will take place on April 7, 2005 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Somerville Health Department, Conference Room located at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA
The May meeting will be on May 5, 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

